

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 25, 2021

SUBJECT:

Expansion of Community Eligibility Provision

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The District currently has 21 community eligibility provision (CEP) schools. All students at those schools are eligible for breakfast and lunch at no cost. After working with the SCDE, the District wishes to expand CEP by two schools during the 2021 – 2022 school year. Aiken Intermediate and Jackson Middle would be the new additions, if approved by the Board. The 2018 – 2019 school year was the District's first year of CEP participation with 16 schools. CEP expanded by three schools in 2019 – 2020 and two more in 2020 - 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Per the US Department of Agriculture, CEP is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

CEP participation requires a four year "contract"; however, there is an escape clause that allows an opt-out. The deadline for 2021 – 2022 participation is June 30, 2021.

With the additions, CEP participation will benefit more than half of our schools (23), including all of the Area 4 schools and fifteen of the 21 elementary schools. Nearly 9,000 students are impacted. The District will continue to explore CEP additions in the future.

If approved, the CEP schools will be:

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5
Lever	Mossy Creek	Clearwater	Busbee	Greendale
East Aiken		Gloverville	RSM Elem.	Redcliffe
Oakwood-Windsor		Jefferson	Corbett	Jackson*
North Aiken		Warrenville	RSM Middle	
Schofield		Graniteville	WSHS	
Aiken Elem.		LBC	RSM High	
Aiken Inter.*				

**new*

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the expansion of CEP participation at Jackson Middle and Aiken Intermediate

ATTACHMENT:

SCDE agreement [Note: This agreement reflects the continuation of CEP at LBC Middle, Aiken Elementary, Schofield Middle, Mossy Creek Elementary, and Graniteville Elementary. The SCDE assigns schools to “groupings” to meet certain qualifying thresholds.]

PREPARED BY:

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Karen Johnson



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Health and Nutrition
South Carolina Department of Education

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Participation Agreement

Local Educational Agency: Aiken County School District

This agreement is between the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and the Local Educational Agency referenced above. This agreement covers the period of four years starting July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. The Local Educational Agency (LEA) may stop participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at any time during the four-year cycle by notifying the Office of Health and Nutrition. A period of 30 operating days must be given for the distribution and processing before returning to standard meal counting and claiming procedures.

The undersigned has the authority to enter this Agreement to participate in the CEP as authorized by Section 11(a) (1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

A. It is mutually agreed between the SCDE and the LEA that...

1. The LEA agrees to serve all children in the participating school(s) free breakfasts and free lunches for four successive school years.
2. The LEA must have a percentage of enrolled students who were Identified Students as per the LEA actual data as of April 1 of the year prior to participating in CEP that is greater than or equal to 40 percent.
3. The LEA agrees to pay, from sources other than federal funds, the costs of serving breakfast and lunches that are in excess of the federal assistance received, including federal cash reimbursement.
4. The LEA agrees not to collect free and reduced-price meal applications in participating schools in subsequent years during the period of participation in CEP.
5. The LEA agrees to maintain a total count of breakfasts and lunches served at the Point of Service daily by site.
6. The LEA agrees to abide by all requirements for applying and administering CEP as stated in Section 104(a) of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 amended section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1)).

B. General Conditions

1. This agreement is non-transferable.
2. Neither the SCDE nor the LEA has an obligation to renew this agreement.

C. Participating Sites:

School Name	Enrollment	Identified Students Count	Identified Student Percentage%	CEP Free Claiming Percentage%
Langley-Bath-Clearwater Mid	644	299	46.43	74.29
Aiken Elementary	586	268	45.73	73.17
Schofield Middle	508	296	58.27	93.23
Jackson Middle	372	178	47.85	76.56
Aiken Intermediate	483	242	50.1	80.16
Mossy Creek Elementary	606	258	42.57	68.11
Graniteville Elementary	305	168	55.08	88.13

SIGNATURES:

Print Name: _____
School Food Service Director/Supervisor

Signature: _____ Date: _____
School Food Service Director/Supervisor

Print Name: _____
District Superintendent (public schools) or Administrator (non-public school)

Signature: _____ Date: _____
District Superintendent (public schools) or Administrator (non-public school)

Please return to:
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