



June 6, 2014

TO: Dr. Cynthia Elsberry
Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Laura W. Farmer
Director of School Food Services

RE: Community Eligibility Provision

Below is the information that you requested. I have structured my responses in a question-and-answer format. If you need additional information, please let me know.

**What are the schools that you would recommend for the Community Eligibility Option (or Provision)?
What are the free and reduced percentages of each school and the percentage of direct certified students at each school?**

After much consideration, the following schools, in my opinion, would be considered good candidates to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). I have looked at the financial impact and believe that the CEP would provide at least the current levels of revenue with the potential to increase due to the possible participation of students who currently bring meals from home. I have included the free and reduced percentage at each school, the direct certification percentage, as well as the percent of meals we could claim at the free reimbursement rate.

School	F/R %	DC%	CE% Meal Claim
Horry County Ed. Center*	92.91%	68.10%	100%
Homewood Elem.	82.85%	61.80%	99%
Pee Dee Elem.	82.85%	61.80%	99%
South Conway Elem.	86.26%	61.50%	98%
Socastee Elem.	81.71%	59.40%	95%
Loris Elem.	77.39%	58.40%	93%
Myrtle Beach Elem.	78.74%	57.30%	92%
Myrtle Beach Primary	84.87%	57.10%	91%
Palmetto Bays Elem.	80.53%	56.10%	90%

*Horry County Ed. Center is the only school of the nine that has not implemented a free breakfast program.

What are the pros of CEP?

PROS:

1. Remove the stigma of a student's meal status, as all students receive a breakfast and lunch at no cost.
2. Improve nutrition for students who may have been bringing less healthy meals from home.
3. Increase student participation in breakfast and lunch programs.
4. Provide the potential for improvement in attendance rates and test scores.
5. Simplify meal counting and claiming at the school level.
6. Provide potential labor savings due to a reduction in paperwork at both the school and district levels.
7. Eliminate the fall verification procedure as CEP schools are not required to do so.
8. Build on the success of the free breakfast programs already implemented in eight of the nine schools listed above.

What are the cons of CEP?

CONS:

1. Impact Title I funding if all schools in the district implemented CEP.*
2. Require another method for determining poverty levels for individual student fee reduction if all schools implemented CEP.*
3. All schools cannot participate in the CEP.

*Although I listed the effect on Title I and individual fee structure as a con, this would not be a problem for Horry County Schools since we would not implement the program in all schools. As a result of our limiting CEP to nine schools, we would still require parents to complete meal applications due to siblings enrollment in non-CEP schools. Therefore, Title I funding would not be impacted as all eligible families in the district will still be required to complete meal application forms.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

cc: Rick Maxey