

AGENDA

Pearl City Community Unit School District #200
Pearl City, IL 61062

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
6:30 P.M. – High School Library

Public access to this meeting will be in-person at the Pearl City JH/HS Library. Individuals wishing to speak during public forum may make their public comment during the public comment section in-person at the regular scheduled meeting.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call of Members
- C. Approval of the Agenda
- D. Recognition of Guests & Public Comment
- E. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Approval of the Open Meeting Minutes from the January 17, 2024, Regular Scheduled School Board Meeting
 - 2. Approval of Bills and Payroll through February 16, 2024
 - 3. District Consolidated Grant for Federal Grants
 - 4. Course Approvals & reimbursements
- F. Communications
- G. New Business
 - 1. First Reading of the 2024-2025 District Calendar – Informational Item
 - 2. First Reading of the 2024-2025 Student/Parent Handbook - Informational Item
 - 3. First Reading of the 2024-2025 School Safety Plan – Informational Item
 - 4. Certification of Hazardous Transportation Conditions - Potential Action Item
 - 5. Community Eligibility Provision Discussion – Informational Item
- H. Closed Session
 - 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 99-646.
- I. Possible Items for Approval after Closed Session
 - 1. Approval to hire Bass Fishing Coach for 2023-2024 season – Potential Action Item
 - 2. Approval of Volunteers for Spring Extra-Curricular – Potential Action Item
 - 3. Approval to hire Coaches for 2024-2025– Potential Action Item
 - 4. Approval to hire Elementary Teacher – Potential Action Item
 - 5. Approval to hire HS Math Teacher – Potential Action Item
 - 6. Approval to hire HS PE/Health Teacher – Potential Action Item
 - 7. Approval of Resignation of Elementary Teacher – Potential Action Item
 - 8. Approval of Teachers for Tenure – Potential Action Item
 - 9. Approval of Salary Increase for District Non-Certified Staff and Principals – Potential Action Item
- J. Adjourn

***Copies of the agenda and public documents can be picked up at the District Administrative Office at 100 S. Summit St, Pearl City, IL 61062 during its regular business hours.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT #200
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 17, 2024

Mr. Bremmer, President, called the regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call found the following members present: Mr. Crackenberger, Ms. Downs, Mrs. Keltner, Mr. Kempel, and Mr. Pauley. Also present were Superintendent Schiffman, and Sandy Scott.

Ms. Downs motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Crackenberger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The board recognized guests and public comments were allowed. No comments were made.

Mrs. Keltner motioned to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion. Voting aye was: Mr. Bremmer, Mr. Crackenberger, Ms. Downs, Mrs. Keltner, Mr. Kempel, and Mr. Pauley.

Mr. Pauley motioned to approve the destruction of closed session recordings prior to July 2022. Mr. Kempel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Keltner motioned to approve the changes to the Course Description Handbook. Ms. Downs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauley motioned to approve the Spring Softball Overnight trip on May 10-11th, 2024. Ms. Downs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Crackenberger motioned to approve the Spring Baseball Overnight trip on March 29-30th, 2024. Mr. Kempel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauley motioned to approve hiring an additional HS Asst. Football Coach. Ms. Downs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Keltner motioned to approve the hiring of an additional HS Asst. Volleyball Coach. Mr. Kempel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pauley motioned to approve Reagan Schnoor as Asst. Speech coach for the remainder of the 2024 season. Ms. Downs seconded the motion. Voting aye was: Mr. Bremmer, Mr. Crackenberger, Ms. Downs, Mrs. Keltner, Mr. Kempel, and Mr. Pauley.

Mrs. Keltner motioned to approve the retirement of Mrs. Bunker at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Crackenberger seconded the motion. Voting aye was: Mr. Bremmer, Mr. Crackenberger, Ms. Downs, Mrs. Keltner, Mr. Kempel, and Mr. Pauley.

Ms. Downs motioned to approve the Timberlee advisors – Mrs. VenHuizen & Mrs. Moore. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion. Voting aye was: Mr. Bremmer, Mr. Crackenberger, Ms. Downs, Mrs. Keltner, Mr. Kempel, and Mr. Pauley.

