



Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

School Meals at No Cost

- 1. **Purpose:**
Increase number of schools serving meals at no cost to all students.
- 2. **Description of services provided:**
Supporting the ongoing efforts to increase the number of schools that provide meals at no cost to all students through participate in the USDA Community Eligibility Provision.
- 3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**
N/A

Beneficiaries in 2020-21 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 0
Number of Schools: 82 new CEP Schools
Number of Students: Approx. 34,000
Number of Educators: N/A
Other: 0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY21 Funding: State Appropriation: \$57,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY21) \$57,000

- 4. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?**
 No
 Yes, please explain.

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY21	\$57,000	\$433.45

6. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:**

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of Educators	Number of Other
FY21		82	Approx. 34,000		

7. **Programmatic changes since inception (if any):**

The pandemic dramatically changed school meals both in terms of the student experience and the administration of the programs.

The USDA provided over 100 waivers to help school meal programs respond to the pandemic. Two of the largest waivers allowed schools to operate universal free meals in SY 20-21 and now 21-22. Even though was CEP was temporarily not needed for universal meals, there was still a large increase in CEP schools.

8. **Evaluations of program/major findings:**

House Bill 2660 (2020) exacted a requirement to operate CEP if a school has an Identified Student Percentage of 62.5% or greater. All *Manded Schools* are either operating CEP or universal meals through a pandemic waivers from USDA. This was a major objective of the 2020 legislation and the following proviso.

82 new schools joined CEP before the 2020-21 School Year, making it the largest increase in many years.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

N/A

10. **Future opportunities:**

Universal meals have become the norm during the pandemic, giving districts a trial run of what CEP would be like to operate with students at school. OSPI believes we will continue to see expanded growth in the coming years.

Potential federal legislation may also have substantial positive impacts on CEP, making it a possibility for many more schools statewide.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

Budget: ESSB 5092 Section 1501(4)(x) - \$57,000 of the general fund state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 is provided solely for implementation of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 2660 (school meals at no cost). If the bill is not enacted by June 30, 2020, the amount provided in this subsection shall lapse.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's 2021 Grantee List](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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