

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 4:18 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Tuesday News from MDE 100411

Here is my attempt to get back on track with Tuesday News. Let's get started:

- 1) School Breakfast Program Outreach – Here are some points of clarification in relation to this part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA):
 - RCCIs that are operating a breakfast program are required to participate in the outreach effort.
 - The initial notification of the availability of school breakfast must be in writing.
 - Simply sending out the breakfast menu to households is not considered “household notification” as other information such as location, time, and price must be included.
 - During CRE Reviews, the Analysts will ask for documentation of this outreach effort. The Michigan Department of Education may expand this monitoring in the future.
- 2) Categorical Eligibility of Foster Children – For clarification, if a foster child is directly certified as eligible for free meals due to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, then the school can categorize the child as directly certified SNAP and not as a foster child, and then the rest of the children in that household would also be eligible for free meals. Whether as a foster child or as a directly certified SNAP beneficiary, the child is a member of that household. As a foster child there would be no extension of that child's eligibility to the other children in the household; however, as directly certified or with a SNAP number on an application, that child's eligibility would extend to the other children in the household.
- 3) *Eligibility Manual for School Meals* – As a result of a recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) call, we learned that an updated *Eligibility Manual for School Meals* will be available soon without any exact date given.
- 4) National School Lunch Week – It's next week! I would love to hear of any stories of the efforts made to advertise/celebrate this special week.
- 5) We Shall See – As a follow up to last week's News, I was told the article I was interviewed for would likely show up in Sunday's paper....it did not. It still may show up and will let you know how it was “spun.” From what I understand, it is supposed to be on childhood obesity.

For this week, I will stop here. I have some topics left but I need to get the right answers before I address them. Have a great week!

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