



This institution is an equal
opportunity provider.

With the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the National School Lunch Program now includes a new meal program, the “Community Eligibility Provision (CEP),” which is being phased in over several years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). CEP permits approved schools to provide meals to all enrolled students at no charge, regardless of economic status.

In Houston County, CEP began with the 2013-2014, school year and will continue in the 2017-2018 school year at the following schools: Centerville Elementary, Lindsey Elementary, CB Watson Primary, Miller Elementary, Northside Elementary, Northside Middle, Parkwood Elementary, Pearl Stephens Elementary, Russell Elementary, Westside Elementary, Huntington Middle, Crossroads, Morningside Elementary, Tucker Elementary, Shirley Hills Elementary, and Warner Robins Middle.

To qualify, 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 (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). In addition, foster, homeless, runaway, or migrant children are included in the directly certified category. Schools will be re-evaluated annually to determine if they continue to meet CEP criteria.

Students enrolled in the aforementioned schools are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack (if the child is enrolled in an eligible after school program) at school at no cost to the household each day of the 2017-2018 school year. 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.

While the regular breakfast, lunch, and after school snack will be provided at no cost to students enrolled in CEP schools, supplemental sale items such as chips, cookies, drinks, etc. will still be available for purchase. These items can be purchased with cash, by check made payable to School Nutrition, or using monies placed on the child’s online account at www.myschoolbucks.com.

In addition, the ability for a child to eat free is associated with the school they attend. Therefore, if a child transfers to a school that is not listed above, the parent or guardian will need to provide payment for the child’s meals until a Free and Reduced Meal Application is completed and the parent or guardian receives notice that it is approved.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact the School Nutrition Department at (478) 322-3308 or email Robin Black, Free and Reduced Secretary, at Robin.Black@hcbe.net.