



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 5, 2019

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Free Meals for ALL DK-3 Grade Students at CPS

Charlotte Public Schools will trial the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for School Year 2019-2020 for developmental kindergarten – 3rd grades. ALL students at Parkview, Washington and Galewood elementary schools will receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of individual eligibility.

Community Eligibility is a program offered by the USDA and Michigan Department of Education. It will allow Charlotte Public Schools to offer free breakfast and lunches for ALL students at Parkview, Washington and Galewood elementary schools. Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) will allow us to examine if we are financially able to offer breakfast and lunches to our youngest students, developmental kindergarten – 3rd grade at no charge. Charlotte Public Schools Food Service Department strives to ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to eat well-balanced, nutritional meals while at school. This trial will further our ability to meet this goal.

In April 2019, the USDA and MDE made changes to their program, increasing our percentage of families that qualify for free meals, allowing CPS to participate in the CEP program. The combined eligibility of students for Parkview, Washington and Galewood met the threshold to trial the CEP program, offering free breakfast and lunches to these students.

We will need the assistance of all parents in these buildings in order to maintain our eligibility. A state requirement to participate in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is that the families at these schools will need to complete and return a Household Information Survey, which will be mailed to all households in August.

Community Eligibility is determined by the number of families that participate with State Food Assistance, Cash Assistance and Medicaid Programs. The categorical eligibility for students at Charlotte Upper Elementary, Middle School and High School were not high enough to include them in the trial for this school year and would lower our reimbursement from the State of Michigan. If free and reduced percentages increase we may be able to include other schools as we move forward. Families with students at the CUE, Middle School and High School may still fill out and submit the Free and Reduced Application.

Charlotte Public Schools is excited to be able to offer this program to our youngest Orioles! We hope our families take advantage of this opportunity. Please contact the CPS Food Service Department at (517) 541-5140 if you have any questions.