
McKenzie Snow, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

August 2, 2024

Samia Hamden
Food & Nutrition Service
Midwest Regional Office
United States Department of Agriculture
77 W. Jackson Blvd., 20th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: School Year 2024-25 – Extension of the Election date for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for Rock Valley CSD

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

Iowa Department of Education (Department), Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services
Kala Shipley, Bureau Chief, kala.shipley@iowa.gov, 515-281-4757
Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant, patti.harding@iowa.gov, 515-868-1956

2. Region: Midwest

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

This waiver request is for Rock Valley CSD and they are in good standing.

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(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

Challenge: Rock Valley CSD experienced significant damage from the severe storms and flooding. A presidential disaster was declared on June 25, 2024 in addition to Iowa's major disaster declaration on June 22, 2024, for several counties including Sioux County.

Ensuring all students experience a world-class education.

As a way to minimize the impact of the flooding on the households, Rock Valley CSD would like to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district-wide in the 2024-25 school year. Recovery from the disaster impacted the school's ability to inform the State agency of the district's intent to implement CEP by the June 30 election date.

Goal: The goal of this waiver is to extend the date of election for the CEP option to July 31, 2024 for the 2024-25 school year. Iowa requires all school food authorities to report the number of identified students and enrollment as of April 1 and Rock Valley CSD complied with this requirement.

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

This requirement is codified in FNS regulations at [7 CFR 245.9\(f\)\(4\)\(i\)](#) below.

4) Community eligibility provision procedures —

- (i) **Election documentation and deadline.** A local educational agency, group of schools, or school that intends to elect the community eligibility provision for the following year for one or more schools must submit to the State agency documentation demonstrating the LEA, group of schools, or school meets the identified student percentage, as specified under [paragraph \(f\)\(3\)\(i\)](#) of this section. Such documentation must be submitted no later than June 30 and must include, at a minimum, the counts of identified students and enrolled students as of April 1 of the school year prior to CEP implementation.

Rock Valley CSD provided documentation demonstrating the schools met the identified student percentage and is compliant with 7 CFR 245.9(f)(4)(i). The SFA submitted documentation that included the count of identified students and enrollment as of April 1 by June 30, as required in regulation. To facilitate the recovery of households impacted by the flooding the district has requested to implement CEP for the 2024-25 school year.

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

There are no impacts on technology, State systems, or monitoring.

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]:

There are no regulatory barriers at the State level to providing the requested waiver.

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

The Department does not anticipate that the establishment of this waiver will pose any challenges at the SA. The SA supports the SFA's implementation of the CEP option and has the capacity to validate CEP data. The waiver will allow Rock Valley CSD to offer nutritious meals at no charge to all enrolled students in the CEP schools.

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(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

The establishment of this waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program. There are no additional Department costs for State agency oversight with implementation of this waiver.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

Rock Valley CSD's intent is to implement CEP on the first day of school, September 5, 2024 for the 2024-25 school year. The SA will work with the district to implement the CEP option as quickly as possible.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

State agency staff will work with the SFAs and monitor implementation of the waiver.

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

No later than September 30, 2025 the Department will report:

- *A description of how the waiver impacted NSLP and SBP meal service operations at participating schools;*
- *A description of how the waiver reduced the quantity of paperwork necessary to administer the program.*

13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]: <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/school-meals> -

Signature and title of requesting official :



Title: Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services, Chief

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

kala.shiple@iowa.gov

patti.harding@iowa.gov

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1. Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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2. Fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email:
program.intake@usda.gov

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TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.

Date request was received at Regional Office:

Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA