FAQs For Free Breakfast & Free Lunch:

Frequently Asked Questions

Instructions: Click a question on the right to see the answer, then Click "Return to top" to return to this location.

1. What is CEP?

CEP, Community Eligibility Program, is a federally funded program that allows schools to serve breakfast and lunch meals to all students for free.   The qualifying factor is the percentage of *directly certified* students of the total of enrolled students in that school. Directly certified means these students already qualify for a federal assistance program, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid or Head Start.

2. Do I Need to do anything to get these free meals at qualifying schools?

No application is required.

3. Why are there some schools in other counties not providing free lunches for all students?

Schools qualify based on the percentage of *directly certified students* attending

Directly certified means these students already qualify for a federal assistance program, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid or Head Start.

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just get a free milk or a piece of fruit instead of having to take a whole meal?

The cost of school meals provided to students in our District is subsidized by the federal government through participation in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. In order for the District to receive the federal funds that support these programs, specific meal components must be served that make up a complete meal for the student. The District does not receive any funds for any single components served, so a student would

need to pay the ala carte price for a carton of milk, or select 3 food items* for a free meal.

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*one of the three food items must be one-half cup of fruit or vegetable.

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5. Will the meals be the same or different?

All meals are the same. Food and meals at CEP schools will be the same high quality products and recipes that meet USDA guidelines as Champ's Café has always offered. Brand names for ingredients and foods include: Jennie-O Turkey, Pillsbury, General Mills, Kellogg's, Kraft Foods, Gold Kist (Pilgrim's Pride), Ocean Spray, Ken's Foods, Inc., Heinz, Rich's Products, Schwann's, Brookwood

7. What if I d

All meals are served for free. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please feel free to contact Terri White, school meals program manager at 941-575-5400 ext. 109; Terri.White@yourcharlotteschools.net

8. What about the balance in my prepay account?

Your child can use this balance to pay for other things at Champs Café' that are not included in the standard school lunch, such as snacks or special beverages. Contact us at Champs Café Punta Gorda Center, 1016 Education ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6259. 941-575-5400 or email Terri.White@yourcharlotteschools.net. If you would like us to refund the remaining balance, please provide us with the full student name and school location they are currently attending. Also, include the name of the person you would like the check made out to and the mailing address we are to send the refund check and a daytime telephone number in case we need to contact you.   if you are using the on-line prepayment system and if you have it set up for "automatic replenishment" you must turn off the auto replenishment feature before you ask us to refund the account.

Please send a refund request to Champs Café, Punta Gorda Center, 1016 Education Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6259.

9. What about eligibility for discounts for ACT/SAT, sports/band, cable/internet?

When a parent requests a letter from Champs Café (941-575-5400 x109) for their child to qualify for a discount:

• If the child attends any CCPS school and is directly certified via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid and/or Head Start, a letter will be provided documenting eligibility.
• If the child attends a CEP school, a letter will be provided documenting that the child attends a CEP school

For More information about USDA's Community Eligibility Program:
http:/