



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 12, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School Superintendents, Public School Academy Administrators, and Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Carol*

SUBJECT: Community Eligibility Option

Exciting News! Michigan has been selected to be one of the three states to operate the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for School Year 2011-2012. There is much work ahead of us and very little time, but this is such an excellent opportunity for the students in the state of Michigan. Your cooperation and support of this program is appreciated.

Under the CEO, ALL students in qualifying schools/districts will be able to walk through the serving line and receive a free breakfast AND lunch! This program requires schools to offer breakfast and lunch but will allow individual schools to count and claim meals without the normal free and reduced application process. Schools that participate in CEO will no longer be required to collect Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Applications. Meals will still need to be counted at Point of Service (POS) but just total meals, not meals by category. It is a great option for schools and the students they serve.

Any school building that has a percentage of directly certified students of 40% or more, according to the data reported in your Local Educational Agency Review System (LEARS) report, or as of April 1, 2011, will be eligible to participate. The percentage is calculated by taking all directly certified students (including homeless, migrant, foster, runaways) and dividing by the student enrollment (students available to participate in school meal programs). If that percentage is 40% or more, the school is eligible. After the percentage has been determined, it will be multiplied by a factor of 1.6. Districts will be able to participate in a variety of ways: by individual school building or groups of school's direct certification rate, or by entire district's direct certification rate.

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Districts with direct certification rates between 40 and 62% may be required to pay, from sources other than federal funds, the costs of serving breakfasts and lunches that are in excess of the federal assistance received, including federal cash reimbursement.

Therefore, it is very important that your district carefully consider if this option is financially right for you. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will send out more information on this program soon. In the meantime, detailed information on this exciting program can be found at:

www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SP-23-2011_360204_7.pdf.

Districts will still need to collect socioeconomic data at the student level to remain eligible for programs such as Section 31a, e-rate, and Title I. MDE understands that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working with the United States Department of Education (USED) and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to determine how various federal programs will be calculated in the future, and is committed to making this option viable for school districts across Michigan.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance