



August 1, 2022

OHIO COUNTY SCHOOLS

Ohio County, WV - All students in Ohio County will continue to have the opportunity to eat a no-cost breakfast and lunch at school through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. The CEP was enacted as a result of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and provides universal meal service to children in school districts that qualify.

The CEP serves as an alternative to collecting, approving and verifying household eligibility applications for free- and reduced-price eligible students in high-poverty Local Education Agencies (LEAs). If at least 40 percent of a school's student population is directly certified for free meal benefits, the entire school qualifies for the option. No applications for free or reduced priced meals will be accepted for students who attend Ohio County Schools.

"I am proud that Ohio County Schools will be participating in the CEP program to help meet a crucial need for many students in our county," said, Dr. Kimberly Miller, Superintendent of Ohio County Schools. "We know academic achievement increases when our students are well-fed and ready to learn, and we must provide secure and reliable access to nutritious meals so all students have a chance to achieve at the highest level possible."

Ohio County expects to have all 13 schools participate in the CEP. The program allows the school system to feed nearly 4,000 students each day.

The 2017 *Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap* data reports high levels of food insecurity and hunger across the country. In West Virginia, more than 14 percent of residents, and over 79,000 children, live in food insecure households.

For more information, please contact Ohio County Schools Child Nutrition Office at 304-243-0477.

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