



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

To: School Food Authorities

From: *Elizabeth Leach*

Elizabeth Leach
School Programs Manager

Date: November 7, 2016

Re: Community Eligibility Provision: Guidance and Updated Q&As

State Agency Memo

NSLP #1-17

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a meal service option for local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools in high-poverty areas. CEP allows participating LEAs and schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without the burden of collecting household applications.

On July 29, 2016, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the final rule, *National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Eliminating Applications through Community Eligibility as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* [81 FR 50194, July 29, 2016; 7 CFR 245.9(l)], codifying CEP in Federal regulation. Public comment from State administering agencies, local school districts, and advocacy groups, feedback from stakeholders at national conferences and meetings, and knowledge gained during the phased-in implementation of CEP in several pilot States contributed to the development of the final rule. The CEP final rule will support school children's access to healthy meals and improve program integrity, today and in the future.

This memorandum provides a link to the new [Fall 2016 Edition: Community Eligibility Provision: Planning and Implementation Guidance](#) as well as [Questions and Answers \(Q&As\)](#) to address changes made by the CEP final rule. Additionally, these materials provide clarification on previously issued guidance related to CEP. The Q&As supersede the CEP Q&As released with *SP 19-2016*, *SP 45-2015*, *SP 16-2015*, and *SP 21-2014 (v.2)*.

Notable changes in the Guidance are highlighted throughout the manual. The highlighted version will be removed after three months while an un-highlighted version will remain available for use.

Changes in this edition of the Q&As include:

- Explaining the requirement for LEAs operating CEP to conduct a data match between the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and student enrollment records at least once annually;
- Explaining new requirements and opportunities related to the transfer and carryover of eligibility for students transitioning from CEP schools to non-Provision schools, during and between school years;
- Clarifying Identified Student Percentage (ISP) rounding rules;
- Explaining that excess funds from other Child Nutrition Programs may be used to cover operational costs under CEP; and
- Clarifying the differences between CEP and Provision 2.

New questions include questions 30, 34, 65, 73, 74, and 75. Revised questions include questions 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 33, 36, 42, 43, 44, and 60. Minor wording changes and revisions to regulatory citations to reflect publication of the final rule also were made throughout. *[New/Revised]* appears next to new or revised questions.

The CEP Resource Center (available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision-resource-center>) also provides extensive resources school officials at the local, State, and Federal level may use to better understand CEP and its positive benefits. LEAs may use the CEP Estimator Tool (available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>) to determine if CEP is a financially viable option, based on the LEA's expected monthly reimbursement rate.

