

# The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

## *What Does It Mean For The Middle School This Year?*

*Grade School adopted this program last year and we are excited to offer this to Middle School students this year!*

### **What does it do?**

- Allows schools located in low-income areas to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students.
- Eliminates some of the paperwork burden.

### **Who benefits? Everyone!**

- Students: Access to free nutritious meals for all students, no stigma, and less time spent in cashier lines and more time to eat nutritious meals.
- Parents: No worries about lunch account.
- School staff: Streamlined meal service operation and more time for students to consume food.
- Administrators: Reduced paperwork and administrative costs, no need to track unpaid meal charges, improved program integrity, and more nourished students ready to learn and grow.

### **Who can participate?**

- Schools with a minimum Identified Student Percentage ( $\geq 40$  percent) in the prior school year.

Identified students = those certified for free meals without the use of household applications (for example those directly certified through SNAP).