Mrs. Keltner motioned to approve the Fall coaches for 2024-2025: Volleyball JV- Jordy McPeek, TBD; JH-Sarah Boyer, & Josee Pickard; Football HS-Brighton Haverland, Matt Leitzen, Kevin Koning, Scott Gallentine, TBD; JH-Tommy Hofmaster, Dillon Eich, TBD. Mr. Pauley seconded the motion. Voting aye was: Mr. Bremmer, Mr. Crackenberger, Ms. Downs, Mrs. Keltner, Mr. Kempel, and Mr. Pauley.

Mr. Pauley motioned to keep the following Closed Meeting Minutes closed after review: Feb. 13, 2023, March 15, 2023, & June 21, 2023. Mr. Crackenberger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Keltner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Mr. Kempel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Sheffey, Recording Secretary

Chad Bremmer, Board President

[Close Printer Friendly Page](#)**Applicant:** PEARL CITY CUSD 200**County:** Stephenson**Consolidated District Plan** ▼**Application:** 2024-2025 Consolidated District Plan - 00**Cycle:** Original Application[Printer-Friendly](#)[Click to Return to Application Select](#)**Project Number:** 25-CDP-00-08-089-2000-26

Overview

PROGRAM: Consolidated District Plan**PURPOSE:** The District Plan shall be developed with timely and meaningful consultation with teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, charter school leaders, administrators, other appropriate school personnel, and parents of children in schools served under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) legislation, and as appropriate, is coordinated with other programs under ESSA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (20 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (20 U.S.C.2301 et seq.), the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3103 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and other Acts as appropriate.**BOARD GOALS:**

- Student Learning: Every child will make significant academic gains each year, increasing their knowledge, skills, and opportunities so they graduate equipped to pursue a successful future, with the state paying special attention to addressing historic inequities.
- Learning Conditions: All schools will receive the resources necessary to create safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environments, and will be equipped to meet the unique academic and social and emotional needs of each and every child.
- Elevating Educators: Illinois' diverse student population will have educators who are prepared through multiple pathways and are supported in and celebrated for their efforts to provide each and every child an education that meets their needs.

FY 2025**Included****Programs:**

Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs

Title I, Part A - School Improvement Part 1003

Title I, Part D - Delinquent

Title I, Part D - Neglected

Title I, Part D - State Neglected/Delinquent

Title II, Part A - Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders

Title III - Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP)

Title III - Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP)

EL - Bilingual Service Plan (BSP)

Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment

Title V, Part B - Rural and Low Income Schools

IDEA, Part B - Flow-Through

IDEA, Part B - Preschool

Foster Care Transportation Plan

LEGISLATION:[Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)[Rehabilitation Act](#)[Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act](#)[Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)[Head Start Act](#)[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)

[Adult Education and Family Literacy Act](#)

[105 ILCS 5/Illinois School Code Article 14C. Transitional Bilingual Education](#)

[23 Illinois Administrative Code 228 Transitional Bilingual Education](#)

DUE DATE: District plans must be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education and approved before any FY 2025 grant applications for included programs can be approved.

Submission by April 1 is recommended.

DURATION: The District Plan was submitted initially for the school year 2024-2025 and must be updated annually thereafter.

AMENDMENTS: Each Local Education Agency (LEA) shall periodically review and, as necessary, revise the plan throughout the year. Plan amendments may necessitate amendment of the associated grant application(s) as well.

INSTRUCTIONS: [Instructions in PDF format](#)

COMMON ESSA - Every Student Succeeds Act (also referenced as the Elementary and Secondary

ABBREVIATIONS: Education Act [ESEA] of 1965 as Amended)

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

ISBE - Illinois State Board of Education

LEA - Local Educational Agency

LIEP - Language Instruction Educational Program

SEA - State Education Agency

BSP - Bilingual Service Plan

[Close Printer Friendly Page](#)

Applicant: PEARL CITY CUSD 200

County: Stephenson

Consolidated District Plan Application: 2024-2025 Consolidated District Plan - 00
Cycle: Original Application[Printer-Friendly](#)[Click to Return to Application Select](#)

Project Number: 25-CDP-00-08-089-2000-26

Needs Assessment and Programs[Instructions](#)**1. Consolidated planning includes how anticipated programs will be funded. Indicate below for which programs the LEA anticipates receiving funding for school year 2024-2025.* [1]****NOTE: All funding sources should be reviewed after October 1, and the plan should be amended and resubmitted to ISBE if funding sources have been added or removed due to actual grant awards.**

- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part A - School Improvement Part 1003
- Title I, Part D - Delinquent
- Title I, Part D - Neglected
- Title I, Part D - State Neglected/Delinquent
- Title II, Part A - Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders
- Title III - Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP)
- Title III - Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP)
- Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- Title V, Part B - Rural and Low Income Schools
- IDEA, Part B - Flow-Through
- IDEA, Part B - Preschool

2. Describe how the LEA will align federal resources, including but not limited to the programs in the CDP, with state and local resources to carry out activities supported in whole or in part with funding from the programs selected.* [2]

For your convenience, the prior year Consolidated District Plan approved response is provided below. It may be copied and modified to address the Consolidated District Plan needs. *DO NOT use special characters, numbered or bulleted lists copied from Word, 'see above,' or N/A as this may delay the submission or approval of your plan.*

([count] of 7500 maximum characters used)

Pearl City School District is a small rural school with the entire district in one building. By aligning all of our resources and consolidating the information, we can accurately see in one place where resources are needed and where they are going. Resources can be streamlined without duplication, both financial and personnel. Documentation may become easier or less time-consuming. Title II and Title IV funds will be moved into Title I. The Title I funds will be used to pay for part of our Title I teacher salary and benefits. The federal program funds will align with state and local funds to complete to funding needed to provide programs. Each entity alone would not be enough funding to support our programming, for example, the Title I program does not receive enough federal funding to cover the teacher salary, so we combine federal funds and local funds to cover the cost of our Title I program. IDEA federal funds help to cover our Paraprofessional salaries, but our Teacher salaries, benefits and other programming needs are covered with state and local funds.

Response from the approved prior year Consolidated District Plan.

Pearl City School District is a small rural school with the entire district in one building. By aligning all of our resources and consolidating the information, we can accurately see in one place where resources are needed and where they are going. Resources can be streamlined without duplication, both financial and personnel. Documentation may become easier or less time-consuming. Title II and Title IV funds will be moved into Title I. The Title I funds will be used to pay for part of our Title I teacher salary and benefits. The federal program funds will align with state and local funds to complete to funding needed to provide programs. Each entity alone would not be enough funding to support our programming, for example, the Title I program does not receive enough federal funding to cover the teacher salary, so we combine federal funds and local funds to cover the cost of our Title I program. IDEA federal funds help to cover our

Paraprofessional salaries, but our Teacher salaries, benefits and other programming needs are covered with state and local funds.

3. Will the LEA braid funding?*

Indicate the funds that will be braided, and list the programs or initiatives that will be supported by braiding. If no programs/initiatives are supported by braiding, enter N/A in the text field.

If No Braiding is selected, additional fund sources will not be checked.

- No Braiding
- Title I, Part A - Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part A - School Improvement Part 1003
- Title I, Part D - Delinquent
- Title I, Part D - Neglected
- Title I, Part D - State Neglected/Delinquent
- Title II, Part A - Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders
- Title III - Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP)
- Title III - Immigrant Student Education Program (ISEP)
- Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- Title V, Part B - Rural and Low-Income Schools
- IDEA, Part B - Flow-Through

Yes, Title I, IDEA Pre-School and Flow-through

4. Will the LEA hybrid-blend Title II and/or Title IV funding?*

Indicate all that apply, and list the programs or initiatives that will be supported by hybrid blending. If no programs/initiatives are supported by the full/partial transfer of funds, enter N/A in the text field.

If No Transfer of Funds is selected, additional hybrid blending options will not be checked.

- No Transfer of Funds
- Title II to Title I
- Title IV to Title I
- Title II to Title IV
- Title IV to Title II

The Pearl City School District plans to transfer all Title 2 and Title 4 funds to Title 1.

5. Provide a Summary of the LEA's Needs Assessment.*

DO NOT use special characters, numbered or bulleted lists copied from Word, 'see above,' or N/A as this may delay the submission or approval of your plan.

([count] of 7500 maximum characters used)

The districts needs are within the Title I program. Multitudes of students benefit from the funds we receive from this grant. Also, the salaries and benefits are provided to staff who directly impact our students. Our programs are supported through the funds appropriated from the Consolidated Grant.

