Wellness and Nutrition Services, Office of the Chief Operating Officer

MEMORANDUM

To: School Food Authorities

From: *Lindsey Palmer*
          Lindsey Palmer, RDN, LD
          School Programs Manager

Date: September 29, 2015

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

State Agency Memo

NSLP #23-15

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in high-poverty areas to offer free school breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost. CEP can provide numerous benefits to LEAs, including substantial administrative savings from the elimination of household applications for free and reduced price meals, streamlined meal service operations, higher student participation, and more opportunities for children to receive nutrition necessary to optimize academic achievement. CEP may be implemented in individual schools, groups of schools, or in entire school districts.

This memorandum provides updated guidance and Questions and Answers (Q&As) (attached) that address common questions that Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has received in the first year of CEP's nationwide implementation. The attached Q&As supersede the Q&As previously released with SP 16-2015 and SP 21-2014 (v.2).

Highlights include:

- Clarifying direct certification requirements for LEAs participating in CEP, proxy data to fulfill publication/notification requirements for LEAs currently participating in CEP, and when direct certification data not reflective of April1may be used to determine the ISP;
- Reiterating that FNS currently has no plans to change the 1.6 multiplier, and that LEAs adopting CEP are guaranteed the multiplier at time of election for their entire 4-year CEP cycle; and
- Establishing steps that State agencies must be taken if an ISP is found to be inaccurate during an administrative review.

For convenience, the new and updated questions and answers are provided in a separate attachment. In the document containing all questions and answers (new and old), new and updated questions are noted with three asterisks (***). New questions include: 4, 19, 54, 58, and 82. Updated questions include: 5, 17, 22, 27, 29, 49, 50, 55, and 63.

All questions should be sent to your designated Program Specialist.