



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 9, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Directors of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities
Route To: School Principals
From: Glenn Forney, Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Office of School Finance

Community Eligible Provision Survey and Documents for 2020-21 Now Available

The updated household income surveys for use by schools participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision are now available on the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) [CEP Information webpage](#).

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made available to all states a new universal meal program called the "Community Eligibility Provision" (CEP). The program permits eligible schools to provide meals at no charge to all students, regardless of household income. Rather than collecting Free and Reduced Price Lunch Applications for program administration and reimbursement from the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), participating CEP schools rely on data from the School Nutrition Electronic Application and Reimbursement System (SNEARS) for federal meal reimbursement calculations. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has notified districts of their eligibility to participate in CEP in Fiscal Year 2021.

The NJDOE requires school districts and charter schools to determine the number of students coming from low-income households for the state enrollment reports used for state aid and student assessment purposes. Because CEP districts no longer collect applications for free and reduced price lunches, the NJDOE has developed a unique form for CEP districts to determine household income. In order to report students as low-income (the income equivalent of the NSLP "free and reduced" lunch categories), each participating CEP school must use the NJ Household Information Survey in conjunction with the direct certification lists from SNEARS in lieu of lunch applications. The survey for 2020-21 is now available on the NJDOE's CEP webpage in both English and Spanish, along with other information and resources for participating schools and parents.

Contact information

For questions concerning the survey, please contact the NJDOE's Office of School Finance at (609) 376-3941 or email staid@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Kevin Dehmer, Interim Commissioner of Education
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NJ LEE Group