

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows high-poverty schools and school districts to offer breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge, reducing child hunger and making school meals more efficient. Currently, only half of the schools in the state that are eligible for CEP are participating. Minnesota ranks 47th out of 50 states in CEP participation. Ensuring all schools eligible for full funding are participating would bring millions of additional federal resources to Minnesota to support school meals for all kids in high poverty schools.

### How the Community Eligibility Provision Works

Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed for school meals by the federal government based on the “identified student population” or ISP of those directly eligible for free meals without completing an individual application. Those identified are enrolled in programs like SNAP or TANF, or students that are experiencing homelessness, in foster care, or enrolled in Head Start.

To be eligible for CEP, a school or school district must have a 40% or greater ISP. Schools with an ISP of 62.5% or over are fully reimbursed for 100% of meals served—meaning the federal government provides all the resources necessary to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost to the schools or families.

**Minnesota ranks 47th  
in the nation in CEP participation**

**1 in 4**  
kids in Minnesota who  
experience food insecurity are in  
households that earn too much to qualify  
for free or reduced-price school meals.



### Supporting HF 1985/ SF 1902 will:

- Require schools or school districts eligible for full federal reimbursement to participate (those with an ISP of 62.5% or higher)
- Support the Department of Education in providing technical assistance to schools with program enrollment and implementation
- Allow CEP schools the flexibility to use their Free and Reduced-Price enrollment from prior to becoming a CEP school for the full four years they are enrolled.

