



CALIFORNIA'S 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:

A FRESH LOOK AT

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students while eliminating the traditional meal application process. Currently, the Seamless Summer Waiver is available to all schools for the 2021–22 school year. In addition, the higher poverty rates caused by the COVID-19 pandemic mean that the 2021–22 school year is an optimal time to elect CEP and establish a higher baseline for LCFF funding over the next four years. CEP also helps ensure that Pandemic EBT opportunities are available for all students.



There is still time to elect CEP for this school year, ahead of the September 30, 2021 deadline.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SCHOOLS ELECTING CEP?



- ▶ **It reduces administrative burden** — eliminating the school meal application means less paperwork for nutrition services.
- ▶ **It prepares your district** for School Meals for All — create a seamless transition for families and lock in a higher baseline for LCFF funding based on current elevated CalFresh enrollments.
- ▶ **It facilitates implementation** of innovative breakfast models — so that it's easier to implement breakfast in the classroom and “grab and go” service models.



Electing CEP helps reduce administration of Pandemic EBT while maximizing benefits for children.

- All students enrolled in CEP Schools are automatically eligible for P-EBT benefits.
- With this school year being full of uncertainty, there is a chance that P-EBT benefits will be necessary at some point. If schools are functioning under CEP, the process of determining eligibility is much more efficient.
- CEP schools will be able to submit student information for Summer P-EBT benefits more easily in Summer of 2022.

RESOURCES TO HELP ELECT CEP:

- ▶ **Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) resources:**
Grouping Tool — Group schools together to increase your identified student percentage (ISP) and maximize your claiming percentages: <https://fraccep.org/>
CEP Financial Calculators — School districts and other stakeholders should use these tools to group schools strategically and to maximize the federal funding received: <https://fraccep.org/>
Community Eligibility — Making it Work with Lower ISPs: <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/making-cep-work-with-lower-isps.pdf>
- ▶ **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) resource center:**
www.fns.usda.gov/cn/community-eligibility-provision
- ▶ **California Department of Education (CDE) guidance & tools:**
www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/cep.asp



Utilize the Seamless Summer Waiver, and elect CEP by September 30, 2021, to maximize a higher federal reimbursement this school year, and for the next 4 years!

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