

May 14, 2024  
VASBO Spring Conference

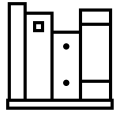
# CEP OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2024-2025



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State Director, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs

# AGENDA



Background



CEP in Virginia



Final Rule Updates



What you need to know-Evaluation and Decision Making



Virginia CEP Toolkit



Next Steps-Timeline

# The Community Eligibility Provision Background

# WHAT IS CEP?

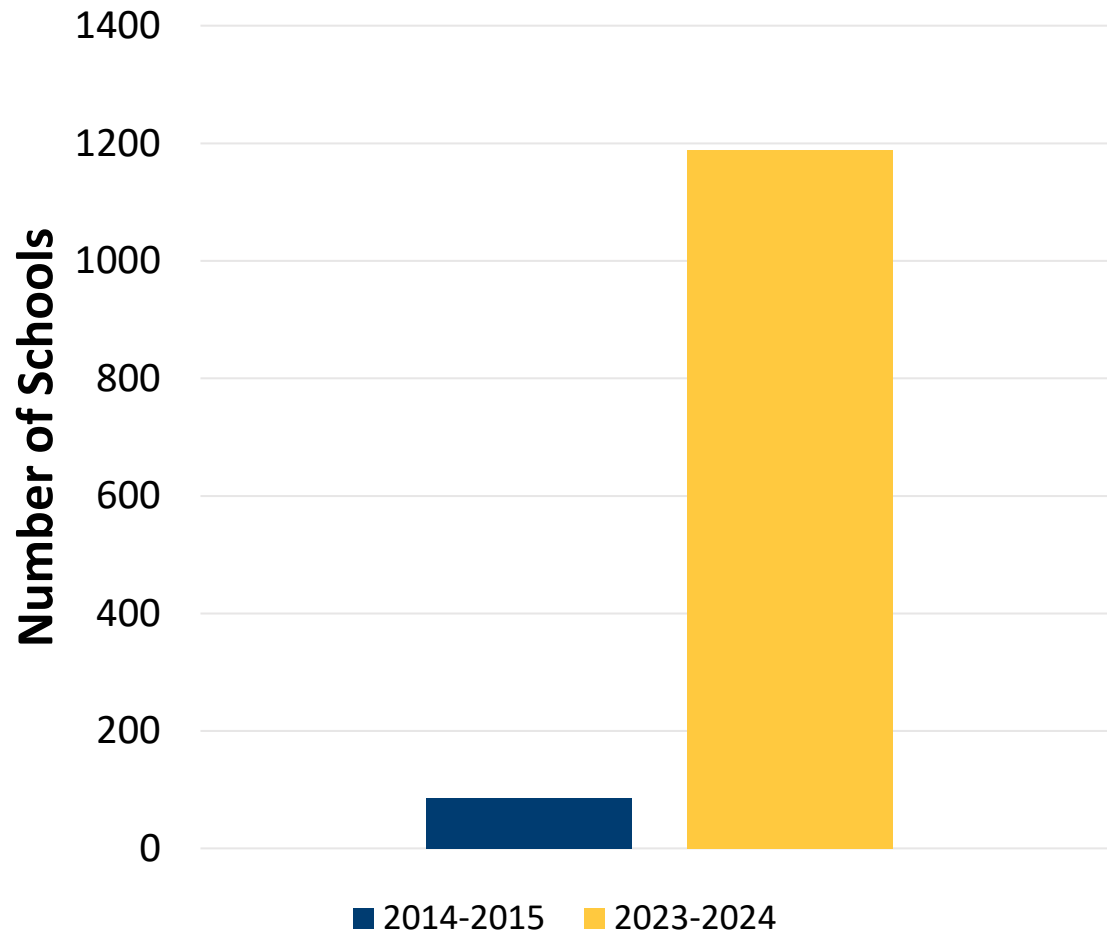


- The Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs provides breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge
- U.S.D.A. Federal Nutrition Programs
- Administered by the Virginia Department of Education- Office of School and Community Nutrition
- Outlined in VDOE Superintendent's Newsletter on May 9, 2023- Article 2024-19-174
- Detailed in SCNP Director's memo #2023-2024-74 on April 25, 2024, and webinar

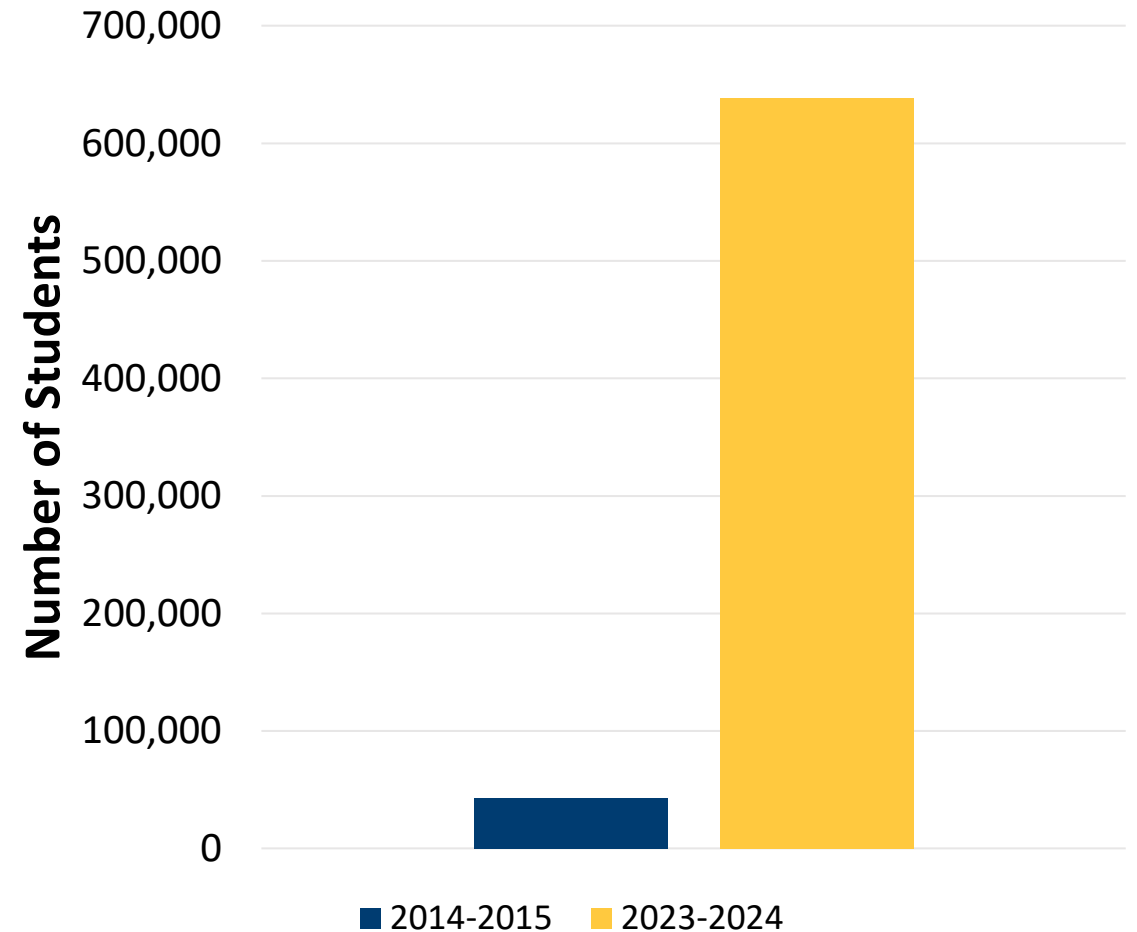
# CEP in Virginia Schools

# CEP IN VIRGINIA: SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

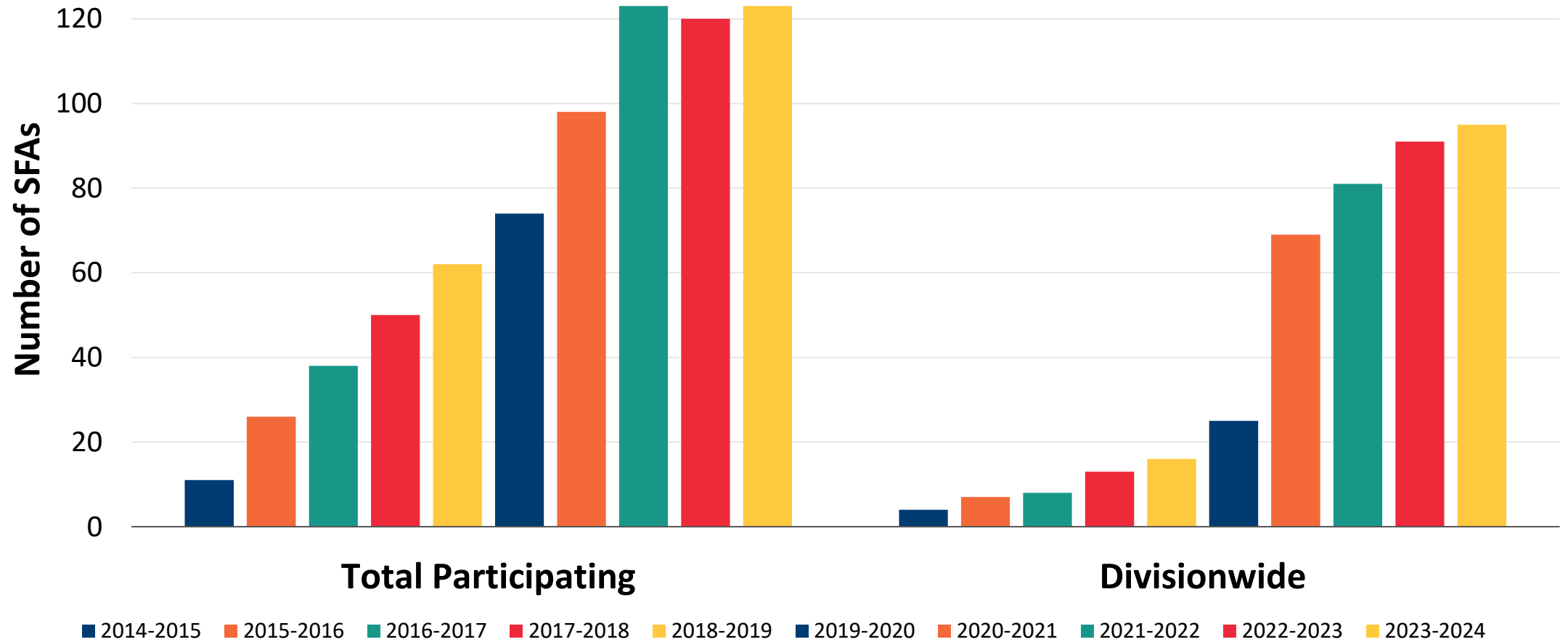
