

# The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

## What does CEP do?

- Allows schools located in low-income areas to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students
- Eliminates the burden of collecting household applications to determine student eligibility for school meal programs

## Who can participate?

Schools or a group of schools with a minimum Identified Student Percentage of at least 40 percent in the prior school year

## What is an

## Identified Student Percentage (ISP)?

The percentage of enrolled students that are certified for free meals without the use of household applications

### ISP includes:

- SNAP recipients identified through the direct certification matching process (DCMP)
- Medicaid recipients identified through the DCMP
- Extension of DCMP eligibility to siblings or household members of
- Homeless children identified by the Homeless Liaison
- Head Start/Evenstart
- Migrant Youth
- Runaways
- Foster Children certified directly by the State or local foster agency

## How to Calculate ISP

$$\frac{\text{Identified Students}}{\text{Enrolled Students}} \times 100 = \text{Identified Student Percentage*}$$

\*must have an ISP of 40% to be CEP eligible

## CEP Reimbursement

ISP X 1.6 = the percent of meals reimbursed at the federal and State free reimbursement rate. All other meals are reimbursed at the federal and State paid reimbursement rate

Beginning school year 2023-2024, the State paid reimbursement rate for CEP meals will increase to ensure that all CEP meals are reimbursed at an amount equal to the total free reimbursement rate

## Next Steps

- Evaluate ISPs
- Determine school groupings to maximize CEP participation

## Apply to Participate!

Complete the [CEP Application](#)  
and submit to CN@nysed.gov by **June 30, 2023!**

## Need Help?

**Contact** your Child Nutrition Representative  
[www.cn.nysed.gov](http://www.cn.nysed.gov)  
518-473-8781