

SY 2021-2022 Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines

On April 12, 2022, USDA, FNS granted the Montana Office of Public Instruction’s request to extend the CEP deadlines listed in the table below pursuant to the waiver authority granted at Section 12(l) of the NSLA. Local educational agencies (LEAs) continue to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including managing challenges related to supply chain and staffing issues, which demand significant LEA resources. To facilitate the adoption of CEP for SY 2022-2023, FNS acknowledges additional time is necessary to gather accurate identified student data.

This waiver makes the following adjustments to the annual CEP deadlines:

CEP Requirement	Annual Deadline	SY 2021-22 Waiver Deadline
Direct Certification (DCA) Identified Student Percentages (ISP) snapshot data for CEP qualification	April 1	Anytime between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022
LEA notification to report/correct school ISPs above 30%	April 15	June 30, 2022
State Agency notification to relay district ISPs above 30%	April 15	June 30, 2022
State Agency Publication – OPI to post CEP-eligible schools list on the OPI website	May 1	June 30, 2022
Elect CEP for Following SY – Deadline for participating schools to complete SY 2022-23 CEP Schedule in MAPS	June 30	September 30, 2022

What does this mean for Montana school districts? Schools may use direct certification student data **any time between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022** to establish the Identified Student Percent (ISP) data to qualify for CEP. See below for a breakdown of the CEP process in SY21-22, including **pertinent deadlines**.

- The DCA system captures monthly snapshot reports of students who are directly certified. Schools may review the snapshot DC Source Percentages or Snapshot Direct Cert Reports in DCA for this information.
- The April 1st direct certification snapshot proxy data has been captured from DCA and is displayed in MAPS for schools to review their potential CEP eligibility. The proxy Annual ISP CEP snapshot data can be found here: MAPS > SNP tile > Applications > Community Eligibility Provision
- Use the ISP Correction and Reporting Form to report ISP percentages that exceed the OPI proxy data taken on April 1, 2022. Please report ISP corrections by **June 15, 2022** to allow time for the updated data to be included in the State Agency Publication of CEP-eligible schools on June 30th.
- If your district can certify that it has saved higher direct certification data for any time between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 to support the ISP percentages, the school’s data will be used for the State Agencies Notification of CEP Eligibility Report.
- The State Agency Publication of CEP Eligibility will announce schools/LEAs in the following categories:
 - ✓ LEAs with a district-wide ISP of at least 40 percent (eligible for CEP).
 - ✓ LEAs with a district-wide ISP between 30 and 39 percent (near-eligible for CEP).
 - ✓ LEAs currently participating in CEP.
- If your district is planning to participate in CEP in the upcoming school year, submit the CEP Schedule within the SY 2022-23 Application Packet of MAPS by **September 30, 2022**.

For further information pertaining to CEP, please see the online CEP materials. Contact Alie Wolf at 406-459-5394 or aliew@mt.gov, or your regional School Nutrition Programs Specialist, for additional questions.

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