

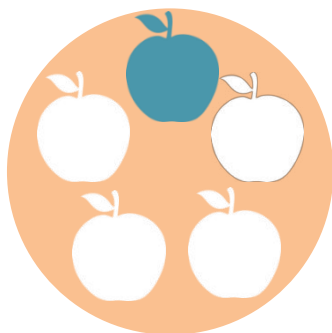


# Making Schools Hunger-Free in Arizona

## Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

CEP allows schools with high percentages of low-income children to provide breakfast and lunch **FREE** to all students, ensuring that they are well-nourished and able to learn throughout the day.

### Why is CEP important?



**1 in 5**

children in Arizona live in households that are food insecure

more than

**601,296**

Arizona students qualify for free-and-reduced priced school meals



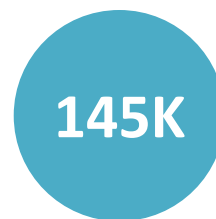
### CEP is growing in Arizona! In School Year 2018-19,



school districts adopted CEP



schools adopted CEP



students attended CEP schools

In a 2014 USDA evaluation of seven CEP pilot states, CEP schools saw a

**5%** increase in lunch participation and a **9%** increase in breakfast participation

### Who does CEP benefit?



Families can count on their children eating two healthy meals at school each day, stretching families' limited food budgets

Students can count on getting healthy meals without the stigma of being a 'free lunch kid' attached. School breakfast also improves students' diets, behavior, and academic achievement



CEP reduces paperwork and administrative costs, and gives school staff more time to focus on students' nutritional and educational needs



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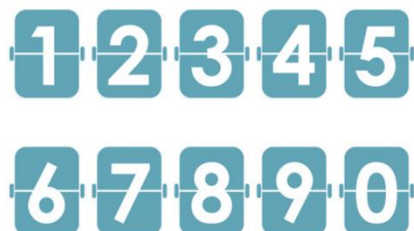
## Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) – CONT.

### How does CEP work?

School districts can adopt CEP in individual schools, a group of schools, or district-wide. Any school, group of schools, or district with 40% or more “identified students” – children who are eligible for free school meals by means other than an individual household application, such as participating in SNAP or TANF – may participate. Using CEP, schools:



do not process meal applications or collect fees



do not have to track eligibility in the lunch line, just count the total number of meals they serve



are guaranteed eligibility for four years with no decline in reimbursement rate.

### How does CEP change reimbursement?

Reimbursements are calculated by multiplying the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) by 1.6 to determine the percentage of meals reimbursed at the free rate. For example, a school with 60% ISP would be reimbursed at the free rate for 96 percent of meals and the paid rate for 4 percent. CEP schools/districts are certified for four years at a time, and even if ISP drops during that time, reimbursement rates cannot be lowered.

**ISP:** Percent of students who are directly certified for free school meals because they participate in SNAP, TANF, are deemed homeless, or meet other criteria. These students need not turn in lunch applications.

*Sources: ADE Health and Nutrition Services, Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2019, Food Research and Action Center, USDA Food and Nutrition Service. Prepared by AAFB, May 2019.*

#### For more information, contact:

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#### CEP resources:

AAFB | Childhood Hunger  
[tinyurl.com/AAFBChildHunger](https://tinyurl.com/AAFBChildHunger)

ADE | Health and Nutrition Services  
[tinyurl.com/ADECEP](https://tinyurl.com/ADECEP)