



Community Eligibility Free & Reduced Meal Program

Effective 2015-2016 School Year

What is the Community Eligibility Program?

All schools in the Columbia Borough School District qualify for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP), which means ***all*** students attending our schools receive both a free breakfast and a free lunch. The Community Eligibility Program allows school districts in high poverty areas to provide meals free of charge to students in schools that qualify.

How were schools selected?

Schools were selected based on the percentage of directly certified students.

What is a “Directly Certified” (DC) student?

Students may be directly certified when they receive certain federal benefits including SNAP and TANF. Students identified by the district as homeless, Head Start, migrant, or runaways are also considered directly certified. Some foster children and some children receiving Medicaid may also be directly certified.

Do I have to complete a National School Lunch Free and Reduced Meal application for my child/children?

No, you do not need to complete an application. However, if your child is attending one of the Lancaster Career & Technology Center schools, Brownstown, Mount Joy or Willow Street, you will need to follow their directions for applying for lunch benefits.

What if my child wants to pack a meal, do they get Free Milk?

No they must pay \$.40 for the milk. Only a complete meal of 3 or more food items is free. Individual purchases of foods and beverages, a la Carte foods, will be available for sale every day.

What is a meal?

Breakfast consists of 3 food components: Whole Grains, Fruit and Milk. To build a complete breakfast meal your child must take a ½ cup serving of fruit and/or fruit juice. They must also select 1-2 whole grains and/or milk.

Lunch consists of 4 food components: Meat/Meat Alternates, Whole Grains, Vegetables, Fruit and Milk. To build a complete lunch your student must select either a ½ cup serving of vegetables or fruit (they can take both) and 2 other items for a total of 3 food components.