

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 1, 2022
To: Framingham School Committee
From: Lincoln D Lynch IV, Executive Director of Finance and Operations
Re: Community Eligibility Provision(CEP) Recommendation

Each year the Committee must vote to enter into the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for individual eligible schools or can enter the program as a District. This program allows for high needs schools to serve free breakfast and free lunch for students at designated schools. Currently, we have this program implemented at Thayer, Fuller, Cameron, Barbieri, Brophy, Harmony Grove, and McCarthy. Even though the program is implemented at these schools, the United States Department of Agriculture(USDA) has made meals free for all students across the Country so not only are meals free for students at our CEP schools, meals are free for every one of our students. The USDA backed program will end at the conclusion of this 2021-2022 fiscal year meaning students and families across the nation will have to pay for breakfast, lunch and a la carte items again in our schools next school year 2022-2023.

After reviewing our current high needs student percentages with our new Food Services Director, we are recommending that the District go full districtwide CEP and all students, even though the USDA program will end, will get free breakfast and lunch at every school next year 2022-2023. The total estimated cost to the District will be around \$300,000 per year. The additional costs will be covered by the District's Food Service revolving account. Due to the USDA's current program, the District has received more reimbursements for student meals than in recent years which will help to cover the costs of the Districtwide CEP initiative.

If approved, the District will be locked into Districtwide CEP for four years. Again, the District's school lunch revolving account is able to cover the costs for the next four years due to current balances and projected revenue.

I believe a positive vote to enter into a district wide CEP program will benefit our families and students as we continue to remove barriers for our school community.

For more information please visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website located at [Community Eligibility Provision](#).