Legislative References:

- [1] Title I, Part A, Reference Section 1112(a) (1)
- [2] Title I, Part A, Reference Section 1112(a) (1)

*Required field, applicable for all funding sources

Professional Course Pre-Approval & Reimbursement

Teacher requesting Course Approval Derrick Allen

Date of Request 1/17/24

Tuition Reimbursement

The Board shall pay up to three hundred (300) dollars per credit hour tuition, limited to six (6) hours for each year of the contract. This program will commence upon a teacher reaching tenured status. To receive the increase, the teacher shall make a written request and receive written approval/disapproval prior to the official start of a class to be used for salary advancement. Requests are to be submitted to the Superintendent's Office on forms available from the District office. Work shall be in a program leading to a degree or in the teaching area of the proposed additional teaching area or of a significant value to the district of professional advancement of significance to the district.

I am requesting course approval and reimbursement at the rate of \$300/hour -- See Above

I am requesting course approval only

Subject (s) and requested hours for approval

1. Hours 3 Subject/Course TBRI 11: Building Self

Awareness as it relates to How We Do Relationships

2. Hours _____ Subject/Course _____

_____ Course and Salary Reimbursement or Course only was approved by the School Board

_____ Course and Salary Reimbursement or Course only was denied by the School Board

Reason for Denial _____

Date Approved _____

Superintendent's Signature _____

2024-2025 Pearl City School Calendar (Proposed)

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
# Attendance Days: 27						

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Aug. Attendance: 11						

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
Sept. Attendance: 21						

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
Oct. Attendance: 22						

189 Days (Includes 5 Emergency Days)

- 1st quarter (45 days) - ends October 18th
- 2nd quarter (42 days) - ends December 20th
- 3rd quarter (48 days) - ends March 14
- 4th quarter (41 days) - ends May 22

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Nov. Attendance: 18						

November 6th - Election day
 November 11th - Veterans Day
 November 27th - 1:00 Dismissal
 Nov. 28TH & 29TH No School

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Dec. Attendance: 15						

December 20th - 1:00 Dismissal
 Dec. 23rd - Jan 3rd - No School

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Jan. Attendance: 18						

January 6th - Return to school
 January 17th - District Institute
 January 20th - No School MLK

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
Feb. Attendance: 19						

February 14th - 1:15 Dismissal
 February 17th - No School

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Mar. Attendance: 16						

March 14th - 11:15 Dismissal
 March 21st - 1:00 Dismissal
 March 24th - 28th - No school

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
April Attendance: 20						

April 17th 1:00 dismissal
 April 18th No School
 April 21st No School

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
May Attendance: 16						

May 22nd- 1:00 Dismissal
 May 23rd Teacher Institute

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
June Attendance: 17						

June 22nd- 1:00 Dismissal
 June 23rd Teacher Institute

- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT DAYS - Dismiss @ 11:15
 - September 13
 - November 11
 - February 14
 - March 14
- PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
 - October 23 (2:30 - 7:30)
 - October 24 (2:30 - 7:30)

- END OF QUARTER
 - 1st quarter (45 Days) - ends October 28
 - 2nd qtr (42 days) - ends December 20
 - 3rd quarter (48 days) - ends March 14
 - 4th quarter (41 days) - ends May 22
- INSTITUTE DAYS
 - 14-Aug
 - August 15
 - January 17
 - May 23
- Graduation - May 18

- PARENT Teacher Conference
- Winter Break/Spring Break
- School Imp. Day (11:15 Early Release)
- Emergency Days
- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 20 Martin Luther King Day
- February 17 President's Day
- April 18 Good Friday
- April 21 Easter Monday
- May 26 Memorial Day

- District Institute
- School Begins
- Holiday/Special Holiday
- End of Nine Weeks
- September 2 Labor Day
- October 14 Columbus Day
- November 11 Veterans Day - Waived
- November 17 President's Day
- Nov. 28 & 29 Thanksgiving Day/Break
- April 18 Good Friday
- April 21 Easter Monday
- May 26 Memorial Day

