



PRESS RELEASE

Provided By: Collegiate Charter School of Lowell

September 2021 – Lowell – Collegiate Charter School of Lowell has implemented the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The Community Eligible Provision was enacted as part of the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. It allows eligible schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students regardless of household income and does not require families to submit a school meal application. Eligible schools are those in which 40% of the student enrollment is directly certified for free meals based on a) participation in SNAP, TAFDC, or Medicaid or b) homeless, runaway, migrant, foster or Head Start status. It does not include students who are categorically eligible for free meals based on a school meal application.

Studies conducted on CEP's effectiveness so far have been overwhelmingly positive. A recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Food Research and Action Center found that schools that have participated in community eligibility for two years have seen lunch participation increase by 13 percent and breakfast participation increased by 25 percent. The 2014-2015 school year was first year the program was available nationwide, enabling thousands more high-poverty schools to take concrete steps toward reducing child hunger.

Collegiate Charter of Lowell
Dr. Laurie Hodgdon, School Director

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider