



# CEP Coffee Break Discussion

A virtual roundtable discussion about CEP in the 2020-2021 school year.



# Agenda

- Introductions
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Basics
- Hear from school nutrition directors
- Q&A



# What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows schools to **provide breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students.**

- CEP is a 4-year cycle
- Schools, or groups of schools, must have an “Identified Student Percentage” (ISP) of 40% to operate CEP
- The district may implement CEP in one school, a group of schools or district-wide.



# Benefits of CEP

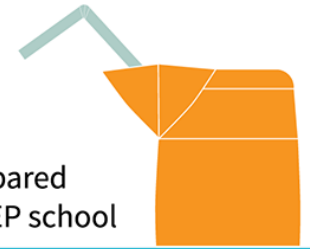
- Support health, wellness, and food insecurity efforts in your community.
- Simplify meal service during reopening.
- Promote equity, eliminate stigma and unpaid school meal debt.
- Recover budget deficits in school nutrition programs.

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



# Who are “Identified Students”?

## Children categorically-eligible for free meals **without submitting a school meal application** and **identified through direct certification**

Students directly certified (through the Direct Certification Matching Process (DCMP)\*) for free meals because they live in households that participate in:

- ✓ **SNAP:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program\*
- ✓ **Medicaid:** (only those identified on direct certification list)\*
- ✓ **TANF:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Assistance
- ✓ **FDPIR:** Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

❖ The extension of benefit allows **all** children within the same household to be included.

Students certified for free meals without application and not subject to income verification because they are:

- ✓ in foster care (certified by OCFS)
- ✓ in Head Start (certified by the Head Start coordinator listing)
- ✓ experiencing homelessness (certified by McKinney-Vento or homelessness liaison)
- ✓ migrants (certified by the migrant coordinator liaison)

❖ Their eligibility does **not** extend to siblings or other household members.



How CEP works



# CEP Reimbursement Pattern

Two categories of reimbursement: Free & Paid

- **Free reimbursement rate** =  $ISP \times 1.6$
- **Paid reimbursement rate** =  $100\% - (ISP \times 1.6)$



Reimbursement under CEP

“Magic ISP” = 62.5% ( $62.5\% \times 1.6 = 100\%$  of meals reimbursed at the free rate)

ISP	x 1.6 Multiplier	% of Meals Reimbursed at "Free" rate	% of Meals Reimbursed at "Paid" Rate
40%	x1.6	64%	36%
45%	x1.6	72%	28%
50%	x1.6	80%	20%
55%	x1.6	88%	12%
60%	x1.6	96%	4%
65%	x1.6	100%	0%

## **SNAP enrollment is increasing...** **That means ISPs are increasing, too.**

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Conduct direct certification often to ensure every newly eligible child is captured in your schools' ISPs.

Lock in a high (or higher!) ISP in SY20-21 and for the following 3 years.



# Why CEP in the 2020-2021 School Year?



## CEP will help with...

- Counting and claiming for new and more complex school meals operations
  - Counting meals by fee category may not be necessary
  - May be able to use a clicker or tally to make cafeteria meal service quicker
  - No need to swipe student IDs or use pin pads
  - Lunch in the classroom is easier
- Easier training for non-food service staff (e.g. teachers) who may be involved with serving and counting meals this year
- Student and staff safety at the point of service
  - No need to swipe student IDs or use pin pads
  - Fewer surfaces to touch



# Why CEP in the 2020-2021 School Year? (cont'd)



## CEP will help with...

- Decreasing financial stress among students and families due to COVID-19
- Unpaid school meal debt
  - No collecting of fees = no more meal debt!
  - In schools operating standard counting and claiming this year, meal debt will likely be a larger problem than last
  - **General fund does not have to bail out school nutrition fund**
- Meal service for the next four years! CEP is a 4-year cycle.
- If P-EBT is reauthorized, CEP schools will have an easier job distributing funds.

# Important Dates for CEP in the 20-21 SY

NYSED is now accepting CEP applications for the 2020-21 school year.

## What is NEW for this year?

- Deadline to apply is **August 31, 2020** (typically June 30th)
- Eligibility for CEP based on: Enrollment from any time between **April 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020** and **2019-20 direct certification data**