23-24 District Handbook Changes

- Update attendance to clarify 5 sick/health days vs. 5 prearranged/excused. Pages 37-38
- Updated health language to meet current guidelines. Pages 26-31
- Take out legging rule under dress code. Page 38
- Add definition for short week = no school Friday or early release on a Friday. Page 57
- Update handbook to reflect policy on athletic drug testing. Page 60

Regional Office of Education
District Annual Review of Safety Plans, Protocols, Procedures, and School Safety Drills Report
(as required by Public Act 94-0600)

District: Pearl City School District #200

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

1. Summary of changes to the existing school safety plans and drill plans as recommended at the Annual Review meeting(s): The annual review committee met January 25, 2024 to discuss amendments to the 2023-2024 School Safety Plan. The following items were discussed and agreed upon as amendments that need to be made for the 2024-2025 District Safety Plan:
- a. *Evacuation map to church needs to melded with the safety plan*
 - b. *Define exit routes and destinations for playground staff during an intruder/active shooter drill in the safety plan.*
 - c. *Meet with other districts to research grants available to potentially re-key all doors in the building.*
 - d. *Produce a narrative stating multiple re-unification points that are designated throughout Pearl City and place it in the Safety Plan.*
 - e. *Ask the town maintenance crew to plow a walking path from playground to old AG building.*
 - f. *Page 21 – Within Hard Lockdown paragraph, Strike out the 7th sentence.*
 - g. *Page 22 - Teachers/Staff members who are outside will need to proceed to the old AG building west of the playground.*
 - h. *Page 23 - In subsection a. change closer to safer.*
 - i. *Page 29 - Reword rape/suspected rape to sexual assault.*

2. a. Date of Annual Review meeting(s):

1/25/2024

b. Participants and attendance record: X Attached OR Listed below

3. X A check (✓) certifies that the school district conducted an effective review of the emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and procedures and the school safety drill programs of the district and each of its school buildings.
4. X A check (✓) indicates that the school district will implement those plans, protocols, procedures, and programs, during the academic year.

5. _____
Signature of school board designee

Title of school board designee

Date



PEARL CITY C.U.S.D. #200

100 S. Summit

Pearl City, Illinois 61062

815-443-2715

Fax - 815-443-2237

www.pcwolves.net

DR MICHAEL SCHIFFMAN
Superintendent

MR BEN ASCHE
JH/HS Principal

MR BRENT CHRISMAN
Elementary Principal

February 21th, 2024

To State Superintendent of Education

From: Mike Schiffman, Superintendent; Ben Asche, Transportation Director

Subject: ANNUAL REVIEW OF HAZARDOUS TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS

On Wednesday, February 13th, 2023, at the regular scheduled school board meeting of the Pearl City Board of Education, the Board certified that the hazardous conditions have not changed for sequential numbers 200-04-01 and 200-04002

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Schiffman, Superintendent

Ben Asche, Transportation Director

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)



MENU

Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs - CEP Increasing Options for Schools

HOME

Publication Date

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

RIN

0584-AE93

Link

Federal Register link

PDF Link

Print version

Resource Type

Federal Register Documents

Rules

Final Rule

Related Content

CEP Final Rule Summary

Summary

This final rule amends the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) regulations by lowering the minimum identified student percentage (ISP) from 40 percent to 25 percent. Lowering the minimum ISP will give states and schools greater flexibility to offer meals to all enrolled students at no cost when financially viable. As a result of this rule, more schools are eligible to participate in CEP and experience the associated

benefits, such as increasing students' access to healthy, no-cost school meals; eliminating unpaid meal charges; reducing stigma; and streamlining program administration and meal service operations.

Dates

This rule is effective Oct. 26, 2023.

Background

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is an option for eligible schools to offer meals at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Authorized by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) and codified in regulations at 7 CFR 245.9(f), CEP is a reimbursement alternative for eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools participating in both the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)¹. CEP eliminates the need for schools to collect household income applications by sharing eligibility data between specific federal assistance programs, which can reduce administrative burden for both schools and families.

