

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 3:03 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition <MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov>
Subject: Howard's News from MDE 032316

It is officially spring! Great weather is coming soon for us to enjoy outdoor activities....in the meantime, here is some information you can read indoors! Here you go:

- 1) Snacks – Attached is a document detailing specific parts of the Afterschool Snack Program and Smart Snacks. Short one page document with good information.
- 2) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) - It's never too early to start thinking about summer. The 2016 SFSP application is now available in [MEGS+](#)ⁱ. Utilize the training materials link found in MEGS+ for assistance in filling out your 2016 SFSP application. The SFSP application will close on May 6, so be sure to apply as soon as possible. For more information, please call 517-373-3347 or visit [SFSP Website](#)ⁱⁱ.
- 3) Hiring Standards - A question has arisen about Alternate Agreements and how additional sites added may impact the hiring standards for new directors. Hiring criteria is dependent on Local Educational Agency (LEA) enrollment size. An Alternate Agreement will not affect the LEA size, since the site(s) added through an Alternate Agreement are not actual sites within that LEA. See the attached document for more information. Any questions about Professional Standards may be directed to Linda Stull at 517-241-3884 or by email at stulll@michigan.gov.
- 4) Early Bird Registration Deadline - Farm to Cafeteria Conference 2016 – *June 2-4 in Madison, WI*. The National Farm to Cafeteria Conference is the only national gathering of stakeholders from across the farm to cafeteria movement. If you're already involved or planning to be involved in farm to school/early childhood program efforts, this is a great opportunity to learn, share, network, and strategize for the development of your program. Over the course of two days, attendees will have access to 48 different workshops in 12 topical tracks, and your Michigan Farm to School team will be presenting in a number of them! Farm to Institution Specialist Colleen Matts will be co-presenting on institutional sales for Farmers and Food Hubs, Farm to Institution alliances, and Hoophouses for Health, Farm to School Specialist Abby Harper will be co-presenting on local procurement in early care and education programs, and Cherry Capital Food's School Liaison Kelly Lively will be co-presenting on Farm to Cafeteria promotional events (and showcasing our statewide Apple Crunch efforts!) Check out the full list of [workshops](#)ⁱⁱⁱ, and start planning which ones to attend! Visit [Farm to Cafeteria Conference Registration](#)^{iv}.

- 5) Michigan School Wellness Award - The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is excited to launch the 2016 School Wellness Award. The Michigan School Wellness Award aims to engage schools statewide in creating healthy school environments by establishing School Health Teams, completing the Healthy School Action Tools (HSAT) and implementing sustainable policy and environmental changes. Schools are invited to apply for the award by April 20, 2016. MDHHS, in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Education, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, Action for Healthy Kids and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, will recognize schools making significant improvements to their school environments related to healthy eating, physical activity, and tobacco-free lifestyles. Schools taking exemplary steps to improve the health of students and staff will be recognized this spring at a special award ceremony at the state Capitol. For more information about the School Wellness Award, or to apply online, visit mihealthtools.org/greatschools^v. Marketing and presentation resources for your use are attached.
- 6) Farm to school - The final results from the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census are in! Thank you for taking the time to complete the questions. Of the 869 districts invited to complete the census, 68% responded. Results reveal that 43% of Michigan school districts surveyed participate in farm to school activities, with an additional 18% indicating they plan to start local food purchasing in the near future. Michigan schools cultivated more than 180 school gardens with more than 210 districts using fresh local fruits and vegetables within their salad bar programs. This means that over 702,000 students in Michigan are now participating in farm to school programs! For a complete summary of national results please click [see national results](#)^{vi} and for a state by state summary click [state by state summary](#)^{vii}.
- 7) School Gardens - With more than 7,000 school gardens across the nation, many school districts are using gardens to grow healthy habits in cafeterias, classrooms, and communities. We know that school gardens come in all shapes and sizes, and districts are finding ways to establish gardens both within and outside school grounds. Gardens can be as simple as a few containers on a windowsill or cover acres, and can thrive in all climates. Program operators find that even small gardens help children gain familiarity and comfort with the fruits and vegetables they are seeing more of at meal times. Just in time for spring, this attached new fact sheet provides guidance on using school garden produce in the cafeteria, planning for food safety needs, incorporating gardens into summer meal programs and early child care settings, and successfully sustaining garden efforts.
- 8) One in a Melon - Does your school have what it takes to be "One in a Melon"? Now through April 15, USDA is running a contest for school districts to win its coveted "One in a Melon" award. Tell USDA about the great farm to school activities you are involved with and enter a chance to win this award. Additionally, don't hesitate to engage your own networks through email or any other social media activities and mobilize them to

