

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
School Nutrition Programs State Wavier Request for  
Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (AK DEED)

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2. Region:

Western Region

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

AK DEED requests this Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) waiver on behalf of Nome Public Schools. Nome Public Schools is in good standing with AK DEED and has a strong history of program compliance and responsiveness to AK DEED.

4. Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

Nome Public Schools is a small rural district in Alaska that has been participating in Community Eligibility Provision from 2015 up to the end of school year 2026. As of April 1,

2026, their district has a 51.68% ISP, and the Superintendent submitted their CEP election information to AK DEED on 7/16/2026 (after the June 30 deadline). The Superintendent was requested to act as the official Food Services Director in FY26 as the result of an audit - the Business Manager, who handles the majority of the administrative work for the food services, is contracted, and cannot serve in this capacity. The workbook to apply for the CEP program was only sent to the Superintendent as a result, and somehow was overlooked. Losing CEP status would pose a significant hardship on both the district and the families in the NPS community, which experience difficulty finding secretarial staff; this staff would have the additional duty of collecting and processing free and reduced-price applications. In addition, the District would struggle with collection of funds for reduced and full-price families, as the location of our middle/high school and charter school is 5 miles outside of town, and Nome has a significant cash economy, as many families have no credit card or even a debit card, as well as reduced or non-existent internet access. These barriers, as well as challenges within the home of some students which would cause families not filling out the necessary paperwork, may result in many children who would otherwise qualify for free/reduced lunch building up a significant lunch debt. The cost to generate a compliant meal in Nome is exceptionally high, making the expense out of reach for many mid-income families to feed their children at school. Food cost and food insecurity means that for many of the students, the free breakfast and lunch they receive under the CEP program is the only stable source of food.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

June 30 election documentation and deadline under section 11(a)(1)(F)(x)(I) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 U.S.C. 1759a, and Food and Nutrition Service regulations at Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations Section 245.9(f)(4)(i).

Request: The CDE requests the authority to grant Clovis Global the flexibility to elect the CEP for School Year 2024–25 beyond the June 30 election date.

**6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:**

If Nome Public Schools is granted this authority, AK DEED staff will process their CEP application and conduct the validation process that we complete for all CEP applicants.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

No regulatory barriers at the State level.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

AK DEED does not anticipate challenges with the waiver implementation as it will allow the SFA to apply for CEP.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

Granting the waiver will not increase the overall cost of administering the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program to the federal government. There are no additional costs to implement the waiver.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

Implementation date: July 1, 2026

Time period: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

**11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**

AK DEED will continue to monitor program operations, including any approved waivers, during the normal School Nutrition Program administrative review process. Furthermore, the AK DEED performs a thorough analysis of CEP data, ensuring School Food Authorities submit and are approved with accurate data.

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):

By September 31, 2026, AK DEED will report the results of Nome Public Schools application to the Western Regional Office with a list of the school sites approved to establish a new CEP cycle.

13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

The waiver will be posted to the AK DEED website at <https://education.alaska.gov/cnp>.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

*Rachel Spencer*

NSLP Coordinator, AK DEED