

Michigan Department of Education
News and Notes from School Nutrition Training and Programs
JANUARY 2009

Here is an update of what's happening:

New School Nutrition Trainings and Program Website

The School Nutrition Training and Programs unit is excited to announce the release of the School Nutrition Training and Programs Website at: www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition.

Local Educational Agency Review System (LEARS)-Verification Summary Report

The LEARS-Verification Summary Report will be available to enter verification data on January 15, 2009. The deadline to submit data will be March 1, 2009. LEARS is available at: www.michigan.gov/meis. Scroll down to the Child Nutrition Programs, and click on LEARS-Verification Summary Report. Questions regarding Verification or LEARS may be directed to: MDE-SFAVerificationReport@michigan.gov. Be sure to include the name of your school and/or agreement number, along with a phone number where you can be reached.

School Meals Initiative (SMI) Nutrition Standards

The Michigan SMI Nutrition Review standards and reporting documents have undergone a few revisions. Michigan will analyze the results of your review to determine how closely your program is meeting the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards and Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Depending upon the results of your review, recommendations may be made and/or a Corrective Action Plan will need to be developed. SMI Nutrition Review materials may be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-43092_50144-194548--,00.html.

Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Family Independence Program (FIP) Case Numbers

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is transitioning to a new computer system called *Bridges*. Food Assistance Program FAP (formerly Food Stamp Program) and Family Independence Program FIP case numbers will change. The new case numbers in *Bridges* will not contain alpha characters but only contain nine numbers. Participants will receive correspondence which will have their new case number.

To read more about *Bridges*, go to:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5453-196687--,00.html>.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program - Grant Update

Schools participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant for School Year (SY) 2007-08 were carried over a second year and will be participating in the 2008-09 FFVP grant. Applications for the 2009-10 FFVP grant will be available in late spring of 2009. All information about the 2009-10 grant application will be posted on our website at a later date.

For general information about the FFVP, go to: www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition. Click on Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

Michigan Department of Agriculture – Food Recall Alert Service

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has implemented a new food recall alert system, using text messaging (via mobile phones) or e-mail address accounts. Subscribers will receive information about foodborne illnesses and product recalls. Alerts will be sent when there are Class I food recalls. A Class I recall occurs when a product is deemed unsafe or unfit for human consumption.

For information about how to sign up for the food recall alert system, go to: www.michigan.gov/mda, click on Food Safety.