

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 1:54 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Tuesday News from MDE 020712

A new month with some new information. Following up on last week, we will start with the new meal pattern:

- 1) New Meal Pattern – Last week I sent out quite a bit of information regarding the requirements of the new meal pattern. While we have not received any additional information, I was recorded presenting the same United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) PowerPoint that they used to inform all of the state agencies. Before you watch and listen to the presentation, be sure to print out the following materials:
 - a. The new meal pattern - <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/dietaryspecs.pdf>.
 - b. Comparison of the old and new meal pattern - <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/comparison.pdf>.
 - c. Questions and answers - www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SP10-2012sNew_Meal_375324_7.pdf.
 - d. Timeline - http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/implementation_timeline.pdf.

Lastly, here is the link to the actual recording of the videotape – http://www.mistreamnet.com/vidflv.php?who=mde.nutrition.final_rule.020712.

It is an hour long and covers a lot of information. If you print out the above information and listen to the PowerPoint presentation, you will have all of the information we have at this point. I am sure in the near future we will be forwarding you additional information.

- 2) LEARS – Very IMPORTANT. The Local Educational Agency Review System (LEARS) Verification Summary Report will open Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Please note, the deadline for completing the LEARS report is still **March 1, 2012**. The web-based LEARS Verification Summary Report is available at www.michigan.gov/meis. Scroll down to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) and click on LEARS-Verification Summary Report. The data you need to complete the LEARS report are from the outcome of the verification activities you completed in November 2011.

Important reminders about the LEARS report: Part I, Question 4 has been modified. Part I, Question 4 has the addition of 4-0, Column A. This area has been prepopulated with information about all students eligible for free meals via Direct Certification as of October 31, 2011. **You will not be able to change this number.**

However, you will be able to add more students in Part I, Question 4-1, Column A. This may include students such as:

- Children that are directly certified and not on the list.
- Foster children.
- Runaway and homeless children.

The number you put in Part I, 4-1, Column A must be greater than the number prepopulated in Part I, 4-0, A. If the number in Part I, 4-1, Column A is less than the prepopulated number in Part I, 4-0, Column A you will receive an error message and will not be able to certify the report until it is corrected.

If you have any additional questions, please refer to the Food Service Administrative Policy No. 5 School Year 2011-2012-Verification of Eligibility for School Meals at

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/5_Verification_of_Eligibility_for_School_Meals_367308_7.pdf, call 517-373-3347, or e-mail MDE-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

- 3) Michelle Obama – Attached is a letter sent from First Lady Michelle Obama to all food service professionals and partners. Please read and share with your staff.

Well, some additional news. This will be the last Tuesday News from MDE for a few weeks. The doctor says I need a new hip so I am going IN for surgery to get one. In the meantime, the School Nutrition unit will still send out important information on a timely basis but you won't be getting some of my comments for awhile. I will try my best to keep up on School Nutrition while recovering and return as soon as possible. Take care.

Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS
Supervisor
School Nutrition Programs
Michigan Department of Education
517-373-3892
517-373-4022 Fax

Looking for information on local schools? Go to www.michigan.gov/mischooldata.

THE WHITE HOUSE

January 27, 2012

Dear School Professionals, Teachers, Food Service Directors, Operators, and School Chefs:

Recently I joined USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to announce the finalization of our Nation's groundbreaking new school lunch standards, which means that nearly 32 million American children will get more of the healthy foods they need. It was a historic day. And I wanted to write you all because we couldn't have made it to this day without you.

Every day, you all are on the front lines on the issues of child nutrition and child hunger. You're dealing with tight budgets, limited resources, and more responsibilities. Yet you pour your heart and soul into your work to make sure that your students learn and grow in both the classroom and the lunchroom. I've seen it first-hand, all across the country. Everywhere I go, I meet school chefs, administrators, teachers, and parents, who are coming up with new and creative ways to make the meals they serve even healthier. Leaders like you are adding more fruits and vegetables to meals, shifting to whole grains, and incorporating salad bars into cafeterias.

And I want you to know that the new standards build upon all of your efforts, and they'll help support even more of your good work. That's been our goal since we started *Let's Move!* – to bring all the best ideas from every sector of this country together to help folks find solutions that work for their communities.

While we've made a lot of progress in the past two years, there is much work ahead. But I know that if everyone – parents, business leaders, public officials, and community leaders like you – does their part, then we can ensure that all of our children can grow up healthy and pursue their dreams.

Tuesday, we took a big step toward achieving that. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to finish the job.

Michelle Obama