

How to Qualify

LEAs and schools must have an identified student population level of at least 40 percent at or below the national poverty level to qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision.

Some Benefits

LEAs do not have to collect student and household applications.

Meeting the 40 percent threshold allows all students to eat for free.

Increased breakfast and lunch participation among students.

Improved nutrition to disadvantaged and high-poverty students.

Simplifies meal counting and claiming, student is claimed as either free or paid (no reduced pricing).

Eliminates overt identification issues for students.



Procedures and Timelines

- April 15 - LEAs must submit a list of schools with an identified student percent of 40 or above, and 30 to 40.
- May 1 - State publishes a list of those who meet the 40 percent threshold and those currently electing the Community Eligibility Provision (four-year cycle).
- June 30 - LEAs must submit documentation to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) demonstrating that schools meet the 40 percent identified student percentage as of April 1.
- June 30 - Opt-out of Community Eligibility Provision by notifying PDE.

Resources

Food and Nutrition Service Guidance

U.S. Department of Education Guidance

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Division of Food and Nutrition
333 Market Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Phone: 1.800.331.0129, Ext. 123

Fax: 717-783-6566
Email: ra-nslp@pa.gov

Community Eligibility Provision



Feeding Students Healthy Meals Every Day



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Mandated by:
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Summary and Background

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) offers local education agencies (LEA) an alternative to collecting household applications in the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, which eliminates the unnecessary paperwork and frustration that can go along with the process.

Community Eligibility Provision is a reimbursement option for eligible LEAs and schools that wish to offer free meals to all children in high poverty schools.

LEA Considerations

- Determine what schools within the LEA could participate.
- Send clear/effective communication to all students/households about the nutritional benefits of eating school meals.
- Determine the anticipated Federal Reimbursement for schools participating.
- Plan for potential issues that may arise due to the absence of data, which may normally be used for other educational purposes.
- Determine what other non-federal funds could be used to supplement Federal Reimbursement.

Definitions

Enrolled Students: Students enrolled in and attending the schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision who have access to at least one meal service daily.

Identified Student: Disadvantaged and/or students at or below the national poverty level who are also identified as: SNAP, homeless, run-aways, categorically eligible youth, foster, etc.

Identified Student Percentages: Determined by the number of identified students, divided by the total number of enrolled students with access to National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, multiplied by 100.



Claiming Percentages

The identified student percentage is multiplied by a factor of 1.6 to get the claiming percentage and the Free Federal Reimbursement Rate.

The 1.6 factor is based on an analysis that showed on average for every 10 identified students, there were six more students certified based on an income application. Therefore, if you multiple the identified student percentage by 1.6, you are approximating the free and reduced Federal Reimbursement Rate percentage.

$$\text{Identified Student Percent} = \frac{\text{Number of Identified Students}}{\text{Total Number of Enrolled Students with Access to National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program}} \times 100$$

The remaining percent of total meals is then reimbursed at the Paid Federal Reimbursement Rate.

Meal costs in excess of the total Free and Paid Federal Reimbursement Rate must be covered by non-federal sources.