



COMMUNITY ELIGIBIITY PROVISION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a program through the USDA that allows schools in low income areas to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students.

2. How does a district qualify for the Community Eligibility Program?

Eligibility is determined by the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) per school building. ISP is calculated by the number of students who qualify for free meals without an application (Foster, homeless, Medicaid, SNAP, etc.) divided by the total school enrollment. A school must have a minimum ISP of 40% to qualify. Districts may participate in CEP in a variety of ways: by individual school building, groups of schools or the entire district. Verner Elementary School's ISP percentage is 56.37%.

3. What if I have one child that attends a CEP school and another child that attends a school that is not a CEP school?

In order to qualify for free or reduced price meals an application must be submitted for the student in the non CEP school.

4. What are the meal prices for students in a non CEP school?

Students who do not attend a CEP school or qualify for free or reduced price meals must pay the full price for meals.

Meal Prices:	Reduced Price	Full Price
Elementary Breakfast	\$0.30	\$1.25
Elementary Lunch	\$0.40	\$2.50
Secondary Breakfast	\$0.30	\$1.50
Secondary Lunch	\$0.40	\$.2.75

5. What occurs at the start of a new school year when my student transfers from a CEP to a non-CEP School? (Example Verner Elementary to Riverview Jr/Sr High School)?

The District is permitted to allow a carryover period. Meals (both breakfast & lunch) will be provided at no cost for up to 10 operating days or until an eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first. Please ensure you complete a free/reduced meal application promptly.

6. If a student selects a non-reimbursable meal (i.e., the student refuses to select the components required for a reimbursable meal), the school may charge the student for the food components a la carte. This will result in high costs.

7. Parents with students in a CEP school will not be required to complete a free/reduced household application. However, the CEP school is still required to report socioeconomic data and report this information to the Pa Department of Education. In order to collect such data which will include income and household quantity data, a building survey will be issued annually.

8. What are the benefits to a school building participating in CEP?

Schools implementing CEP have experienced great success, CEP helps with:

- a. Easing the administrative burden on processing applications
- b. Increasing student participation
- c. Improving program efficiency
- d. Eliminating student stigma
- e. Eliminating unpaid meal balances
- f. Improving the learning environment