

**WOODFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM #: VIII D **DATE:** May 28, 2024

TOPIC/TITLE: Community Eligibility Provision

PRESENTER: Courtney Quire

ORIGIN:

- TOPIC PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY (No board action required.)
- ACTION REQUESTED AT THIS MEETING
- ITEM IS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR APPROVAL
- ACTION REQUESTED AT FUTURE MEETING: (DATE)
- BOARD REVIEW REQUIRED BY

- STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION
- BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
- OTHER:

PREVIOUS REVIEW, DISCUSSION OR ACTION:

- NO PREVIOUS BOARD REVIEW, DISCUSSION OR ACTION
- PREVIOUS REVIEW OR ACTION

- DATE:
- ACTION:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

I recommend we transition away from the CEP program and return to the traditional meal service model.


SUMMARY OF MAJOR ELEMENTS:

The CEP program has been a financial hardship on our program due to our low Identified Student Percentage. 34.19% of meals served are reimbursed at the low rate of .42 per lunch and .38 per breakfast

IMPACT ON RESOURCES: none

TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER REVIEW OR ACTION:

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: Recommended Not Recommended



Dear School Board Members,

I am writing to address a crucial issue concerning our school's food service department. Our department has been operating under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for the 23/34 school year. While CEP has enabled us to provide meals to all students at no cost, regardless of their ability to pay, we face significant financial challenges that necessitate a transition from this program.

The primary reason for transitioning from CEP is insufficient funding to sustain the program. Under CEP, the district receives federal reimbursement for meals served based on a formula that considers our Identified Student Percentage (ISP). However, our federal reimbursements have also decreased due to our low ISP. This has resulted in a financial strain on the food service department, making it increasingly difficult to cover the costs of providing meals to all students.

Transitioning away from CEP will allow us to implement a more sustainable meal service model that aligns with our budgetary constraints. By moving to a system that charges for meals based on a student's eligibility for free, reduced-price, or full-price meals, we can ensure that our food service department can continue to operate efficiently and, most importantly, provide nutritious meals to our students, a commitment we hold dear.

We will continue to provide support and resources to families who need assistance with meal costs.

The decision to transition from CEP is not taken lightly. We understand the financial challenges facing our food service department and are committed to ensuring its long-term sustainability. We appreciate your understanding and support as we make this necessary transition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Courtney Quire

Food Service Director

(859) 879-4600 ext. 2236

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<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>