



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for January 2024

- In the next few weeks, we plan to send out informal requests for quotes for Foodservice Equipment Repair and Commercial Foodservice Equipment. The results will be posted in the EPC Foodservice News Dropbox Link.
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/o0n6z4tt6alkfvt/h?rlkey=8dzngp09l0bbh4lzu2tg2ub3g&dl=0>
- A memo was sent out recently by the SWEPC commodity coop and ODE regarding a USDA mid-year reduction in entitlement. Depending on how efficient your district has historically been in using entitlement, the change may or may not affect your district's overall food cost. If you never used all of your entitlement before and entitlement was reduced this year to a level that you still cannot use or is close to what you normally use, it won't affect your food cost. If you want to see the net effect of the change for your district, you can see the 22-23 entitlement recap and the 23-24 entitlement recap on the SWEPC commodity planner website: Swepc.hpsusdafoods.org Go to reports, PAL report (Planned Assistance Level). Your username and password is usually your district IRN for both. Please check with your food service director to see if that is still the case. You can email abarringer@hpsgo.net to get the password reset if needed.
- Community Eligibility Provision is an option for districts to serve all students FREE meals. **However, this does not mean the district will get reimbursed at the FREE rate for ALL meals.** Instead, all meals are served for FREE, and a FORMULA is used to determine what percentage of those meals will be reimbursed at the FREE rate (currently \$4.33 for lunch) and how many will get reimbursed at the PAID rate (currently \$.50). Your percentage of FREE reimbursed meals depends on your "Identified" student enrollment %. Identified students are students who are homeless, foster, head start or directly certified through a computer matching process through OHID and EMIS records. Also included are students who live in the same house as a directly certified student. However, if you multiply your Identified percentage x 1.6 (multiplier) that will tell you what percentage of meals would be reimbursed at the FREE rate. The remainder would be at the Paid Rate. The "perfect" CEP district would have a minimum of 62.5% IDENTIFIED students. $62.5 \times 1.6 = 100\%$, therefore you feed all students for FREE AND you get FREE reimbursement for every meal. If your identified student percentage is 25% or more, you are eligible for CEP. However, if you only have 25% Identified students and participate in CEP, then you would feed all students for FREE but would get FREE reimbursement (\$ 4.33) for only 40% of the served meals (.25 x 1.60) and the remaining 60% of the meals would be reimbursed at the PAID rate of just \$.50. For anyone that is interested, I plan to make a presentation on "Evaluating the CEP Option" after the next EPC membership meeting on March 12, 2024.

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