

Public Media Release Community Eligibility Provision

Effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

Sumter School District is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2026- 2027 school year. 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)) (the law) to provide an alternative to household applications for free and reduced-price meals in local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with increased levels of low-income students. This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision. All students enrolled in Sumter School District may participate in the breakfast and lunch program at no charge to them. Families will not have to fill out meal applications.

Breakfast and lunch meals follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines for healthy school meals. Please encourage students to participate in the school meal programs.

You may contact your School Food Service Director, Stacey Francis, for additional information.

Parents or guardians that do not want their child/children to participate in CEP may wish to discuss this matter with Stacey Francis, Director on an informal basis.

Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to Stacey Francis, whose address is: P.O. Box 115, Wedgefield, South Carolina 29168 for a hearing to appeal the decision.

This release was sent to the following newspapers: The Item

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(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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