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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 1, 2024

Release #2024/25 – 002

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Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools Announced for the 2024-2025 School Year

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Students at 31 school sites in Houston County will receive meals at no cost during the 2024-2025 school year. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), implemented and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), allows approved schools to provide meals to all enrolled students at no charge, regardless of economic status.

Students enrolled in CEP schools can receive meals at no cost without having to pay a fee or submit a Free and Reduced Meal Application. No action is required on the part of a child, parent, or guardian.

The schools approved by the USDA as CEP schools are:

- C.B. Watson Primary,
- Centerville Elementary,
- David Perdue Elementary,
- David Perdue Primary,
- Eagle Springs Elementary,
- Feagin Mill Middle,
- Hilltop Elementary,
- Huntington Middle,
- Lake Joy Elementary,
- Lake Joy Primary,
- Langston Road Elementary,
- Langston Road Primary,
- Miller Elementary,
- Morningside Elementary,
- Northside Elementary,

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- Northside High,
- Northside Middle,
- Parkwood Elementary,
- Pearl Stephens Elementary,
- Perry High,
- Perry Middle,
- Quail Run Elementary,
- Russell Elementary,
- Shirley Hills Elementary,
- Thomson Middle,
- Transition Academy,
- Tucker Elementary,
- Warner Robins Middle,
- Warner Robins High,
- Westside Elementary, and
- WIN Academy.

Twelve additional sites were added to the list of CEP-approved schools in Houston County for the new school year. Those schools are David Perdue Primary, David Perdue Elementary, Eagle Springs Elementary, Feagin Mill Middle, Hilltop Elementary, Lake Joy Elementary, Lake Joy Primary, Langston Road Elementary, Langston Road Primary, Perry Middle, Perry High, and Quail Run Elementary.

Meredith Potter, Director of School Nutrition for the Houston County School District, said, “We are excited to expand this initiative in our county. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that easier access to healthy meals for all students can have on student achievement and school culture.”

Schools qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision based on the number of directly certified students in the school compared to the enrollment. Children are considered directly certified if they live in households that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. In addition, foster, homeless, runaway, or migrant children are included in the directly certified category.

“The goal of the Houston County School Nutrition Program is to serve healthy meals to students so they are ready to learn,” said Potter. “The more children we are able to serve, the greater the benefit to families, the school system, and the community.”

School meal prices will not increase for students enrolled in schools that are not on the list of CEP schools. Parents of students enrolled in non-CEP schools are encouraged to submit the Free and Reduced Meal Application, which is available on our website. For more information about the Houston County School Nutrition Program, please visit <https://www.hcbe.net/schoolnutrition>.

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