

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION (CEP) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is CEP?

CEP is a non-pricing meal service option available for schools in qualifying areas. CEP allows ALL enrolled students at qualifying schools to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost.

Does school faculty and teachers get to eat at no cost too?

No – meals are available at no cost only to enrolled STUDENTS at the qualifying school. Staff may purchase meals in the cafeteria.

What does CEP mean for lunch applications?

Schools that are participating in CEP will not distribute meal applications to their students for the 2023-2024 school year. However, schools that are not participating in CEP will continue to ask parents to apply for free & reduced meal benefits online at www.linqconnect.com or distribute meal applications to students to be completed and returned to respective school and then processed at the School Nutrition office to determine a student's meal status.

What if one sibling is attending a CEP school and the other is not?

The student that is not attending the CEP school will need to apply online or submit a meal application to apply for benefits. All students attending HCPS, including those attending a CEP school, need to be listed on the meal application. Please contact the School Nutrition Office at (804) 365-4566 for questions as to why one sibling may be receiving a meal at no charge and the other does not.

What if a student is attending a CEP school, but is transferring to a non-CEP school?

Although the student received meals at no charge at the CEP school that does not mean the student will receive the same benefits if they transfer to a non-CEP school. If a student transfers from a CEP school to a non-CEP school within the district and the student is not otherwise eligible for meals at no charge (e.g., SNAP direct certification, homeless, migrant), the parent will need to apply for meal benefits online at www.linqconnect.com or submit a paper application to the school or the School Nutrition Office, upon enrollment in the non-CEP school. Completed applications will be processed within 6 days after being received.

What if students only want to purchase a single item – like a milk or an entrée?

CEP requires that only complete meals be served at no-cost. We encourage students and families to take advantage of this by planning accordingly. Individual items may be purchased a la carte, but please note that your student's accounts will be charged if they do not take a complete meal. If you have any questions, please contact the School Nutrition Office at (804) 365-4566.