WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Breakfast and Lunch Program FAQ

What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal program that aims to ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals without the need for individual applications. It is designed to reduce the stigma associated with receiving free meals and to increase participation in school nutrition programs.

Does my child need to sign up for the free breakfast and lunch program?

No, your child does not need to sign up for the free breakfast and lunch program. No application for meals is required. All students in Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools are automatically eligible to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch meal every day.

Are there any forms or applications I need to fill out?

No, families do not need to complete any forms or applications for free and reduced meals for this school year. All students are eligible for free meals through the CEP program. There is a separate fee waiver form if you qualify for other services, such as reduced student fees. That is separate from the free breakfast and lunch program requirement.

What is included in the free lunch and breakfast program?

The free lunch and breakfast, one breakfast and one lunch per student per day, will include a variety of nutritious meal options that meet the USDA nutrition standards. This typically includes a main entree, fruits, vegetables, grains and milk.

Will a la carte items still be available for purchase in the cafeteria?

Yes, a la carte items will still be available for purchase in the cafeteria.While the main meals are free, any additional items or snacks that are not part of the standard meal will need to be purchased separately. To purchase a la carte items, families can add funds to their student's lunch account at New Meal Magic/Vanco.

Will all items in the cafeteria be free?

No, not all items in the cafeteria will be free. Only one standard breakfast and lunch meal per student provided through the CEP program will be free. A la carte items which are items and additionanl snacks that you want to purchase in additon to or instead of a full meal will need to be purchased.

Can my child still bring their own lunch if they prefer?

Yes, your child can still bring their own lunch from home if they prefer. The free meals program is available for all students, but participation is not mandatory. If your child brings their lunch and wants to purchase a milk from the cafeteria, the cost of milk a la carte is .75 cents.

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How will this program affect students who previously qualified for reduced-price meals?

Students who previously qualified for reduced-price meals will now receive their meals for free, just like all other students. This program eliminates the need for reduced-price meals by providing free meals to all students.

Does my child need to sign up for the free breakfast and lunch program?

No, your child does not need to sign up for the free breakfast and lunch program. No application for meals is required. All students in Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools are automatically eligible to receive free meals every day.

Are there any additional costs or fees associated with this program?

No, there are no additional costs or fees associated with this program. The breakfast and lunch meals provided under the CEP program are completely free for all students.

How can I get more information or ask further questions?

If you have a question we didn't answer, please send an email with your questions to Director of Food Services Stephanie Kemna: stephanie.kemna@weschools.org.

