



Dear Bright Local Staff/Families,

I wanted to take a moment to provide an overview of our recent decision regarding the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, which offers free lunch to all students. Our food services, administration, and finance department met to thoroughly discuss the feasibility and implications of enrolling in this program.

After carefully analyzing the data, we discovered that participating in the CEP program would cost Bright Local Schools an excess of \$115,000 **per year**. Given that the CEP program requires a five-year commitment, the financial impact on our district would be substantial. Currently, our Food Services department operates with a yearly loss of around \$50,000. This significant financial strain would ultimately affect our ability to allocate resources effectively and support other essential programs.

While our primary focus remains on fostering healthy minds and bodies for our students, it is also crucial to consider the financial sustainability of our district. The Bright Local Board of Education is committed to our students' well-being, and as a testament to this commitment, we have approved free breakfast for all students for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, our lunch prices remain among the lowest in the state of Ohio, ensuring that our students have access to nutritious meals at an affordable cost.

We understand the importance of providing support to our families and will continue to explore opportunities that benefit our students without compromising the financial stability of our district. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our administration.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Jason Iles

Superintendent

Bright Local Schools