

**Michigan Department of Education (MDE)  
School Nutrition Training and Programs**

**NEWS AND NOTES  
October 2009**

**EXTENDING CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY TO ADDITIONAL CHILDREN IN A HOUSEHOLD**

Categorical eligibility is now applied to all students in a household if one student is directly certified or if an application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals is submitted with a Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) case number. A copy of the policy is available at

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/3\\_Ext\\_Categorical\\_Eligibility\\_292306\\_7.doc](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/3_Ext_Categorical_Eligibility_292306_7.doc).

**BRIDGES UPDATE**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has transitioned to a new computer system called Bridges. Food Assistance Program (FAP) (formerly Food Stamp Program) and Family Independence Program (FIP) case numbers have changed. The new case numbers in Bridges do not contain alpha characters, but only contain nine numbers. Participants should have received/will receive correspondence with their new case number. Applications that have the former alpha numeric case number are allowed through the 2009-2010 school year.

<https://www.mibridges.michigan.gov/access/>.

**DIRECT CERTIFICATION**

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265), amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require direct certification. Each Local Educational Agency (LEA) must directly certify children who are members of households receiving assistance under Food Assistance Program (FAP) (formerly Food Stamp Program) as eligible for free school meals, without further application, based on information provided in an electronic data file from the Department of Human Services (DHS). The direct certification requirement must be completed before each school year and applies to all LEAs that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

For more information, go to <http://www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition>.

- Scroll down to *Guidance*.
- Click on *Direct Certification*.
- Click on *Direct Certification for School Year 2009-10 Webcast (First Steps)* to assist you in completing the required student enrollment data upload process.

## **APPLICATION CARRY OVER OF PREVIOUS YEARS' ELIGIBILITY**

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) must carry over the eligibility status from the previous year for up to 30 days for any children from a household:

- with an approved application on file from the previous year.
- new to the LEA that was approved for benefits the previous year.
- previously approved and transferred from one school to another that is in the jurisdiction of the same LEA.

The carry over is for up to 30 operating days (beginning with the first day of school) into the current school year. This applies to direct certification, categorical eligibility determinations, and income applications. However, the new eligibility determination supersedes the carry over eligibility. More information about processing applications for school meals is available on the USDA website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/notices/iegs/EligibilityManual.pdf>.

## **CLAIMS INFORMATION**

USDA regulations require that Claims for Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk, and Afterschool Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs, be submitted to the MDE within 60 days of the last day of the month claimed. For more information and dates, visit [www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition).

- Click on Administrative Policy Memos.
- Click on Administrative Policy No. 2, SY 2009-2010, Claim Submission 60 Day Deadline Schedule and Late Claim Exception Options.

## **AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS**

Schools that have an Afterschool Snack Program and qualify as area eligible (>50% enrollment are eligible for free and reduced price lunch) may provide an afterschool snack to any student in the building. A tally sheet to collect an accurate point of service meal count must be used. Snacks may also be given to students participating in athletics. However, specifically conducting the afterschool snack program for athletic teams is still prohibited. [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-43092\\_50144-194517--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-43092_50144-194517--,00.html).

## **2009-2010 SEASONAL FLU AND H1N1**

The most current information about H1N1 2009-2010 Flu season is available at the Centers for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm>.

Click on the 2009-2010 Flu Season located in the purple box on the right side of the screen. Selected topics listed are:

- Influenza: The Disease
- What To Do If You Get Sick
- What's New and Updated

Free resources such as brochures, fact sheets, articles, posters, stickers, media toolkits, e-cards, badges, and buttons can be downloaded from the website (paper versions are not available), as well as podcasts, videos, and public service announcements.

## **TRAINING**

School Nutrition Association of Michigan 2009 Annual Conference & Trade Show

*Put Pride In Your Stride  
October 16-18, 2009  
The Lansing Center*

Registration through SNAM online at: <http://www.michigansna.org/>.

## **NEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING MILK SUBSTITUTION FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL OR SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS (NON-DISABILITY)**

For more information, go to the USDA website:

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2009/SP\\_35-2009\\_os.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2009/SP_35-2009_os.pdf)

## **GARDENS GIVEN A BOOST BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

There are thousands of community gardens around the country and more are being organized. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established a "People's Garden" at its headquarters building in Washington, D.C. that provides sustainable landscaping and educational information as well as fresh food for the homeless. Resources available to community gardens through USDA include grants and on-site technical assistance.

USDA recently clarified that school food service funds may be used to purchase seeds for school gardens. Such funds may also be devoted to starting and maintaining gardens on school property and schools are allowed to purchase produce from the gardens. Guidance information on school gardens may be viewed at [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2009/SP\\_32-2009\\_os.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2009/SP_32-2009_os.pdf).

## **KNOW YOUR FARMER, KNOW YOUR FOOD**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced a new initiative, "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food," (KYF2) led by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan. According to the Department, this initiative is the focus of a task force with representatives from agencies across USDA who will help better align the Department's efforts to build stronger local and regional food systems. "Americans are more interested in food and agriculture than at any other time since most families left the farm," said Merrigan. 'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' seeks to focus that conversation on supporting local and regional food systems to strengthen American agriculture by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and spurring economic opportunity in rural communities." Check out the KYF2 website at

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/knowyourfarmer?navid=KNOWYOURFARMER>.