

Community Eligibility Provision

National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

The Community Eligibility Provision improves access to free school meals in eligible high poverty local educational agencies and schools and eliminates the administrative burden of collecting household applications.

Eligibility Criteria

Instead of applications, schools use claiming percentages based on the number of identified students for reimbursement in the school. The local education agency or school must have an identified student percentage of at least 40 percent.

Identified Students

Identified students are students certified for free meals through means other than individual household applications. This includes students directly certified or categorically eligible through the following:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Extended Eligibility
- Federal Distribution Program on Indian Reservation
- Foster children
- Migrant
- Runaway
- Homeless
- Head Start/Even Start

Enrolled Students

Enrolled students are students who are enrolled in and attending schools participating in the Community Eligibility Program and who have access to at least one meal service daily.

Identified Student Percentage

This is the percentage determined by dividing the number of “identified students” by the number of “enrolled students” and multiplying by 100.

Important Dates

- **April 1, 2014**

Each local educational agency must collect data on the identified student percentage for each school and report this to the Office of School Nutrition

- **April 15, 2014**

Each local educational agency must submit a list indicating the identified student percentage for each school to the Office of School Nutrition

Office of School Nutrition must notify eligible or potentially eligible local educational agencies of their status for Community Eligibility Provision

- **May 1, 2014**

Office of School Nutrition must publish a list of schools and notify eligible or potentially eligible educational agencies of the Community Eligibility Provision

- **June 30, 2014**

Local educational agencies choosing the Community Eligibility Provision must notify the Office of School Nutrition of their decision to implement this program for the entire LEA, a group of schools or individual schools.

Four-Year Cycle

Local educational agencies or schools that are eligible for and choose the Community Eligibility Provision are able to implement this program beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Eligible local education agencies or schools may operate this program for four years in a row or in a four-year cycle.

Entire District, Group of Schools or Individual School

The Community Eligibility Provision can be implemented for the entire district, a group of schools or for an individual school. For the entire district to qualify, the district must have an identified student percentage of 40 percent or more. For a group of schools, the identified student percentage would be calculated by taking the total of the identified students for that group of schools and dividing that total by the total student enrollment for the group of schools. Again, this percentage must be 40 percent or more. An individual school can qualify if it has an identified student percentage of 40 percent or more independently.

Socio-Economic Data

Since applications are not obtained for the Community Eligibility Provision, socio-economic data related to free and reduced price meals is not available. Any local educational agency seeking to obtain data from students is required to develop, conduct and fund this effort separate from and not under the auspices of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

Where can I learn more?

For additional information, please visit:

- CDE Office of School Nutrition
www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/nutriprovisionalprograms
- Food Research and Action Center
<http://frac.org/federal-foodnutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program/community-eligibility/>

**The Colorado Department of Education
Office of School Nutrition**

1580 Logan Street, #760, Denver, CO 80203 • 303-866-6661 • nutrition@cde.state.co.us

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.