



Child Nutrition News

Time to (re)Consider Community Eligibility for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a powerful tool that allows high poverty schools to provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. As New York schools finalize reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year, CEP provides a valuable opportunity to support students and families, especially amid child food insecurity rising to unprecedented [rates](#).

This is an important time for schools to take a fresh look at CEP for the 2020-2021 school year. The economic crisis - especially rising SNAP participation - will make more school districts and schools eligible to implement CEP. Schools should reexamine CEP as it could be a more financially viable option than before the COVID-19 crisis.

Important Dates:

- Eligibility for CEP is based on enrollment any time between **April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020**, and **2019-2020 direct certification data**.
- 2019-2020 direct certification data is **only available to schools until August 3rd**. Be sure to access/download the data before August 3rd, even if you are still considering CEP. *Note: CEP eligibility and reimbursement are both based on this data.*
- Applications for the 2020-2021 school year must be submitted to NYSED by **August 31, 2020**.

Time is running out for schools to apply!

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is now accepting [applications](#) for school to participate in CEP for the 2020-2021 school year. NYSED's memo includes the application, reimbursement estimator tool, implementation guidance, list of schools eligible for CEP but not participating, and a list of schools currently participating in CEP. Click [here](#) to access the memo.

How CEP Benefits Students & Schools

Kids attending a school that is eligible for but not participating in CEP are at

2x

greater risk

of food insecurity compared to kids who attend a CEP school



In New York, over 1.7 million students attend a CEP school where school meals are offered at no charge to all students. CEP promotes equity by eliminating the out-of-pocket costs for families and by reducing stigma for students. [Research](#) has shown CEP safeguards children from food insecurity while also providing significant benefits for schools, including higher attendance rates.

As we look ahead to an uncertain school year, CEP can simplify and streamline student access to school meals in the following ways:

- CEP can support hunger relief efforts in your community.
- *CEP can also support school nutrition departments as we work to find new ways to feed students.* CEP streamlines school meals operations and makes it easier to implement meals in the classroom.
- *CEP eliminates any concerns of unpaid school meal debt*, helping families make ends meet at a time when many are facing lost jobs and reduced

wages.

- *CEP can recover budget deficits in school nutrition programs.* Providing school meals during closures related to COVID-19 came with a higher cost to schools, without any additional revenue for meals served. This program also helps school districts improve the financial viability of their meal programs.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about CEP and its benefits.

Hunger Solutions New York can help!

Hunger Solutions New York works with schools to help increase participation in school breakfast and expand the implementation of CEP. We provide free services to any school looking to expand their school breakfast program and provide free school meals to all students through CEP. Our work includes:

- Providing one-on-one assistance to schools to implement Breakfast After the Bell service models.
- Helping schools understand and maximize the impact of CEP.
- Connecting schools with community partners and programs to maximize the impact of CEP.
- Engaging education stakeholders and establishing partnerships with statewide/regional organizations to promote both the School Breakfast Program and the Community Eligibility Provision.
- Analyzing participation in school breakfast and CEP, researching and disseminating program/provision updates, tracking participation trends, and gathering best practices.

Contact Jessica Pino-Goodspeed

Phone: 518.741.0917

Email: jessica.pinogoodspeed@hungersolutionsny.org



Copyright © 2020 Hunger Solutions New York, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)