

# FRESH BITES NEWSLETTER

May 2018

## Featured

### Are you eligible to feed all students for free?

No one wants kids to go hungry for lack of resources or simply because the proper paperwork was not submitted. Schools serving large populations of low-income families don't have to turn kids away if the school qualifies for the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Every student in these qualifying schools receive free school breakfast and lunch without verifying household income.



Eligible schools are those with 40% or more of its students "identified," meaning they qualify for free or reduced meals without an application because they live in households that participate in federal nutrition programs such as SNAP or TANF, or live in foster care, are homeless or migrant, or participate in HEAD START. If your school currently has 75% or more of its students receiving free and reduced-price meals, you are likely among the schools eligible for CEP.

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## Now on NutriStudents K-12:

- 10 weeks of CACFP child care (ages 3-5) menus
- 10 weeks of Summer Food Service Program menus
- 5 weeks of At-risk Afterschool Dinner menus for 4-day, 5-day, 6-day and 7-day programs

## CEP Resources

The Community Eligibility Provision can be a great way to help fill the nutritional needs of kids facing food insecurity while increasing your foodservice program revenues. Find out if you're eligible and enroll today if you are.

The USDA has developed a downloadable CEP Estimator to help you determine if it's financially sound to enroll in CEP based on your current monthly reimbursement.

### Other CEP Resources:

- [USDA Community Eligibility Program website](#)
- [USDA Community Eligibility Option fact sheet](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [Food Research and Action Council \(FRAC\) Resources:](#)
- [Alternative Approaches to Using School Meals Data in Community Eligibility \(CEP\) Schools](#)
- [Community Eligibility \(CEP\) Database](#)
- [Interactive Searchable Eligibility Database](#)
- [Create Hunger-Free Schools With Community Eligibility](#)



# Are you eligible to feed all students for free?

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## Benefits of the CEP program:

- More students receive nutritious meals twice a day.
- Reimbursements and overall revenues increase because of increased participation.
- No collection of unpaid meal accounts or refusal of meals because schools get paid from the government, not students or families.
- Less paperwork. Parents no longer need to file an application for free and reduced meals.
- All students eat - your school no longer has to track which individuals are participating in meals.
- Easier implementation of grab-and-go breakfast programs because all students receive meals – which also eliminates the stigma of breakfasts only being for lower-income students.

Results from CEP schools have been positive, with schools reporting higher student participation in both breakfast and lunch, which has generated higher reimbursements and revenues to reinvest in their school nutrition programs.

The USDA has developed a [downloadable CEP Estimator](#) to help you determine if it's financially sound to enroll in CEP based on your current monthly reimbursement.

If your school, or a school in your district, is eligible to participate in the CEP, contact your state agency to enroll today!

Please see the associated resources on Page 1 for additional background.

## Featured FAQ:

Do you provide CN/ nutrition labels for the foods used in your recipes?

NutriStudents K-12 menus were developed to provide districts/schools with choices regarding menu ingredients. For example, some recipes offer multiple choices for the meat/ma component. A chicken nugget recipe may contain 4 options that include 4 different chicken nuggets all meeting 2 oz. meat/ma and 1 oz. whole grain-rich equivalent. You have the freedom to select the chicken nugget your students prefer or the chicken nugget offered in your awarded distribution contracts. Because specific ingredient products vary from one district to another and NutriStudents K-12 is not involved in individual districts' meal preparation, we are unable to provide CN/nutritional labels. You will need to remove the CN label from the boxes of your meal components and keep on file. If the product is not a CN labeled item, a product formulation statement must be on file to ensure meal pattern compliance. NutriStudents K-12 can assist you if a product formulation statement is difficult to locate. We recommend you keep the most current CN label, PFS and ingredient listings on file.

[More FAQs](#)

## Don't Sacrifice Control or Revenues to an FSMC

Foodservice directors are stretched thin by their expanding responsibilities and others' high expectations for their school nutrition programs. Facing declining participation and revenues, increasing costs and an overworked staff, many school administrators and school boards look to a foodservice management company (FSMC) to take over their foodservice operations. Determined foodservice directors push back; some surrender in defeat.

If your district is considering this option, beware of the dramatic effect an FSMC can have on your bottom line. These corporations charge fees based on a school's desired outcomes for its foodservice program, with the goal to come in on budget. Many of these companies tend to cut programs to the bare minimum and increase their revenues through add-on services such as onsite staff, staff training and nutrition-in-the-classroom support. Don't forfeit potential earnings to administration/management fees!

### A SMARTER CHOICE

Instead of sacrificing control and profits, partner with NutriStudents K-12 to strengthen your existing program. Your staff remain your staff. You retain the ability to change your menus as needed or desired. You can reinvest your profits back into your foodservice program. NutriStudents K-12 doesn't replace foodservice directors -- we help them!

Your program can remain self operated using our kid-tested and approved, chef-created, federally compliant menus that have consistently helped districts increase participation and revenue; and our included resources, tools and calculators to streamline training, daily reporting, Administrative Review preparations, ongoing distributor orders, USDA Foods allocations and meal promotion.

Vickie Thompson, foodservice supervisor at Verndale Public School, said, **"NutriStudents K-12 is a great tool to use to make your whole program a lot less stressful. Everything's run a lot smoother since we started using NutriStudents K-12."**

NutriStudents K-12 pricing is transparent and affordable, with the licensing fee generally falling within foodservice directors' budgetary authority.

Learn more through these videos:

[Overview](#)

[System demonstration](#)

[Why work with NutriStudents K-12? To increase participation and revenues](#)

[Why work with NutriStudents K-12? To streamline operations and control costs](#)

Or, [contact us](#) today to schedule a guided system tour.

