

Press Release:

Mingo County Schools Provide Meals To Students At No Cost

Williamson, WV - Students in Mingo County will once again have the opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch at school at no cost through a program called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The CEP was enacted as a result of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and provides universal meal service to children in high-poverty areas. This is the fourth year for the option.

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 students are directly certified for free meal benefits, the entire school qualifies for the option.

"I am proud that Mingo County Schools will be participating in the CEP program to help meet a crucial need for many students in our county," said, Don Spence, Superintendent of Mingo 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."

Mingo County expects to have all nine schools participate in the CEP. The program allows the school system to feed nearly 4200 students each day.

Data reporting high levels of food insecurity and hunger across the country was recently released. In West Virginia, more than 14 percent of residents, and over 79,000 children, live in food insecure households.

For more information, contact the Child Nutrition Department at 304-235-7142.