



COMMUNITY  
ELIGIBILITY PROVISION  
(CEP) REPORT  
FOOD SERVICE



# GENERAL INFORMATION

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- The Community Eligibility Provision is a meal service option for schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students.

This option increases school meal participation by removing stigma, maximize federal and state reimbursement, and eliminates unpaid meal debt.

# ELIGIBILITY

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Eligibility is based on the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) certified for free meals by means other than a household application, compared to the total enrollment of the school as of April 1 of the current school year.

The ISP includes:

1. SNAP recipients identified through the electronic Direct Certification Matching Process (DCMP).
2. Medicaid recipients identified through electronic DCMP.

# ELIGIBILITY CON'T

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3. Extension of eligibility to siblings or household members of a SNAP or MEDICAID recipient.
4. Homeless children identified by the Homeless Liaison.
5. Head Start/Even Start
6. Migrant youth
7. Runaways
8. Foster children certified directly by the State or a local foster agency.

# ELIGIBILITY CON'T

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Students who are eligible for free meals based on submission of an application are not included in the ISP.

To be eligible for CEP a school must have an ISP of 40 percent or more of the student enrollment eligible for free meals by means other than a self-reported household application.

# CLAIMING

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Meal program claims are based on the percentage of identified students multiplied by the current factor of 1.6 (this factor is set by the state). A school that has an ISP of 62.5 percent of enrolled students ( based on the 1.6 multiplier) will receive 100 percent free reimbursements for all breakfasts and lunches served to all students.

Newfane had an ISP of  $40.98 \times 1.6 = 65\%$ . In a normal school year, we would receive 65 percent of our reimbursement in the free category and the remaining 35 percent in the paid category. For the 23-24 school year the state is picking up the difference (state subsidy), so currently we are receiving 100 percent reimbursements.

# CLAIMING CON'T

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The USDA sometime in September or October 2023, had lowered the ISP to 25 percent of eligible students. So, schools that only had 25 percent of eligible students are also receiving the full 100 percent reimbursements. We have not been told how long will will be receiving the state subsidy. Since money is not being collected from any student, you must either ensure that the CEP reimbursement covers all meal cost or cover those cost from another source. The general fund, donations or some other non-federal funding would be needed if your cost of implementing CEP is higher than the reimbursements received. This currently does not apply, since we are receiving 100 percent of reimbursement, due to the state subsidy. The 23-24 reimbursements are for every breakfast we receive 2.8313 and for every lunch we receive 4.4099.

# GRACE YEAR

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- When a school is approved for CEP it is for four (4) years, with a possibility of an additional fifth year, call a grace year. In order to be eligible for the 5<sup>th</sup> year a school must have an ISP of at least 30 percent but less than 40 percent. The grace year eligibility must be based on the ISP enrollment of year four. The reimbursements provided in the grace year will be generated by the year four ISP. This will be a lower claiming percentage than was established for the initial 4 years. The grace year is optional and is a local decision. A school that has a year four ISP at least 40 percent or greater is not entitled to grace year, but may begin a new four-year cycle in the following school year by completing the CEP application process.



# STRUCTURE

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- SEPARATE FUND/ENTITY
- SELF FUNDED
- REVENUE STAYS WITHIN TO SUPPORT

# HOW ARE WE SPENDING SOME MONEY

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- We have been able to replace and repair some of our large equipment.
- Replaced reach-in refrigerators and freezers at the Elementary, NECC and Middle school.
- Had all four of the serving lines at the High school and Middle school rewired and had the hot wells replaced
- New Convection ovens at the High school and the Middle school
- New dishwashers at the NECC and Middle school
- New heated cabinet at NECC
- New steamer and kettle at NECC
- New conveyor toasters for all 4 schools

# HOW DID WE SPEND SOME MONEY

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Other equipment :

Ice machine, Dunnage racks, microwave, utility carts, fruit sectionizer, shredder plates, commercial can openers.

Pay increase for staff (to remain competitive with other positions).

We are awaiting pricing on a new serving line for the NECC, and a new reach-in refrigerator at the Middle school.

Equipment to still replace: ice machine at the Middle school, new milk coolers at the Elementary school, two line coolers at the Elementary.

# Questions?

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