Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)



What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) was created as part of the USDA's National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. It allows schools with high eligibility for free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch to "opt in" to provide free meals for all students in the qualifying school, regardless of income.

Will my child receive free or reduced price breakfast and lunch even if we aren't income-eligible?

• Yes. All students in the district qualified as CEP schools and will receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of income:

Why did my child's school send home a survey about my income and household?

• It's important for all families to complete the CNEEB (Child Nutrition Eligibility & Education Benefit) application and return it to school. This survey helps the school district maintain Title 1 benefits from the federal government, which are used for educational programs, services and benefits for students.

What happens if I choose not to fill out the CNEEB Application?

 If a household does not complete the application, the delivery of programs and services in your child's school may be impacted. Therefore, it is very important that *every* household accurately completes the application. It's more than a meal... it's about gaining benefits for your child, their friends, teacher, school and community! • **NOTE:** If you received a letter in the mail that you are "direct certified "(approval of meal benefits), then you do not need to fill out the CNEEB application. This letter means your child has been qualified through the state of Washington and no form is needed. If you did not receive this letter, please fill out the CNEEB application form for the benefit of your school programs and services.

What menu options are covered under CEP?

• Students can receive a full meal breakfast, which includes an entrée, fruit, juice and milk. Students can also receive a full meal lunch, which includes an entrée, fruit, vegetable and milk. Students must take the full reimbursable meal and cannot just select one item or another. This provides a balanced nutritional offering to each student.

What if students only want to purchase a single item – like a milk or an entrée?

 CEP requires that only complete reimbursable meals be served at no-cost in order to provide a balanced nutritional offering to each student. We encourage students and families to take advantage of this by planning accordingly. Individual ala carte items may be purchased, student must have the money on their account or pay for the item at time of purchase.

What if I do not want my child to participate in CEP?

• If you do not want your child to participate in CEP, you are always welcome to pack a lunch for your student.

Will the district share my information?

 The information collected in the CNEEB application will be protected using the same protocol as the information collected through the free and reduced-price program applications. Families that wish to share their eligibility status for other program benefits, such as decreased fees to participate in other school programs, must fill out a "Consent to Share" form. This form is included with CNEEB application along with the on-line applications.

Further questions? Please call:

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