

## Nutrition Department Updates

The following WSD Elementary Schools will enter a four year Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) contract on June 30 , 2026 with the DPI for the following cycle SY's 2026-2030:

**Franklin Elementary School**  
**GD Jones Elementary School**  
**John Marshall Elementary School**

The ISP's of each of these schools are multiplied by a factor of 1.6 and then averaged to get the meal claiming rates. ( the 1.6 federal multiplying factor covers the assumption that for every 10 students identified in the direct certification match up there are 6 more students who may qualify via application).

These schools will operate with a free meal reimbursement claiming percentage of approximately 91.39% with and a paid meal reimbursement claiming percentage of approximately 8.61%. What does this mean? If 200 students come through the meal line at lunch ( and/or breakfast), the WSD can claim 91.39% of those students at the FREE federal reimbursement rate (\$4.71) and 8.61% at the PAID reimbursement rate(\$0.55). The monetary difference in reimbursement rates would need to be covered by WSD nutrition services program revenues. That is why the higher the ISP, the less the financial burden is on the district.

Beginning with the 2026-2027 SY, Thomas Jefferson Elementary will no longer be included on the CEP contract due to their declining Identified Student Percentage which is the percentage of students who qualify for FREE MEALS automatically ( as a result of government program support) . The current Jefferson Elementary ISP is 44.84% (Identified Student Percentage of 44.84% FREE students) . When Jefferson's ISP was averaged in with the other schools, it brought the overall meal reimbursement claiming percentage down too much and made the financial burden too high to be covered successfully by the district.

Historically, Thomas Jefferson Elementary used to have one of the highest ISP's , but has shown steady declines over the past 10 years. There has been **significant declines seen in ALL WSD ISP's in the past year due to the changes in program qualifiers at the State/Federal levels which became effective July 1, 2025. Some of the common State/Federal Qualifiers being : medicaid, foodshare, foster, and FIDPR program.** The CEP contract is reviewed annually in the Spring, using ISP's collected from direct certification match ups that are run on or right before April 1. Should these ISP's suddenly show increases at that time, the contracts can be updated with the DPI.

Parents will be notified of the change in school meal status in July via Social media. The plan is to also notify parents via Skyward messaging before school starts and then to have a written letter provided at the "Back to School" Open House at Thomas Jefferson Elementary where WSD staff will be available to support parents as they navigate the completion of FREE and Reduced meal applications online. It is important to know that 44.84% ( estimated) of those Jefferson students will already qualify for FREE meals at the start of the SY and will not need to

fill out an application , but the application process is good for all families to help capture as many qualifying students as possible.