## Total CEP Schools in Virginia



## Total Students in CEP Schools

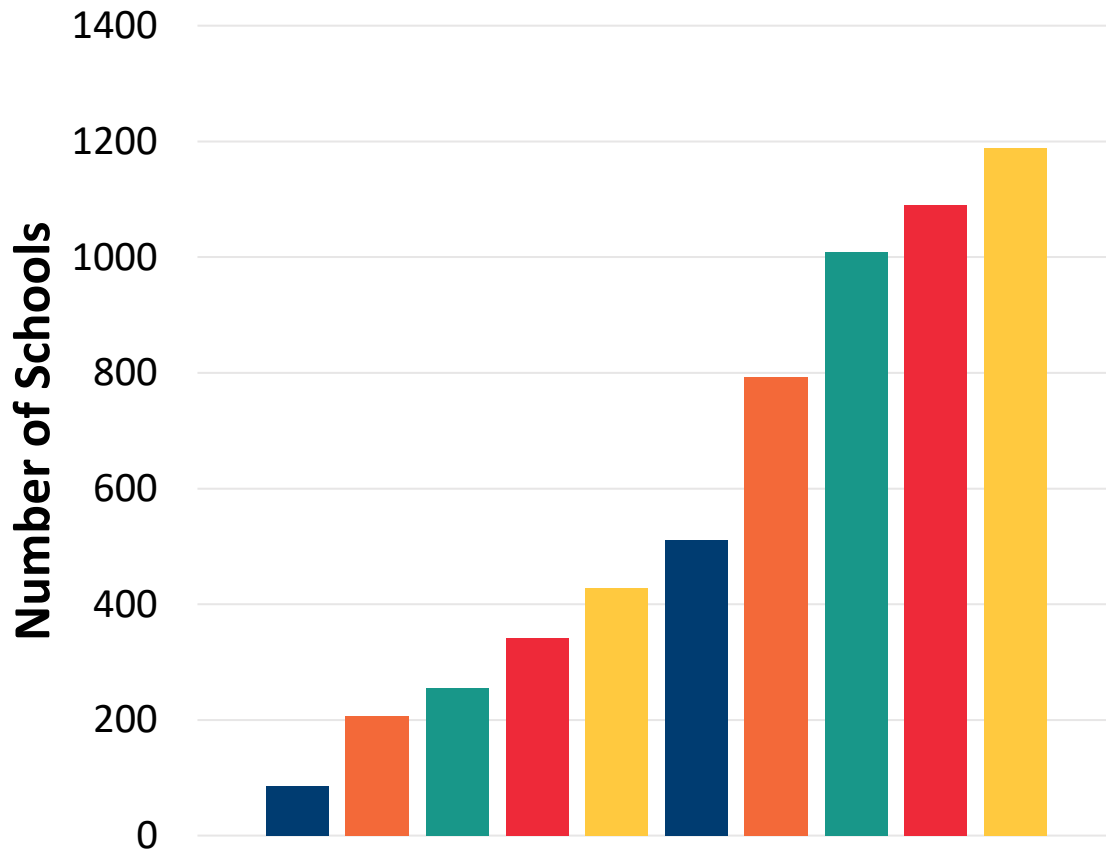


# PARTICIPATION: TOTAL vs. DIVISIONWIDE

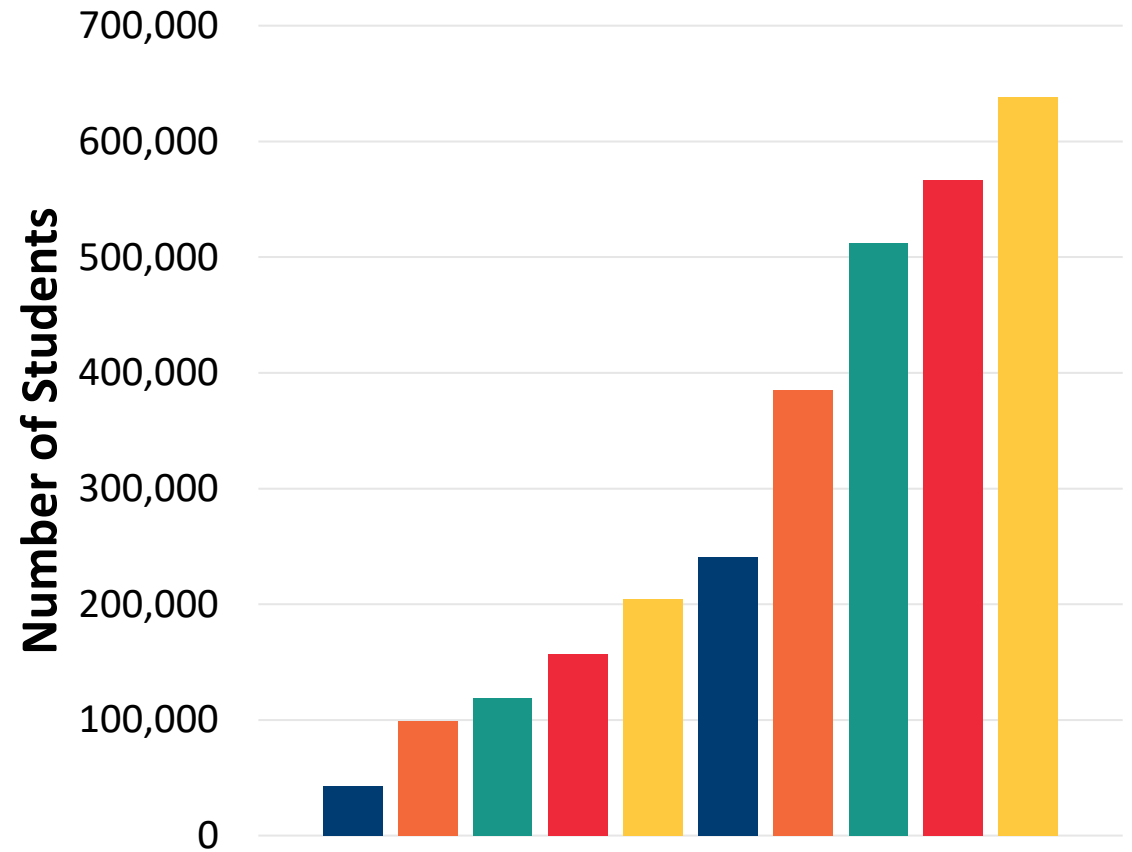


# PARTICIPATION: SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

## Total CEP Schools in Virginia



## Total Students in CEP Schools



■ 2014-2015 ■ 2015-2016 ■ 2016-2017 ■ 2017-2018 ■ 2018-2019 ■ 2019-2020 ■ 2020-2021 ■ 2021-2022 ■ 2022-2023 ■ 2023-2024