nominate your program to win the “One in a Melon” award. School districts from each state with the most nominations will win. The more folks involved the better chances of you winning! Winners will be announced before school lets out this year so click [Farm to School Census](#)^{viii} to find your school district and enter to be considered “One in a Melon!”

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Visit our [March is Reading Month website](#) for motivating examples and activities that encourage purposeful reading for all Michiganders.

ⁱ <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/>

ⁱⁱ www.michigan.gov/sfsp

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org/8/schedule-program/workshops/>

^{iv} <http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org/8/>

^v <http://swa.mihealthtools.org/>

^{vi} <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/overview-farm-school-census-2015>

^{vii} <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/find-your-school-district>

^{viii} <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/find-your-school-district>

Office of School Support Services

School Nutrition Programs

The Monthly Training topic for March is Snacks: Afterschool Snack Program and Smart Snacks. We hope you find this information helpful.

- **SNACK:** As a refresher, we want to share some key reminders about snacks in School Nutrition Programs (SNP). Additional detail is available at the links below or by contacting Michigan SNP at mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov or 517-373-3347.
 - **Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP):**
 - Must monitor twice per year (first monitoring due within the first four weeks of operation); forms available online.
 - Register to participate through the electronic [MEGS+¹](#) School Nutrition Programs application.
 - Must serve two of the components in the meal pattern; OVS does not apply.
 - Programs are free for all children if building or area eligibility criteria are met (view your MEGS+ application or contact MDE SNP for more information).
 - RCCIs may serve on weekends if other requirements met.
 - Visit the [Afterschool Snack Program page of the SNP website²](#).
 - **Smart Snacks (Foods Sold Outside of School Nutrition Programs):**
 - Foods sold outside of reimbursable meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) or the ASSP must meet one of the criteria:
 1. Meet the Smart Snacks standards (and may be sold anywhere on school campus at any time, unless Local Wellness Policy is stricter), OR
 2. May be sold as up to two exempt fundraisers per building per week (one fundraiser is no longer than a single full school day; may NOT be sold in food service area during meal times, regardless of exemptions). Please review the link to the [MDE exempt fundraiser policy³](#) for more information.
 - Check the [online-based Smart Snacks Calculator⁴](#) to see if a food or beverage meets the standards.
 - Visit the [Smart Snacks page of the SNP website⁵](#).

¹ Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus Website, available at https://mdoe.state.mi.us/megsplus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPPLUS

² Michigan School Nutrition Programs Afterschool Snack Program website, available at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-194517--,00.html

³ Michigan School Nutrition Programs exempt food fundraiser policy, available at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Policy_21_492716_7.pdf

⁴ Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Calculator, available at https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take_action/schools/snacks_and_beverages/smart_snacks/alliance_product_calculator/

⁵ Michigan School Nutrition Programs Smart Snacks webpage, available at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-327975--,00.html

Office of School Support Services

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Alternate Agreements and How They Impact Hiring Standards for New Directors

A question has arisen about Alternate Agreements and how additional sites added may impact the hiring standards for new directors. Hiring criteria is dependent on Local Educational Agency (LEA) enrollment size. An Alternate Agreement will not affect the LEA size, since the site(s) added through an Alternate Agreement are not actual sites within that LEA.

As a reminder:

The hiring standards affect directors hired on or after July 1, 2015. Directors hired prior to July 1, 2015:

- 1) Can remain in their current positions without meeting the hiring standards – in other words they are grandfathered in;
- 2) May fill a new director position for the same LEA enrollment category or smaller without meeting the hiring standards;
- 3) Must meet the hiring standards for the larger LEA enrollment category when applying for a director position within that enrollment category.

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