

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FOR THE WEST ALLIS-WEST MILWAUKEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
AGENDA**

Topic: 2025-2026 District-Wide Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Prepared by: Aaron Norris, Assistant Superintendent

Date: June 23, 2025

Agenda Reference # 10.2

Recommended Action:

<u>X</u>	Discussion/Action
<u> </u>	Presentation/Discussion
<u> </u>	Information Only
<u> </u>	Presentation/Action Next Meeting

Recommendation(s):

Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve again for the 2025-2026 school year the application for the WAWM District to have all schools qualify as CEP Schools. This would allow all students to eat breakfast and lunch for free regardless of their Free or Reduced status.

Purpose:

The purpose of this summary is to provide an Administrative recommendation to move all schools to the Community Eligibility Provision which allows all students to eat breakfast and lunch regardless of their Free/Reduced status for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

Background:

A program called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows school districts to offer free meals if a certain percentage of students qualify for free meals via “direct certification.” Historically, a few of our schools have been CEP schools on a site basis up until the 2022-2023 school year when we first moved to all school CEP. Because we meet the criteria for qualifying for district-wide CEP, with approval of this item, we would be able to offer free breakfast and lunch for all students across our school district again for the 2025-2026 school year.

Over the past three years, all of our students have been able to eat breakfast and lunch for free due to WAWM Board actions in June.

The amount of Fund 50 revenue we receive allows us to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students while continuing to build a moderate Fund 50 balance. Currently, WAWM is carrying an excess cash balance in Fund 50 which is not permitted by DPI. An excess cash balance is any cash amount above the 3-month average operating expenses. Currently, our projected excess cash balance as of the end of the 2024-2025 school year is \$2.3M which is essentially the same as 2023-2024. This means our revenues nearly match our expenses in Fund 50 in CEP years, proving that CEP continues to be a viable program for the school district. Additionally, under our current contract, Chartwells guarantees us to generate an excess of \$400,000.00 in 2025-2026.

Based on this data, and the stability of our excess cash during the 2024-2025 school year, after allowing all students to qualify for CEP, it is appropriate to infer that this plan continues to be more than sustainable.

As a note, it will be vital for school funding that we continue to collect information from all of our families via the Free and Reduced Lunch Application and the Sharing Form. Families must still complete both to be eligible for free or reduced priced school fee(s).