

**From:** Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 04, 2015 12:43 PM  
**To:** MDE-SchoolNutrition <MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Howard's News from MDE 110415

New month, new News. Enjoy:

- 1) 2016 SNP Annual June Conference: Save the date! The Annual 2016 June Conference will be held Monday, June 20 – Wednesday, June 22, 2016.
  - a. The conference will be held at the Radisson in Lansing, and a room block will also be made available for participants who wish to stay overnight.
  - b. Within the next few months, we'll send out a survey to collect the key topics you would like to see covered, as well as any other suggestions you may have for making the most of your conference experience.
  - c. In the meantime, please feel free to send any suggestions to Adrienne Davenport at [davenporta1@michigan.gov](mailto:davenporta1@michigan.gov).
- 2) School Gardens - Attached is October's edition of the school garden newsletter. There are TONS of garden grants open right now. We know it is busy at school during this time of year, but think ahead to how wonderful it will be to have a grant to use on for your garden program this spring. Good luck with your applications, and hope that you enjoy the newsletter!
- 3) Farm to School - Early results from the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census are now available at [Farm to School Census](#)<sup>i</sup>, with Michigan currently having a 66% response rate. We would really like to achieve an 85% or MORE as USDA recognizes states with high response rates. So far, only 3 states have achieved 85%....let's shoot for 90%. School districts have an opportunity to review or submit updated information regarding their farm to school practices through November 20, 2015. If you do NOT see your school district listed on their website, USDA is accepting additional submissions. Simply email Matt Benson at [matthew.benson@fns.usda.gov](mailto:matthew.benson@fns.usda.gov) and let him know that you would like to complete the 2015 Farm to School Census. Please take the time to reflect your local purchasing efforts in the Census so that the USDA can better assist with the changing needs of Michigan school districts. Final Farm to School Census results will be released in early 2016.
- 4) Congratulations to Betti Wiggins, Senior Deputy Executive Director, at Detroit Public Schools - She is featured on page 23 in *The Farm to School Program - 4 years in review (2012-2015)*, a USDA manual. This informative manual spotlights Farm to School efforts that bring locally or regionally produced foods into school cafeterias, hands on learning activities, such as school gardening, farm visits and

culinary classes; and the integration of food related education into the regular, standards based classroom curriculum.

- 5) Tuesday at 2:00 - Our next Tuesday at 2 Conference Call is scheduled for November 10, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The topic will be Professional Standards and will last approximately 30-45 minutes. Registration will close 10:00 a.m. on November 10, 2015. With your registration you will be sent the call in telephone number and access code.
- 6) Monthly Training Topics – The monthly training topics for November are verification and benefit issuance. See the attached for information on these topics.
- 7) Direct Certification - For important information on guidance for direct certification requirements for public and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, please see Administrative Policy No. 5 - School Year 2015 - 2016 at [Administrative Policy No. 5](#)<sup>ii</sup>.
- 8) Verification - For important information on verification of eligibility for school meals, please see Administrative Policy No. 6 - School Year 2015 - 2016 at [Administrative Policy No. 6](#)<sup>iii</sup>.
- 9) Civil Rights - For important information on civil rights compliance requirements for participation in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Afterschool Snack and Special Milk Programs, please see Administrative Policy No. 7 – School Year 2015- 2016 at [Administrative Policy No. 7](#)<sup>iv</sup>.

For those attending the SNAM conference, I will see you there. For the others, I hope you have a great week.

*Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS*

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“Nourishing Michigan’s Future”

*Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education – helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.*

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<sup>i</sup> <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin\\_Policy\\_5\\_500623\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Policy_5_500623_7.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin\\_Policy\\_6\\_500629\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Policy_6_500629_7.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin\\_Policy\\_7\\_500630\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Policy_7_500630_7.pdf)