



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **July 9, 2019**

TITLE: **Approval for Community Eligibility Provision Participation**

BACKGROUND:

The District Food Service Director is recommending the enrollment of eight schools into the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The schools identified are located in high poverty areas and this program allows the District to serve breakfast and lunch to students at no cost to them or the District. CEP was established by The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 to improve access to free school meals in eligible schools and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

The key benefits this program provides to our students and families are:

- CEP alleviates the need for families to submit school meal applications; therefore, eligible students who forget or fail to submit an application will still be able to eat at no cost.
- No child at a CEP school will be denied a meal due to a negative account balance, nor will they be required to charge meals to their account which will result in financial relief for parents and families. We will be able to eliminate the alternative meal option at CEP eligible schools completely and Food Service staff will no longer have to follow up on unpaid meal charges.
- CEP schools can operate more efficiently by utilizing data collected from other Federal programs; thus, resulting in less paperwork and lower administrative costs. Families do not need to turn in free and reduced-price meal applications. In addition, schools do not need to process applications, send out low balance letters, assign eligibility status to students or conduct verification of household income.
- Some schools participating in CEP have reported an increase in student enrollment. The Director of Nutrition Services at Washington Elementary School District stated that families with students at charter schools reported leaving to attend a non-pricing school to take advantage of free meals.
- By offering all students nutritious meals at no cost, CEP helps participating schools ensure their students will come to class well-nourished and ready to learn.
- CEP gives food service staff more time to focus on preparing nutritious meals their students will enjoy.
- Because all students in CEP schools have access to meals at no charge, there is no longer stigma associated with only providing free and reduced-price meals to low-income students.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Monthly Federal Reimbursement Estimators projected CEP would provide a revenue increase between \$20,064.88 and \$46,023.09. The \$20,064.88 projection would be for the current level of participation and the \$46,023.09 would include an anticipated participation increase of 4% at breakfast and 10% at lunch. It is very likely participation will increase both at breakfast and lunch due to the serving of all free meals.

An area of concern and study was if CEP would affect Title 1 funding. Both the United States Department of Agriculture and the Arizona Department of Education have released guidance indicating CEP will not impact the total amount of Title I funding received at the district level since

Title I funding is based on economic need. With partial implementation of CEP, the District would determine economic need for CEP school sites using the 1.6 multiplier. All other schools would continue to use free and reduced-price eligibility data. The review of the selected sites indicates that no negative impact to Title I is expected.

The recommended sites for this program are: Amphitheater High School, Amphitheater Middle School, Prince Elementary School, Nash Elementary School, Holaway Elementary School, Keeling Elementary School, Prince Elementary School, Rio Vista Elementary School, and Rillito Center.

RECOMMENDATION:

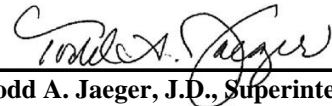
It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Governing Board approve the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for Food Service at the following locations: Amphitheater High School, Amphitheater Middle School, Prince Elementary School, Nash Elementary School, Holaway Elementary School, Keeling Elementary School, Prince Elementary School, Rio Vista Elementary School, and Rillito Center.

INITIATED BY:



Jim Burns, Executive Manager, Operational Support

Date: July 1, 2019



Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent