



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 7, 2016

Re: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

According to Michigan Department of Education (MDE) records, your district is currently participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in the fourth year of your four-year agreement, and your participation is **set to expire June 30, 2016**. Should you wish to continue participation in CEP, you will be required to establish your Identified Student Percentage (ISP) by utilizing your April 1, 2016, enrollment, combined with your best available April Direct Certification information and any corresponding student categorical eligibility determinations. Participating schools that continue to meet the minimum direct certification percentage may immediately begin another four-year cycle after re-establishing their ISP as noted above.

Identified students are defined as the students certified for free meals, not through the submission of individual applications. This definition includes students directly certified through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) participation, including extended eligibility of another child in the same household as the child directly certified. This definition also includes students classified as homeless on the liaison list, income-eligible Head Start, migrant youth, runaways, foster children not on the direct certification list, and non-applicants approved by local officials.

The application to participate in the CEP will be available later this month and will remain open until the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) deadline of **August 31, 2016**. The application can be found in the [Michigan Nutrition Data System](#)ⁱ.

Participating schools falling below the minimum ISP of 40% (but not less than 30%) at the end of their four-year cycle may choose to continue to participate for a "grace year." During a grace year, the school will establish a new lower percentage, participate in CEP during the grace year, and be required to re-establish percentages that meet eligibility requirements thereafter. At the end of the grace year, participating schools that do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements will need to transition to traditional student eligibility counting and claiming (Free/Reduced Family Meal Applications). Those that do meet the minimum eligibility requirements after their grace year can initiate a new four-year cycle.

A local educational agency (LEA) may participate in the CEP for all schools in the LEA, or only some schools, depending on the eligibility of individual schools and financial considerations based on the anticipated level of Federal reimbursement and other non-Federal support that may be available to cover any meal costs in excess of the Federal reimbursement. A number of resources are available on the [MDE website](#) under 'Community Eligibility Provision'.

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MDE recommends your continued participation in this opportunity for Michigan students. Questions regarding this program may be directed to 517-373-3347 or mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Marla J. Moss, Director
Office of School Support Services

ⁱ <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/mind/login.aspx>