



State of New Jersey

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To: Public LEAs, Non-Public LEAs and RCCIs Participating in Child Nutrition Programs
From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, *Arleen Ramos-Szatmary*
Coordinator, School Nutrition Programs
Date: February 28, 2014
RE: Community Eligibility Provision

Section 104(a) of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 amended section 11 (a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1) to provide an alternative to household applications for free and reduced price meals in high poverty local education agencies (LEAs) and schools. This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

To be eligible LEAs and/or schools must meet a minimum level of identified students for free meals in the year prior to implementing the CEP; agree to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students; and agree to cover any costs of providing the free meals in excess of the reimbursement with non-Federal funds. Reimbursement is based on claiming percentages established from the identified student percentage; which are students certified as eligible for free meals without the use of a paper application (i.e. directly certified students). The claiming percentages established for a school in the first year may be used for a period of 4 years and may be increased if the identified student percentage rises.

In order to identify LEAs and/or schools that may be eligible to apply to participate in the CEP all sponsors will be required to complete a Site Level Data Collection form in SNEARS. The form will be available in SNEARS under the Community Eligibility link beginning March 1, 2014. LEAs will be directed to this form when they attempt to submit/certify their February reimbursement claim. This information will be used to develop the list of LEAs and/or schools that are eligible to apply for CEP. This list will be published, as required by Federal Regulations, on May 1. LEAs and/or schools wishing to apply may complete the application process in SNEARS after May 1.

Additional information will be forthcoming. Please feel free to contact your School Nutrition Programs Specialist at 609-984-0692 if you have any questions.