

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP) FAQs

What is CEP? Through CEP, a school or district can offer no-cost lunches and breakfasts to all students for up to 4 consecutive years in approved/eligible schools.

What determines an eligible school? In order to be eligible, a school or group of schools, must have an “identified student percentage” (ISP) of over 40%.

What is an “identified student percentage”? Identified students are students certified free eligible for school meals using methods other than a free and reduced student meal application. The identified student count is NOT a school’s free and reduced student percentage. Students are considered “identified” if they meet one of the following categories:

1. Directly certified for free meals on the basis of participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Ohio Works First (OWF);
2. Homeless and runaway students;
3. Migrant students;
4. Foster children confirmed using court documentation.

When a student from a CEP school transfers to a non-CEP school, is the student eligible for meals at no cost for the duration of the school year? If a student transfers from a CEP to a non-CEP school, the new school will provide meals at no cost to the student for up to 10 operating days or until a new eligibility determination is made.

What if I have a student in my household who attends another school. Will they receive free meals also? CEP no-cost meals only cover students who attend Our Lady of Grace School. A student at another school will need to apply for meal benefits through that school to determine if they are eligible for free or reduced priced meals.