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Three Schools Added to CEP Free Meals Initiative



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Since 2015, sixteen schools in Houston County have participated in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows specific schools to offer meals at no charge to all students. As of the 2019-2020 school year, the district is adding three CEP schools. All students who attend Northside High, Thomson Middle and Warner Robins High will now be offered breakfast and lunch at no charge. In addition, the group of 16 original schools will continue this program.

School Nutrition Director, Meredith Potter, commented, “We are excited to expand this initiative in our county. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that offering healthy meals to all students can have on student achievement and school culture.”

To qualify for this program, a school must have 40 percent or more students eligible for free meals based on direct certification. Children are considered directly certified if they live in households that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. In addition, foster, homeless, runaway or migrant children are included in the directly certified category. This program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

As long as the child is enrolled in a qualified school and consumes the meals at that school, no further action is required on the part of the child, parent or guardian. The child can receive meals at no cost without having to pay a fee or submit a Free and Reduced Meal Application.

The other participating CEP schools in Houston County are: CB Watson Primary, Centerville Elementary, Houston County Crossroads Center, Huntington Middle, Lindsey Elementary, Miller Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Northside Elementary, Northside Middle, Parkwood Elementary, Pearl Stephens Elementary, Russell Elementary, Shirley Hills Elementary, Tucker Elementary, Warner Robins Middle and Westside Elementary. For more information, contact Potter at 478-322-3308 or Meredith.Potter@hcbe.net.

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