

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 9:00 AM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Tuesday News from MDE 111511

I made it back home on Sunday from the School Nutrition Association of Michigan Conference in Traverse City. It was a great conference with great attendance and a lot of great information. Here is the news:

- 1) School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) – It seems timely to make a pitch to all of you to consider joining SNAM. In fact, not just directors, but your hourly staff as well. SNAM offers a variety of courses during the year that will be valuable for both you and your staff. It is also a great resource for school meals information as well as a wonderful opportunity to network with other school food service professionals. SNAM has a variety of courses that can be brought to your district (or ISD) as long as there are enough participants. As a member of SNAM, you will also be a member of the School Nutrition Association (SNA), the national arm of the organization. You will, however, need to pay both state and national dues. If you are not a current member of SNAM but have considered it, this would be a great time to join with all that is going on in the school food service industry. The following is a link to SNAM: <http://michigansna.org/>. Membership is an allowable expense from the district nonprofit foodservice account.
- 2) Eligibility Manual – A couple of weeks ago, I informed you that the new *Eligibility Manual for School Meals* was available online. I thought it was important to pass on the additional information that the version which highlights the changes to the manual will be available only for a limited time (a total of 30 days which leaves only a few days). Here are the links to both versions: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/guidance/EliMan.pdf> (unhighlighted) and http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/guidance/EliMan_h.pdf (with the changes highlighted). I found the version with highlights very helpful at pointing out the important changes. At the SNAM conference, the change that received the most reaction *was* that there are no longer “temporary” application approvals. Once the status of a household is determined, it is effective for the entire school year.
- 3) New Meal Pattern – Just today, I have seen two news articles on legislation that could potentially have significant impact on the new meal pattern. At this point, I still think it is too early to speculate on what the final meal pattern will be until the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) actually issues the final rule. We have had indications that this could happen toward the end of December but that could change. As soon as we have solid information on this topic that is of interest to all of us, we will pass it on. In the meantime, it appears we will need to wait for the process to work its way through USDA and/or the Legislature.
- 4) Produce Safety Webinar – DEADLINE ALERT - This webinar is Wednesday, November 16. Sorry for the short notice but thought you still might like to know about it. Here are the details - on Wednesday, November 16 at 2:00 pm EST, the School Nutrition Foundation will be hosting a FREE webinar in

partnership with USDA FNS Office of Food Safety, entitled: "Addressing Food Safety in School Produce Purchasing." In this webinar, a USDA expert will discuss procurement requirements, including the geographic preference rule. State experts will explain how to incorporate food safety, including Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and liability insurance, into produce purchases. Learn from success stories in other districts including a local foodservice director who will discuss her district's food safety requirements for local farms and distributors. To register, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/producepurchasing. SNA members will earn one CEU for attending the webinar. The webinar is FREE to all.

Hope you find at least some of this information helpful. Be sure that we will keep you posted on reauthorization news.

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.