



## CALCULATING IDENTIFIED STUDENT PERCENTAGE USING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AND ALTERNATE AGREEMENT SCHOOL DATA

### What is CEP and why does your ISP matter?

The [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#) is a school meal funding option that allows eligible schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. Schools with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) greater than or equal to 40% are eligible to participate in CEP. A district's reimbursement is determined by a school's ISP; the greater the ISP, the more likely a school is eligible for CEP, and the greater the reimbursement to the school district.

A school's ISP is determined by the number of directly certified students which includes students:

- Enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Medicaid, or if they live in a household where another student is enrolled in one of these programs (this is referred to as 'extended eligibility' or a 'sibling match').
- Who are homeless, migrant, runaway, in foster care, or enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start. *Note that these categories do not extend eligibility to other students in the household.*

Early childhood programs and alternate agreement schools may contribute to their associated school's ISP and therefore help boost the total ISP increasing the possibility of CEP eligibility and financial feasibility.

**Check out No Kid Hungry's [Strategies for Finding Success with CEP](#) to learn more about maximizing ISPs!**

## What are early childhood programs and alternate agreement schools?

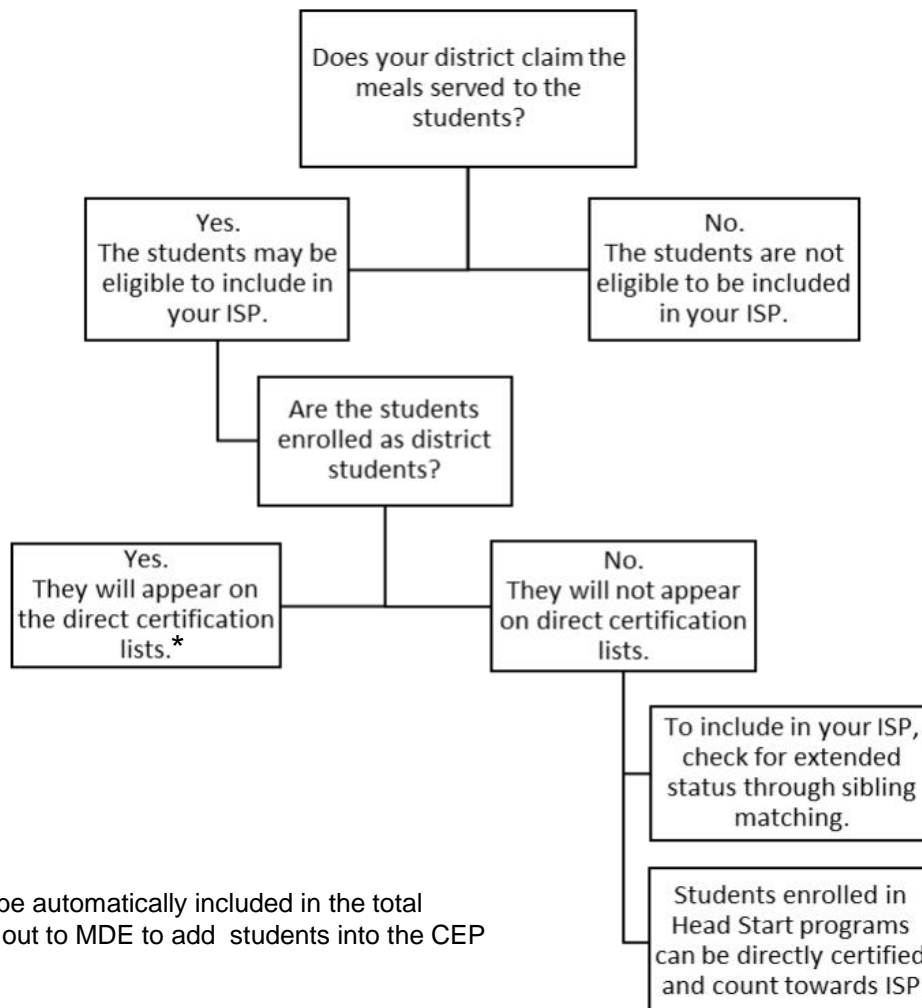
Many school districts serve meals to students in early childhood programs such as:

- Pre-kindergarten programs
- Half-day kindergarten programs
- Full or half-day preschool programs
- Early Head Start and Head Start programs
- Great Start Readiness Programs

Alternate agreement schools exist if a district provides meals to a neighboring school district (often times these are charter or private schools) through an alternate agreement form. An alternative agreement is between two school food authorities (SFAs) or an SFA and a school in which one agrees to operate the school meal programs for the other. The agreement transfers legal and financial authority over the school meal programs to the SFA operating the programs.

Students served by your district in early childhood programs or alternate agreement schools may count to your calculated ISP. Contact the Michigan Department of Education's School Nutrition Program office at [MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov) for more information on how to include these students in your district ISP. See the flowchart below to learn more.

## How do you determine if a student should be included in your ISP calculation?



\*Students may not be automatically included in the total enrollment. Reach out to MDE to add students into the CEP calculation.