To be eligible for CEP, an individual school, group of schools, or LEA must meet or exceed the established, minimum identified student percentage (ISP) in the school year prior to implementing CEP. The ISP is the percentage of enrolled students who are certified for free school meals without submitting a household application, such as those directly certified through specific federal benefits programs (e.g., the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)). For CEP, students who are certified for free meals without a household application are "identified students" (42 USC 1759a(a)(1)(F)(i); 7 CFR 245.9(f)(1)(ii))². The ISP is calculated by dividing the total number of identified students by the total number of enrolled students:

$$\text{Identified Student Percentage} = \# \text{ Identified Students} / \# \text{ Enrolled Students}$$

Under current regulations, the minimum ISP is 40 percent; therefore, to be eligible for CEP, an individual school, group of schools, or LEA must have an ISP greater than, or equal to, 40 percent ($\text{ISP} \geq 40$ percent) as of April 1 of the school year prior to implementing CEP (7 CFR 245.9(f)(3)(i)).

The ISP determines eligibility to participate in CEP and is also the basis of federal reimbursements for meals served to students in CEP schools. The National School Lunch Act (NSLA) gives the Secretary discretion to establish a CEP "multiplier" between 1.3 and 1.6 that is used to determine the percentage of meals that CEP schools claim at the free and paid reimbursement rate levels (42 USC 1759a(a)(1)(F)(vii)(II)(aa)). To promote CEP financial viability, USDA codified a multiplier of 1.6 (7 CFR 245.9(f)(4)(vi)). The ISP is multiplied by 1.6 to calculate the percentage of meals reimbursed at the federal free rate. Any remaining meals, up to 100 percent, are reimbursed at the federal paid rate.³

$$\% \text{ Meals reimbursed at federal free rate} = \text{ISP} \times 1.6$$

$$\% \text{ Meals reimbursed at federal paid rate} = 100 - \% \text{ meals reimbursed at federal free rate}$$

CEP requires that LEAs must pay, with non-federal funds, any costs of offering free meals to all students that exceed the federal assistance provided. If all operating costs are covered by the federal assistance provided, then LEAs are not required to contribute non-federal funds (7 CFR 245.9(f)(4)(vii)).

On March 23, 2023, USDA published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 17406), seeking to lower the minimum ISP to 25 percent, and make related, conforming changes to CEP regulatory text at 7 CFR 245.9(f) .

As described in detail in the proposed rule, CEP benefits children, families, schools, and communities. Schools participating in CEP often experience an increase in the number of students accessing the SBP and NSLP, resulting in more children benefiting from the advantages these programs offer.⁴ Research demonstrates that access to school meals at no cost improves students' diet quality and academic performance and can reduce social stigma and food insecurity.⁵ Researchers have observed that "CEP exposure is associated with an almost five percent decline in households classified as food insecure."⁶ LEAs have also reported that CEP reduces administrative burden and eliminates unpaid meal debt in schools.⁷ Lastly, CEP improves program integrity by simplifying administration and lowering error rates in certifying students.^{8,9}

This final rule lowers the minimum ISP from 40 percent to 25 percent and makes conforming changes to ISP-related requirements (*i.e.*, grace year eligibility and identification/notification/publication requirements). Electing CEP is a voluntary decision made by LEAs based on their unique student populations. Prior to participating in CEP, LEA decisionmakers should consider student nutrition, educational, administrative, and financial factors. This rule does not impose any new requirements on LEAs or schools. Through this final rule an increased number of LEAs, schools, and groups of schools will be eligible to offer all students lunches and breakfasts at no-cost when it is financially viable. This final rule supports state and local choices to expand the availability of no-cost school meals for all students through programs supported by state or local funding.

¹ On July 29, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published the final rule, National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Eliminating Applications through Community Eligibility as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 [81 FR 50194, July 29, 2016], which codified CEP requirements that were implemented through statute and policy guidance, at § 245.9(f).

² Identified students include students living in households participating in SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and FDPIR. Identified students also include those who are homeless, migrant, runaway, in foster care, or enrolled in Head Start. In some states, students are directly certified through Medicaid direct certification demonstration projects. Students in states participating in the Medicaid direct certification demonstration projects are only included in the ISP if they are certified for free meals (not reduced price meals).

³ CEP schools only claim meals at the free and paid reimbursement rates. CEP schools do not claim reduced price meals.

⁴ USDA's first comprehensive study since CEP became available nationwide compared the impact of CEP participation in school districts that elected CEP to similar non-participating school districts. The study showed about 7% and 12% higher student participation in NSLP and SBP, respectively, in schools under CEP compared to eligible but non-