# GUIDELINES

- Participating eligible schools must offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students



- Schools must have an identified student percentage of at least 25% as of April 1, 2024, to be eligible
- Identified student percentage (ISP)
- Identified students divided by enrollment determines ISP
  - Identified Students -free eligible without a meal application
- $ISP \times 1.6 \text{ Multiplier} = \% \text{ of meals claimed at the Federal free rate}$

# Final Rule Updates to CEP

CEP - Increasing Options for Schools

# CHANGES TO CEP REGULATIONS

- Minimum ISP for participation lowered to 25% (7 CFR 245.9(f))
  - Effective SY 2024-2025
  - Based on April 1, 2024, identified student percentage (ISP)
  - Individual school, groups of schools, or divisionwide
- USDA regulations require CEP participation to be at the discretion of the local school board. More information about state legislation on CEP participation is available in Superintendent's Memo No. 063-23
- Financial viability
- Evaluate before decision-making

# PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

*Updated February 2024*

- Changed minimum thresholds for electing CEP
- Added Medicaid DC, fee waivers, unpaid meal charges, and Summer EBT
- Clarified eligibility and reimbursement for CEP schools operating SSO
- Clarified the funding available to support CEP (page 39)
  - Federal reimbursement
    - Including unused SFSP and CACFP At-Risk reimbursement
  - Non-federal funds
    - Nonprogram revenue (a la carte, catering, etc.)
    - State funds (state lunch reimbursement, SBP incentive, Breakfast after the Bell)
    - Local funds, required only if federal and state funds are not sufficient to cover CEP costs

# IDENTIFIED STUDENT PERCENTAGE REPORT

- SNPWeb CEP Site Eligibility Report as of April 1
- Number of identified students
  - Free without application only
    - Direct certification: SNAP, TANF, income-eligible Medicaid Free only
  - Categorical Eligibility
    - Homeless, migrant, runaway, children placed in foster care, Head Start students who are funded by the school division Head Start grant
- Number of students enrolled/membership
  - Students enrolled and attending the school with access to at least one meal daily

# APRIL 1 DATA ESTABLISHES ELIGIBILITY

$$\text{ISP} = \frac{\text{\# Identified Students}}{\text{\# Enrolled Students}} \times 100$$

ISP	Eligibility
25.0 – 100%	Eligible
15.0 – 24.99%	Nearly Eligible
Less than 15.0%	Not Eligible

*April 1 ISP is the eligibility for the following school year used in the CEP application and documentation*

# EVALUATING ELIGIBLE NOT PARTICIPATING

- April 1 ISP Report posted to VDOE website May 1
  - Schools 25% ISP  $\geq$  not currently participating in CEP
    - Identify eligible, not participating schools in your LEA
    - Evaluate all factors to inform CEP decision
    - Factors for consideration
      - Financial viability - if the school adopted CEP, could it produce enough revenue to pay all expenses
      - Maintain nutritional quality
      - Administrative issues
      - Educational factors



# EVALUATING CURRENT CEP SCHOOLS

- If current four-year CEP cycle ends June 30, 2024, must reapply to continue CEP
  - Refer to SNP Memo #2023-2024-59, Attachment B, Note 3 for expiring cycles
- Check individual CEP school(s) and/or group CEP ISP in SNPWeb CEP Schedule for SY 2024-2025 for higher ISP and new cycle year
- If individual CEP school ISP or group CEP ISP did not increase, no action needed to continue CEP cycle



**Toolkit Tip:** SCNP Memo #2023-2024-59, Attachments B and C

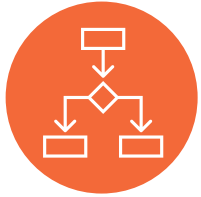


# CEP DATA YEAR/CYCLE YEAR

- **Data Year 2019-2020:** Four-year cycle expiring June 2024, new CEP application required
- **Data Year 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023:** No application required to continue CEP, without changes, in year 2, 3, or 4 of cycle.
- **Data Year 2023-2024:** Higher ISP, new CEP application required.
- **Change to CEP group(s) – add schools, remove schools, etc.** New CEP application required to continue CEP with new group ISP.

