



North Boone

Community Unit School District 200

Community Eligibility Provision
January 13th, 2026 Business Services Meeting

Dr. Joe Mullikin
Executive Director of Business Services

What is CEP?

- The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for school districts
- CEP Requirements
 - Offer both lunch and breakfast to all students at no cost
 - Ensure at least 25% of total enrolled students are identified through ***direct certification*** (NBCUSD = 35.87%)
 - Notify ISBE of intent to participate by June 30
 - Once elected, schools must operate using CEP for a four-year cycle, unless the number of identified students drops below 25%

CEP Information

- All CEP application data is as of April 1st annually
- The current multiplier is 1.6, but that can fluctuate ($35.87\% \times 1.6 = 57.39\%$ reimbursed at the rate of \$4.69, the remaining meals are reimbursed at the rate of \$0.43)
- Identified students are those directly certified through SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), income eligible FREE Medicaid, and homeless.
- Identified students ***do not include*** any students who qualify through a HEA, reduced price students, or REDUCED Medicaid

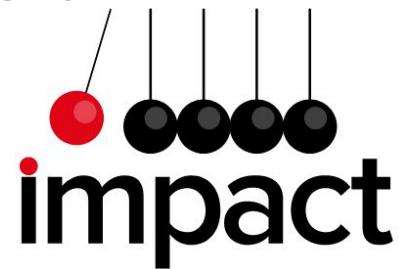


Traditional National School Lunch Program

- Can be used at any school
- Uses both direct certification and meal applications Household Eligibility Applications (HEA) for free and reduced-price students
- Free and reduced population (FRP) data is used for other programs in the district (Title I, E-Rate, and others)
 - With direct certification and HEA forms, our FRP percentage is 46.06%
- Does require processing of applications and maintaining student accounts
- Unpaid accounts come from the General Fund

CEP Considerations

- Districts participating via CEP **CANNOT** have individual student eligibility status based on HEA forms. They can only collect socioeconomic forms for the purposes of waiving student fees
- This may impact:
 - Title I
 - E-Rate
 - District fees collected from families - given what they qualify for
 - Other Grants both competitive and entitlement
 - Requirements for specific foods, as CEP has more rigid requirements



Current Calculations

CEP versus Traditional Claiming (Lunch Only)

Traditional Claiming = \$274,488.56	vs.	CEP Claiming = \$190,492.26	Increased Meals= \$219,066.10
Traditional Claiming Provides Greater Reimbursement			
Difference =		-\$55,422.46	

CEP versus Traditional Claiming (Breakfast & Lunch)

Traditional Claiming = \$367,876.12	vs.	CEP Claiming = \$294,154.29	Increased Meals= \$338,277.44
Traditional Claiming Provides Greater Reimbursement			
Difference =		-\$29,598.68	

What are we doing?

- Consulting with local districts who leverage CEP to ensure we're not leaving any stones unturned
- Conducting monthly direct certification to ensure we're identifying all qualified students
- Running consistent reports to assess the number of students engaging with our current food service
- Beginning the interview process for a new Food Services Director who will be tasked with continuing to dive deeply into the potential opportunity with CEP