

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION Program Fact Sheet

CEP Points of Interest:

- ❖ Introduced by USDA as a result of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, effective July 1, 2014
- ❖ An alternative to the traditional meal benefit application process
- ❖ Provides **free breakfast and lunch** meals to students attending **schools** that qualify for the program

CEP Success Stories:

- ❖ Increased Meal Participation
- ❖ Increased Classroom Readiness
- ❖ Decreased Financial Burden to Parents
- ❖ Decrease in Meal Benefit Documentation
- ❖ Decrease in Audit Findings

Student Meal Account Balances in CEP Schools:

- ❖ A student account that has a positive balance (money) remaining from prior school year can:
 - A. Use for the purchase of extra sale items such as milk, juice, water
 - B. Transfer to the meal account of a sibling at a traditional meal benefit school site
 - C. Request a refund using the ***Student Meal Account Refund/Transfer Form***
 - D. Donate remaining student meal account funds to apply to other student accounts that do not have meal benefits
- ❖ A student account with a negative balance that accumulated when meals were served and there was no money in the student account (Meal of the Day, double card usage) is the responsibility of the parent or guardian for payment.

Student Transfers within the LPSS District and newly Registered Students:

- ❖ From a CEP school to another CEP school, no further action is needed.
- ❖ From a CEP school to a traditional meal benefit school (non-CEP) at the beginning of the new school year, prior year CEP free meal status remains in effect for the first 30 school days or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first. A meal benefit application must be completed in order to receive free or reduced price meals at a non-CEP school.
- ❖ From a CEP School to a traditional meal benefit school (non-CEP) during the school year (after October 19, 2020), a meal benefit application must be completed and approved within 10 days of transfer in order to receive free or reduced price meals.
- ❖ From a traditional meal benefit school (non-CEP) to a CEP school, no further action is needed.
- ❖ A meal benefit application that is approved for free or reduced price meals will remain in effect for the remainder of the school year at any traditional meal benefit school.

Questions and concerns regarding either type of Meal Benefit Program can be directed to the Meal Benefits Coordinator at 337-521-7375 or email vrseaux@lpssonline.com.

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