# Virginia CEP Toolkit

# TOOLS FOR CEP



## Decision making

- ✓ Federal reimbursement calculator enhanced to add total revenue and meal cost evaluation
- ✓ Superintendent and school board report and presentation templates



## Communication

- ✓ Media release
- ✓ Household notifications



## Implementation

- ✓ Engagement – school staff, community
- ✓ Increase participation – meal quality, serving times, alternate serving models, and customer service

# DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

- Use the calculator data, or your own financial analysis tools for revenue, expenditure, and per meal equivalent costs, to evaluate.
- Communicate data points to LEA decision makers to support the case for CEP adoption
- Use calculator BEP data to document need for local funds, if necessary
- Low ISP schools (<40%) may require local funds to break even



**Toolkit Tip:** CEP school board and superintendent report template and presentation template are available in the toolkit.

# CEP MEAL PARTICIPATION INCREASES IN VA

ADP Increases	ISP Range for School or Group	40 to 44.9%	45 to 49.9%	50 to 54.9%	55 to 62.4%	62.5%+
Breakfast	Minimum	11.5%	9.0%	10.5%	5.5%	5.0%
	Maximum	23.0%	18.0%	21.0%	11.0%	10.0%
Lunch	Minimum	13.0%	8.0%	9.5%	4.5%	2.5%
	Maximum	26.0%	16.0%	19.0%	9.0%	5.0%

# EVALUATING CEP FOR NEW PARTICIPATING

- Required for schools newly participating in CEP
- **NEW** Federal Reimbursement and Financial Viability Calculator for Virginia
  - Estimates of federal reimbursement after CEP adoption with participation escalator
  - Additional tabs for estimating total revenue, total expenditures, and total per meal cost
  - SNPWeb Annual Financial Report for most recent completed full year used
    - Revenue and expenditure estimator for SY 2024-2025 application will use annual financial report for SY 2022-2023.
    - Federal reimbursement calculator for SY 2024-2025 will use annual meal counts for SY 2022-2023 or October meal counts for SY 2023-2024



# VIRGINIA CALCULATOR ENHANCEMENTS

- Additional Federal Reimbursement Calculator spreadsheet tab for mixed groups with new and existing CEP schools
- Revenues – spreadsheet to estimate total revenue sources
- Expenses – spreadsheet to estimate total expenditures
- Financial Summary – spreadsheet summarizing data from all tabs.
  - Analysis of estimates for revenue, expenditures, total per meal equivalent (MEQ) cost, and breakeven point (BEP).



# FUNDING TO SUPPORT CEP

- Funding available to support CEP (CEP Planning and Implementation Guidance page 39)
  - Federal reimbursement
    - Including unused SFSP and CACFP At-Risk reimbursement
  - Non-federal funds
    - Nonprogram revenue (a la carte, catering, etc.)
    - State funds (state lunch reimbursement, SBP incentive, Breakfast after the Bell)
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# Next Steps

## What should I do **now** to **prepare** for CEP in **SY 2024-2025**?

- ✓ Check the May 1 ISP report for eligible schools.
- ✓ Evaluate financial viability and other impacts for eligible schools.
- ✓ Communicate with LEA leadership.
- ✓ Collaborate with your VDOE SNP regional specialist.
- ✓ Make an informed decision on CEP participation or expansion.
- ✓ Application memo will be published 5/16.
- ✓ Apply by June 30, 2024, if financially viable.
- ✓ Submission is approved pending data verification

# PLAN FOR CEP SUCCESS



## ***Engage***

LEA and school staff for innovation and problem solving



## ***Communicate***

frequently with SFA and school staff, students, parents/guardians, and the community



## ***Re-calibrate***

meal service and meal counting, adjust staffing, menus, and physical layout to maximize participation and efficiency



*Use a variety of communication channels to reach all audiences for awareness and growing student participation*

# REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS

- Household notification of CEP and meals at no cost for all students
  - Eliminate Free and Reduced-price Meal Application – prohibited from collecting meal applications from CEP participating schools
- Media Release



**Toolkit Tip:** Household notification and media release templates for CEP

# Questions

# Thank You!

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