

Introductions

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Objectives

- Hot Topic Legislation - Healthy School Meals for All
- Community Eligibility - what are your options and how does this fiscally impact your district?
- Procurement & Resources Management Audits
- Funding Opportunities FY24 & FY25 (NSLP sponsors)
- Public Acts & Operational Requirements that impact programs for 24-25 SY



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Healthy School Meals for All

- Healthy School Meals for All Act (Public Act-103-0532) - Spring 2023
- Currently no appropriation
 - If appropriated, state would cover minimum of federal reimbursement rate per meal not covered under federal program
 - If appropriation not sufficient, priority would go to CEP schools with higher ISP
- School Boards must opt in to participate



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Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Option for eligible schools to offer meals to all enrolled students at no cost without collecting household eligibility applications



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Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Final Rule: Amends ISP (Identified Student Percentage from 40% to 25%)

- What is **ISP**? percentage of enrolled students who are certified for free school meals without submitting a household application
 - Direct Certification: students who are certified for free school meals through specific federal benefit programs (ie: SNAP)
 - **Individual schools, group of schools, or LEA must meet or exceed the established minimum ISP the school year prior to implementing CEP**
- How do you calculate ISP?
 $\# \text{ of Identified Students} / \# \text{ Enrolled Students}$



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

What Does This Mean?

- More school districts can participate in CEP and feed all students for at no cost
- How are meals reimbursed?
 - The USDA has set a 1.6 multiplier to determine what % of meals served are reimbursed at the free rate and the paid rate (there is no reduced rate under CEP)

% of meals reimbursed at the free rate = ISP x 1.6

% of meal reimbursed at the paid rate = 100 - % meals reimbursed at the free rate



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Just because you DO qualify doesn't always mean you SHOULD participate

- Is it fiscally responsible for your district?
 - District is responsible for supplementing any costs of offering free meals to all that exceed the federal reimbursement (cannot utilize federal funds to supplement)
 - The lower your ISP percentage, the greater the cost you must cover locally

CEP Eligibility	60.41 %
Free Claiming %	96.66 %
Paid Claiming %	3.34 %
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CEP Eligibility	58.59 %
Free Claiming %	93.75 %
Paid Claiming %	6.25 %
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CEP Eligibility	50.86 %
Free Claiming %	81.37 %
Paid Claiming %	18.63 %



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Implications of CEP

- Reduced administrative burden (decreased labor costs)
- Increased participation
- Greater access to grants based on CEP qualifications
- Improved culture around meal programs
- No Unpaid Meal Balance
- Can be financially advantageous



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Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Communicating & Marketing CEP

- “At no cost” vs “FREE”
- It is a service for ALL families
- Emphasis on federal funds vs local funds

Q. **How are the meals being paid for?**

A. The federal government provides reimbursement to Marquardt District 15 for every breakfast and lunch served to help cover the costs of the food provided.

Q. **Will registration fees or taxes be increased?**

A. No. This program is a federally funded program and will not impact tax rates or registration fees at the beginning of the school year.



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Procurement and Resource Management Audits

Compliance and Preparation

- RM audit occurs with the ISBE administrative audit (every 5 years)
- Adult Meal Pricing
 - SY25: minimum \$0.40 above highest paid student rate
 - CEP schools: minimum \$0.40 above free reimbursement rate
 - ISBE suggest \$0.50 above highest paid student lunch or federal reimbursement rate
- Paid Lunch Equity
 - Dictates paid school lunch fees
 - Federal Free Meal Reimbursement Rate (\$4.35)
 - Federal Paid Lunch Reimbursement Rate (\$0.50)
 - Paid Lunch goal
 - SY25- \$3.85



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Procurement and Resource Management Audits

Compliance PLE Tool for Paid Meal Pricing

- SY24-25 [PLE Tool](#) now available
 - Positive fund balance as of June 2023: lunch prices increase unnecessary
 - [File exemption](#) with state in order to hold lunch prices into SY25
 - Not submitting exemption and not raising lunch prices will result in citation
 - SFAs with Negative balance (SY23) are required to complete PLE tool
 - Above rate (\$3.85 SY24): SFA does not need to raise price
 - Below PLE rate- 2 options
 - Minimum \$0.10 increase
 - Contribute non-federal funds to NSLP account
 - PLE for paid lunch prices only (no change to reduced prices)



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Procurement and Resource Management Audits

Compliance and Preparation

- Unpaid Meal Balances
 - mandatory policy in place and available on website
 - best practices and utilization non-profit funds
- Board Ethics Policies
- Non-profit School Meal Account
 - Unallowable expenses
 - Is the purchase necessary for participation & operation of NSLR
 - Equipment ([pre-approved list](#) or approval with ISBE)



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Funding Opportunities

Supply Chain Assistance Funds (SCA)

- Third round funding & enrollment
- Designated \$ per district
- Opt in program
 - reach out to ISBE directly
 - chose on when to receive funding (SY24 v SY25)
- Restrictions on purchases
 - Minimally processed
- Requirements:
 - Tracking (reviewed during audit)
 - No deadline for spending



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Funding Opportunities

Local Foods for Schools (LFS)

- Local, minimally processed food purchasing
 - within 400 miles of district; within state of IL
 - purchases to increase or expand
- Designated \$ per district
 - Opt in/ reach out to ISBE directly
- Reimbursement
 - submit monthly
 - ends January 31, 2025
- Follow federal procurement requirements
 - Utilize Micro and Small purchase methods
- Opportunities



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Resources for Local Foods

- IL Farm to School Network
 - <http://illinoisfarmtoschool.org/>
 - farmtoschool@sevengenerationsahead.org
- Illinois Market Maker
 - <https://il.foodmarketmaker.com/>
- IL Farm Bureau
 - County Contacts: <https://www.ilfb.org/about-us/directory/>
 - Main webpage: <https://www.ilfb.org/>
- Local Farmers Market
 - IL Farmers Market Association: <https://www.ilfma.org/>
- U of I Extension
 - Find a U of I Ext. Office:
<https://extension.illinois.edu/global/where-we-serve>



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Plant Based School Lunch

Plant Based School Lunch Option (Public Act 102-0761)

Plant-based school lunch option. As a part of the school lunch program, a school district shall provide a plant-based school lunch option that complies with federal nutritional mandates to those students who submit a prior request to the school district requesting a plant-based school lunch option.



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Providing Meals During E-Learning

- Providing meals during e-learning days is not required.
- If a district or school switched to e-learning/remote learning for unanticipated school closure (fire, flooding, weather related, strikes, illness) the district **MAY** offer meals.
 - Waiver required to received federal reimbursement
 - May offer non-congregate meals that meet federal program requirements



School Unused Food Sharing Plan

Food sharing plan for unused food into their local wellness policy (Public Act 102-0359)

- Focus on needy students
- Supported by local health department



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Summer EBT

- New permanent federally funded program that provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer

<https://www.isbe.net/sebt>



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Questions and Answers

We thank you for your time!



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