



Terry Marlow <marlowt@glenwoodschoools.org>

Fwd: CEP Final Rule

1 message

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To: Terry Marlow <marlowt@glenwoodschoools.org>

Tue, Mar 5, 2024 at 1:02 PM

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From: **Iowa Department of Education** <IADeptofEd@public.govdelivery.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:38 PM
Subject: CEP Final Rule
To: <brenda.windmuller@iowa.gov>



September 29, 2023



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- [USDA Policy Memo](#)

This notice is sent to the Authorized Representative, Food Service Director and other Child Nutrition Program (CNP) related staff. Contact Patti Harding at patti.harding@iowa.gov if you have questions or need assistance.

USDA Policy Memo

This week, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) distributed memo [SP 22-2023](#), Community Eligibility Provision: Implementing the New Minimum and Identified Student Percentage (ISP), that outlines the changes based on the final rule that lowers the ISP threshold from 40% to 25%.

Next week, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is hosting webinars for School Food Authority (SFA) staff focused on the final rule:

USDA Webinar for SFAs on Final Rule: Community Eligibility Provision
Date: Thursday, Oct. 5
Time: 1 p.m.

Register for Webinar

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a simplified meal service option that allows schools to provide meals at no cost to all students without requiring families to apply for free and reduced price meals. Schools must operate the School Breakfast Program to participate in CEP, and all meals must be provided to students at no charge. There is a CEP-At-A-Glance document posted on the [School Nutrition Resource Site](#) that provides additional information on how CEP works.

Under CEP, not all meals are automatically claimed at the free federal reimbursement rate. SFAs are encouraged to consider their ability to provide meals at no cost to students. FNS has an updated estimator tool to help SFAs determine if CEP is financially viable, and to help assess SFAs groupings to optimize Federal reimbursements. The estimator tool is available at the [USDA CEP Resource Center](#) (under Research & Data, Estimator Tool).

At this time, the State agency intends to implement the 25% ISP threshold beginning in SY 2024-25 so data system enhancements can be made that allow SFAs to submit claims at the correct claiming percentage. If you have additional questions, please contact your assigned area School Nutrition Program Consultant or Patti Harding at patti.harding@iowa.gov.

Patti Harding

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