NYSED CEP Memo: <http://www.cn.nysed.gov/content/CEP>



# Grouping

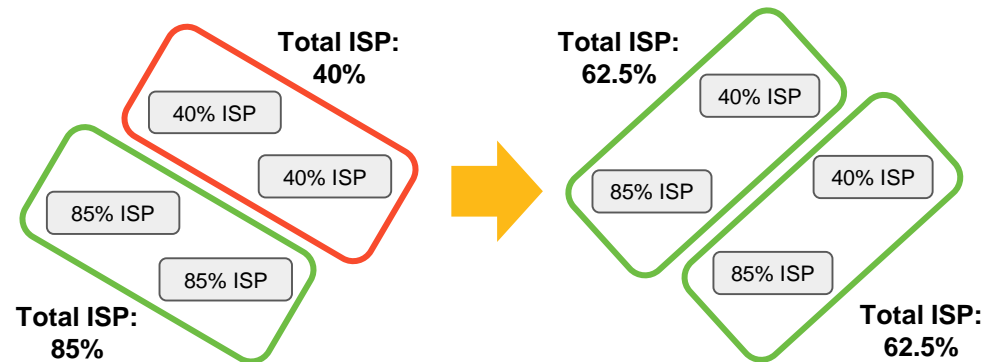


## Grouping

The 40% ISP threshold may be met by:

- an individual school or
- a group of schools within the district.

**Grouping can maximize your federal reimbursement.**



**NEW TOOL!**

[Meals Count Grouping Calculator](#) + [Demo](#)



## How Meals Count Works

A Real Example - Oceanside Unified (CA)

Row	Code	School Name	Students	Meals	Rate	Value	Optimized	Value
1	07000	Oceanside High	3,174	441	240	\$47	✓	\$17,250
2	40884	Lowland Elementary	409	227	154	215	✓	\$17,745
3	40891	South Oceanside Elementary	411	194	133	275	✓	\$17,475
4	40893	South Oceanside Elementary	368	11	66	255	✓	\$1,665
5	40895	Van Buren Elementary	488	130	74	220	✓	\$17,475
6	41028	East Vista Elementary	514	4	77	255	✓	\$1,665
7	41173	Nichols Elementary	451	194	98	267	✓	\$17,745
8	07020	Oceanside Unified Charter	1,530	213	290	492	✓	\$18,475
9	40889	North SanDiego Elementary	796	41	150	255	✓	\$1,665
10	07182	CHSD Charter Middle	488	307	128	277	✓	\$17,745
11	40892	Jefferson Middle	342	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
12	40894	Jackson Middle	409	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
13	40897	Wilson Elementary	342	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
14	40898	E. G. Conroy Elementary	342	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
15	41001	Charles DeWitt Elementary	342	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
16	07022	Public View Charter	418	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
17	07024	St. Clement High	2,704	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
18	40899	Highland Elementary	407	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
19	40890	San Joaquin Elementary	342	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
20	40896	Edna Sherman	409	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
21	41004	Marjorie Sherman	407	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
22	41077	South Lumber King Middle	1,244	10	10	255	✓	\$1,665
23	40890	Northwood Intermediate School	13	2	2	1	✓	\$1,665
24	07124	Little Project Elementary	1	1	1	1	✓	\$1,665
25	07002	Oceanside High (Continuator)	124	41	23	34	✓	\$1,665
26	40890	San Luis Rey Elementary	227	129	57	134	✓	\$17,475
27	07124	Little Project Elementary	145	106	108	177	✓	\$17,745
28	07002	Oceanside High (Continuator)	124	41	23	34	✓	\$1,665
29	40890	Jefferson Middle	342	106	242	260	✓	\$17,475
30	40891	Wilson Elementary	342	204	17	493	✓	\$17,745
31	40893	South Oceanside Elementary	411	194	133	275	✓	\$17,745
32	41004	Marjorie Sherman	407	103	100	242	✓	\$17,475
33	40898	Edna Sherman	409	227	154	215	✓	\$17,745
34	40890	Edna Sherman	409	41	150	255	✓	\$17,475
35	40890	San Luis Rey Elementary	227	129	57	134	✓	\$17,475
36	40890	Northwood Intermediate School	13	2	2	1	✓	\$1,665
37	07124	Little Project Elementary	145	106	108	177	✓	\$17,745
38	40890	Edna Sherman	409	41	150	255	✓	\$1,665
39	41028	East Vista Elementary	514	4	77	255	✓	\$1,665

**+\$260,000 (13%)!**

Optimized - 1 round  
\$2,010,294

Optimized - 10 rounds  
\$2,270,457

Visit: [Meals Count Grouping Optimizer](#)





# Q&A

*Please raise your hand or put questions in the Q&A box.*

# Available Resources

- [CEP Talking Points for School Administrators](#)
- [Template Letter to School Administrators about CEP](#)
- [Strategies for Finding Success with CEP](#)
- [CEP Financial Considerations for School Business Officials](#)
- FRAC [Understanding the Relationship between CEP and Title I Funding](#)
- FRAC [CEP and State Education Funding Policies](#)

*Visit our websites:*

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/cep>

<https://hungersolutionsny.org/school-meals-hub-ny-0/community-eligibility-provision/>

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