

## The Dooly County School Nutrition Program Has Chosen to Participate in Community Eligibility Option

**MEDIA CONTACT:** The Vienna News Observer

**June 17, 2013** – Vienna- “The Dooly County School Nutrition Program is slated to implement the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for Free Meal Reimbursement in School Year 2014. Through CEO, a school district, a group of schools or a single school may offer meals at no charge to all students. This eliminates the procedure of distributing and processing meal applications,” quoted Lisa Bryant, Dooly County’s School Nutrition Program Director.

The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 includes the implementation of CEO to insure that every student in low-income neighborhoods can participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). To qualify, a district or school must have 40 percent or more of its students eligible for free meals based on direct certification.

By participating in CEO and eliminating the need for meal applications, the Dooly County School Nutrition Program will reduce administrative and printing costs. Families also benefit from the elimination of completing and submitting meal applications.

Georgia is one of 11 states selected to pilot this innovative program. CEO will be available to the entire country in School Year 2015.

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