

CEP Breakfast & Lunch Program FAQ

The Olean City School District is committed to providing every student enrolled in our schools with all the tools they need to succeed, including nutritious meals that everyone can enjoy together. We continue to use the CEP school meal program option to offer school breakfast and lunch every day, at no charge, to all students. The Community Eligibility Provision program is offered through the New York State Child Nutrition Department.

Below are questions and answers regarding this program.

How does this program work?

The New York State Child Nutrition (CN) Department began this program several years ago with federal funding backing the program. School districts must be eligible based on their specific poverty rates and have to apply to CN for approval.

What does this mean to my child(ren) attending Olean?

Your child(ren) will be able to eat both a breakfast and a lunch free every day.

Does the school provide a second breakfast or lunch for free?

No. The school only gets reimbursed from New York State on the first breakfast and lunch served. Families are responsible for payment of a second meal.

Can my child(ren) still bring their lunch?

Yes. However, if they buy milk, it is the families' responsibility to pay for the milk.

How will ala carte items (such as pizza, nachos, etc.) be handled?

A la carte items will remain the same in that families are responsible for payment. Again, it is only the first full breakfast and lunch that are free.

Does this program change the food that can be served?

No. The district must still continue to follow all food and dietary guidelines that are set by the New York State Child Nutrition Program.

Will I still need to fill out paperwork for the cafeteria program?

No.

Will the school district ever request household income for other programs?

Yes. Other federally funded grants that the district receives are based on the district's poverty levels. This data was previously gathered through the cafeteria free and reduced application process. In order to continue to receive such grants, the income information still needs to be gathered.

Who will be requested to send in household income information?

If you receive SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, Medicaid, or have foster children, you do not need to fill out a household income eligibility form. If you do not receive any of these services, then you should fill out the household income eligibility form included in the August newsletter.

It is the district's policy that all data gathered is confidential and only aggregate numbers are used for grant purposes.