



National Title I Conference
Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
February 2015

*Leading with Wonder
Celebrating 50 Years of Title I*





February 6, 2015

Panel on Title I, Part A and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

- Sonya Morris, Chief of Federal Programs, Florida Department of Education
- Mike Radke, Director of Field Services, Michigan Department of Education
- Phyllis Porter ,Title I Coordinator, Hamilton County School District (Florida)
- Kevin Maskornick, Program Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Mike Anderson, Program Attorney, U.S. Department of Education



Purpose of Panel



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- * Provide a general overview of CEP and its connections with Title I.
- * Hear State and local perspectives on how Title I and CEP are operating together successfully.



Connection Between Title I and CEP

- * Within-district allocations
- * Within-State allocations
 - Special LEAs
 - Small LEAs
- * Equitable services to eligible private school students
- * Accountability



U.S.
Department of
Education (ED)
Updates on
Title I, Part A
and CEP



Updated CEP Guidance

- * Clarifies and expands upon certain aspects of the existing guidance issued in January 2014.
- * Part of ED's continuing efforts to help ensure that Title I is not a barrier to participating in CEP.
- * Based on feedback from key stakeholders.
- * Expect to issue in time to assist States and districts with their planning for next school year.



Significant Updates

- * An additional approach to calculating within-district Title I allocations for districts with CEP and non-CEP schools.
- * Information on when an LEA may use Title I administrative funds to pay for a poverty survey to help carry out Title I.
- * Information on within-State allocations for the 11 States that use different poverty data than Census data to determine final Title I allocations for LEAs with less than 20,000 total residents.



U.S.
Department of
Agriculture
(USDA)



Community Eligibility Basics

- * CEP allows schools with a high percentage of needy children to serve healthy breakfasts and lunches to ALL enrolled students at no cost for up to four years.
- * Eliminates the use of household income applications.
- * School year (SY) 2014-2015 first year of nationwide availability.
 - Eleven pilot States participated in three year phased-in testing period.



CEP Benefits

**Students:**

- Enjoy free, healthy meals at school
- With universal meal service, there is no stigma attached to a free meal

Parents:

- Do not have to fill out individual household applications
- Do not have to worry about refilling meal accounts, or whether their child has an opportunity to eat at school

Schools:

- Reduces paperwork and administrative costs
- Streamlines meal service operation
- Students spend less time waiting in lines and more time eating; they are less likely to discard food and come to class better nourished and ready to learn



Which Schools can Participate in CEP?

- * Schools, groups of schools, or entire school districts may be eligible to participate.
- * Eligibility is based on *identified students*, who would normally be certified for free school meals **without** an application.
 - “Direct certification” based on participation in other Federal assistance programs like SNAP, TANF, Head Start.
- * Participating schools, groups of schools, or districts must have an *identified student percentage (ISP)* of 40% of their enrollment.
- * ISP multiplied by 1.6 is the percentage of meals reimbursed at the Federal “free” rate; **also** approximates the school or group’s traditional free/reduced price eligibility percentage.



CEP: Tried, Tested, Already Delivering Results

States have made tremendous progress implementing CEP in its first year of nationwide availability. In SY 2014-2015:



Almost 14,000 schools



Over 2,000 school districts



Total enrollment of 6.4 million children



Schools participating in 49 States and DC



CEP Implementation is Ongoing

- * Numerous positive success stories from State and local stakeholders
- * CEP elections likely to increase for SY 2015-2016
- * State/local educational funding issues may still represent a barrier in some jurisdictions



State Perspective: Florida Department of Education



State
Perspective:
Michigan
Department of
Education



Michigan Piloted CEP

- * Entered CEP with:
 - * Perspective: This is good for Students!
 - * Infrastructure: Strong databases in Departments of Human Services and Education
 - * Cooperation: Across Michigan Departments and within the Department of Education
- * Every state is unique: work with your assets and your liabilities
- * The systems and adult work needed to change to better serve more students.



For Example: Title I process for ranking and serving schools within a district

- * To use the 1.6 Multiplier or to not?
- * Do you stop ranking at 100% participation?
- * How to handle districts with some but not all schools participating in CEP?

- * Be clear, be consistent!
- * Be flexible if possible.
- * Do what's in the best interest of students!



School District Perspective: Hamilton County School District



CEP Technical Assistance and Resources

- * CEP Resources from USDA:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>
- * ED's Title I and CEP guidance:
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/13-0381guidance.doc>