

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Identified Student Reporting for School Year 24-25

Issue Number: CNU E-Memo 18-2025

Correspondence Date: February 28, 2025

Regulatory Authority: [7CFR 245](#); [Section 11 of the Richard B. Russell National School Act \(42 USC 1759a\)](#) ; [SP08-2024](#)

Response Required: Yes

Attention: Superintendents, Child Nutrition Directors/Managers, Data Stewards (SIS; eSchool; eFinance; TRIAND

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All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) who participate in programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act must report the percentage of students eligible to receive meals at no charge to the family through direct certification or categorical lists. LEAs are required to provide this information through Identified Student Percentage (ISP) reporting.

Identified Students are students certified for free meals based on categorical eligibility:

- students who are directly certified for free meals based on receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- students who are directly certified for free meals based on receiving Medicaid
- students living in the household of a SNAP directly certified student
- students who are categorically eligible for free meals based on Homeless, Runaway, Migrant, Foster, Head Start, and Even Start

This includes students enrolled in the district from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12.

Identified Students DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Students who are eligible based on a free or reduced income application
- students who are eligible based on submission of a SNAP meal application
- students who are eligible based on direct certification for reduced meals on Medicaid

The following documents should be available before beginning the completion of the ISP report.

1. Direct Certification (DC) lists for 2024 – 2025 school year.

DC lists were made available on the following dates:

August 5, 2024; September 23, 2024; January 14, 2025.

A final DC list for SNAP and a list for Medicaid will be available April 1, 2025. LEAs are required to use the April 1 list and at least two of the other lists from SY 2024-25 to update eSchool student eligibility status.

2. **Categorical lists pulled on or before April 1, 2025.** Each list should be signed and dated by the district liaison for the designated group: Homeless, Migrant, Foster, Runaway, Head Start or Even Start. This is documentation of a student's status as of April 1, 2025.
3. **Cognos Meal Status Report for a specific date (April 1, 2025).**
4. **Point of Service Roster pulled April 1, 2025.**
5. **Instant Matches from the DC portal dated April 1, 2025 or earlier.**
6. Documentation that shows extended benefits for Direct Certification through SNAP.

April 15th Notification and Data Collection:

To complete the required reports, each LEA must use:

1. District-level eligibility data provided to LEAs by Nutrition Services, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and
2. School-Level eligibility data provided to Nutrition Services, DESE.

Reporting of Identified Students by School:

Attachment A – 2025 ISP District Notification Report provides the LEA the district-wide percentage of Identified Students based on FNS-742 Verification Collection Report and the FNS-834 State Agency (National School Lunch Program (NSLP) / Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Direct Certification Rate Data Element Report, submitted by LEAs during SY 2024-25. This information indicates identified students for October 1, 2024. This information is for district comparison only.

Attachment B - 2025 ISP School Level Annual Notification Report must be submitted to Nutrition Services, DESE no later than April 15, 2025. Please read the instructions tab as well as the instructions on the top of the form carefully.

Email the completed report to DESE, CNU at ade.chnutcep@ade.arkansas.gov

By May 1, 2025, Nutrition Services, DESE is required to publish the lists of LEAs and schools that are eligible or near-eligible for the Community Eligible Provision (CEP) on the Child Nutrition website and submit these lists to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for publication on USDA FNS' CEP website.

Attachment:

A – [2025 ISP District Notification Report](#)

B – [2025 ISP School Level Annual Notification Report](#)

C – [April 1 Identified Student Reporting Power Point](#)

D – [Commissioners Memo Com-25-055 Direct Certification with Medicaid Free and Reduced-Price Meals](#)