

Healthy School Meals for All House Bill 22-1414



COLORADO
Department of Education

Program Overview



Healthy School Meals for All Program

Provides funding opportunities to Colorado public school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs

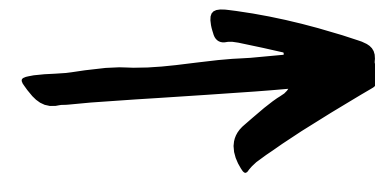
- Reimbursement for meals provided to students who would otherwise pay full price
- Funding to purchase local food
- Funding to increase wages or provide stipends to kitchen staff



Program Timeline

**School Year
2023-24**

- Reimbursement for free meals for all students begins



**School Year
2024-25**

- Funding for wage increases or stipends begins
- Funding for local food purchases begins
- Additional grants for training and equipment



Program Implementation



How to Participate

If districts opt in, all schools that offer federal meal programs must participate

Required

Participate in NSLP or SBP

Annual notice of participation to CDE School Nutrition

Participate in CEP at qualifying schools

Provide free meals to all students in participating schools

Optional

Provide wage increases or stipends to front line staff

Purchase local food



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

- Allows low-income schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without the burden of collecting free/reduced applications
- Funding is based upon a formula - Identified Student Percentage x 1.6
- Districts, individual schools, or a group of schools may participate
- Participation in the CEP maximizes federal funding, decreasing the state funds to cover the cost of paid meals



Calculating CEP Eligibility

A school or group of schools are eligible if the identified student percentage (ISP) is 40% or greater



*Identified students based on direct certification using:

SNAP

TANF

FDPIR

Foster Care

Migrant

Homeless/Runaway/
McKinney Vento status

Medicaid Free status

Enrolled in Head Start



Calculating CEP Eligibility - Example

District has 250 directly certified students out of 500 students in the district.

$$\text{ISP} = 250 \div 500 \times 100 = 50\% \text{ CEP Eligible}$$



Benefits of the program

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools:

Promote equity
& reduces stigma
of school meals

Eliminate unpaid
meal debt

Reduce
administrative
burden

Increase # of
students who
eat breakfast
and lunch each
day

Simplify meal
counting &
claiming
processes

Have easier
implementation
of alternative
serving models

Simplify the
administrative
review

Benefits of the HSMA program

ALL schools qualify for the program, not just CEP eligible schools

Non-Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools:

Promote equity
& reduces stigma
of school meals

Eliminate
unpaid meal debt
once
implementing
HSMA

Increase # of
students who
eat breakfast
and lunch each
day



Title I and At-Risk Measure



Overview

- The state's Title I allocation is based on census data, not free and reduced lunch (FRL) application data
- Districts may use other indicators of poverty other than FRL (e.g., federal census data or average per-capita income) when they rank and serve
- Districts must be consistent in the data set used across all schools
- Districts with non-CEP schools may use FRL data for ranking purposes



Data options: CEP at All Schools

In the absence of FRL data in a community, districts may use:

- Identified student counts adjusted by 1.6
- Other indicators of poverty
 - Federal Census data
 - Average per-capita income
 - Medicaid data
 - TANF data
 - Combination of the above



Data options: CEP at Some Schools

Districts may use:

- Combination FRL form
- Other indicators of poverty
 - Federal Census data
 - Average per-capita income
 - Medicaid data
 - TANF data
 - Combination of the above



Data options: No CEP schools

Districts will:

- Continue to collect & process FRL applications
- Complete direct certification matches as usual
- Use FRL applications OR the combination form for Title I



Processing Combination FRL form

- Districts must be able to distinguish between forms from students attending CEP vs. non-CEP schools
- Processing may not be paid from the non-profit school food service account for CEP schools
- Non-federal funding sources that may be utilized include, but are not limited to;
 - Cash donations; and
 - In-kind contribution funds from outside sources, such as volunteer services
 - General fund transfer



Additional Guidance Forthcoming

- Statewide communication plan
- Best practices on how to market FRL form with all students eating for free at districts that have opted in to the program



At-Risk Measure

House Bill 22-1202 created a new At-Risk Measure for School Finance formula

What we know...

- Work group submitted recommendations for new at-risk measure to legislators
- SY 2023-24 may see changes to how at-risk students are counted
- Non-CEP schools will continue to collect FRL applications
- CEP schools will not collect FRL applications or will collect a combination FRL form (district discretion)
- Free lunch eligible students will likely increase due to inclusion of Medicaid eligible students in direct certification



CEP / Title I Resources

- Information on within-State Title I and Title II allocations (pages 2-10 and 17-18)
- Title 1 Guidance Memo for CEP
- CEP and Title 1 Guidance (pages 9-11)
- CDE's Title I page
- Combination Application and Instructions
- CEP district and site data from last school year
- Updated Title I Guidance for Making Within District Allocations



Resources

CDE School Nutrition webpage:

- Frequently Asked Questions document
- One page customizable flier for families
- Previously recorded trainings



Questions?



**Thank
you!**

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