

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2013 1:55 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Weekly News from MDE 042513

I am in Chicago for a three-day conference explaining the new Administrative Review (CRE). Following is some news from Chicago and other important news:

1. Farm to School Census - One more reminder to complete the USDA Farm to School Census. All the data collected will be available to you to run your own analyses so I do hope you'll join us in pushing for a high response rate.
Beyond your efforts to promote the Census, soon USDA will start calling non-responders to encourage them to complete the Census. Between your email reminders and our personal phone calls, we should cross the 50% mark in the next few weeks. Thank you. As always, any questions, please don't hesitate to let me or Katherine Ralston (kralston@ers.usda.gov) know.
2. Fruit Juice Crediting - Please see the attached label. USDA has been working with this company for several months to assist with crediting as they are selling this product to schools. The wording on their labels in no way indicates that their product is 100% juice when reconstituted. However, it is still being marketed as though it is creditable toward the reimbursable meal. Just wanted everyone to be aware that labels for 100% juice/juice products should not include language such as "drink concentrate," "beverage," and "contains 100% juice." This item may be used for a la carte sales at SA and SFA discretion. Please be sure your schools understand 100% juice labeling.
3. New "CRE" Update - It has been a day and a half so far of listening to the changes for the new Administrative Review. While it is not possible to describe all of the changes in the Weekly News I can give you some idea of the general direction of the reviews. Here are some "highlights":
 - a) Off Site Review - We will be completing various aspects of the review PRIOR to the actual on-site visit. It will be a collaborative effort with work required of MDE and sponsors. The work done off site will assist us in determining how to proceed on-site.
 - b) Transition Year - At the conclusion of the school year, SFAs will have had more than a year preparing for and implementing the New Meal Pattern. When the new review system begins next year, the review will largely be based on the assumption that schools have taken the necessary steps to come into compliance with the new Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) guidance. While State Agencies are given options for various non-compliance issues, important changes (such as students taking the 1/2 cup of fruit/vegetable) will need to be in place. We are planning EXTENSIVE training on the new review system. It will begin at our May 7-8 training where we will briefly touch on the topics. At our June conference, our opening session on Thursday, June 27, will be about the new Administrative Review. In addition, our compliance area has already planned several

training sessions for next fall for all SFAs scheduled for a review next year. I will follow up next week if there are additional topics you should be aware of.

c) Stay the Same - Much of the new review covers the same topics as always.... free/reduced applications, meal patterns, Offer vs Serve, food safety, civil rights, etc. However, the forms and review methodology has changed for some of these things but the general objective remains the same.

d) Not the Same - SMIs are not part of the HHFKA but the nutrient content of your meals will be assessed as part of the administrative review. There will also be a Resource Management (Financials) review section which will be new although many of the topics are the same....PLE, Non-Program Foods, etc. but there will be requests for additional information.

4. Help Me While Helping Yourself - So far we have a lot vacancies for both our May 7-8 - School Meals Program Requirements Training and our June Nourishing Michigan's Future Conference. We've committed to good size groups as a result of the survey we sent out a while ago. We are always asked for training so, while yes it is May and June, I honestly believe you will find a lot of interesting information at both events. The June conference will close with a nationally recognized speaker. Important topics like the new breakfast meal pattern and the new CRE review process will be discussed. We want to CELEBRATE the fact that we are all "Nourishing Michigan's Future" and have the chance to give you helpful information and thank you for all your work. So COME ON!! SIGN UP!! I will beg if I have to!! Here is the link to register for both training sessions:
https://mdoe.state.mi.us/fs_registration/.
5. Video of the Week - Check out our Meeting the Challenge Stars: Beverly Gorecki, Mandy Sosnowski, and David Rose talk about how they get student involvement in their programs at the following link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_OvdzTrMe0&feature=share&list=PLaqD6X6pQgmLVoTVTbnzSmrmfmFdDp8HI
6. Smarter Lunchrooms - Through a Michigan Team Nutrition grant, all attendees at upcoming consortia trainings (GLC, SPARC, MOR) will receive a \$40 gift card to purchase "smarter lunchroom" marketing materials from the following site (<http://michigan.mysmarterlunchroom.com/>). Don't forget to send your smarter lunchroom pictures to the Team Nutrition staff at drzaln@michigan.gov, they will post them on the Team Nutrition facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganTeamNutrition>.
7. Farm to School Grant Program for 2013-2014 - The MI Farm to School Grant Program offers **Planning** and **Implementation** grants:

Planning Grants help schools/districts and early child care and education programs plan for integrating local foods into their meal programs AND

ultimately develop a Farm to School Action Plan to begin a Farm to School program.

Implementation Grants help schools/districts and early child care and education programs put existing Farm to School plans into action AND ultimately develop a Farm to School Sustainability Plan to keep the program going and growing in future years.

Eligibility requirements:

- Only food service/nutrition directors/providers of schools/districts or early child care and education programs are eligible to apply.
- Schools/districts and early child care and education programs must have at least 50% free and reduced-price meal enrollment or equivalent.
- The MI Farm to School Grant Program will award up to 20 Michigan K-12 schools/districts and early child care and education programs with funds (\$2,000 maximum each) to plan for or implement Farm to School programs. The grant year is September 3, 2013 – June 6, 2014.

Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, May 10, 2013.

Informational webinars for prospective applicants will be held on April 22, 2013 at 10am and 3pm on April 25. To join a webinar, log in at the appointed time to: http://msucrfs.adobeconnect.com/mi_fts/. Dial in: (888) 394 8197 (CODE 405500).

For applications and additional information, please visit the Michigan Farm to School website, www.mifarmtoschool.msu.edu under the "Grants" tab. Feel free to contact the MI Farm to School Grant Program Coordinator, Anne Scott, at scottann@msu.edu or 517-353-0751 with any questions.

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