

PUBLIC MEDIA RELEASE

# Community Eligibility Provision

Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Virtus Academy of South Carolina is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2024–2025 school year. Section 104(a) of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 amended section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1))(the law) to provide an alternative to household applications for free and reduced-price meals in local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with increased levels of low-income students. This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision. All students enrolled in the school/district may participate in the breakfast and lunch program at no charge to them. Families will not have to fill out meal applications.

Breakfast and lunch meals follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines for healthy school meals. Please encourage students to participate in the school meal programs.

You may contact your School Food Service (SFS) Director Barbara K. Osborne for additional information.

Parents or guardians that do not want their child/children to participate in CEP may wish to discuss this matter with Barbara Osborne (Director/Supervisor of Food Service Department Name) on an informal basis.

Parents wishing to make a formal appeal may make a request either orally or in writing to:

**Virtus Academy**

**Attn: Barbara Osborne**

**2407 Pisgah Rd**

**Florence SC 29501**

**843-799-4032**

for a hearing to appeal the decision.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained on line at:

**<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>**, from any USDA office, by calling 866-632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation.

The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (833)256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.