

**From:** Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** MDE-SchoolNutrition  
**Subject:** Weekly News from MDE 111512

I know it has been longer than a week (maybe 2!) but it has been a bit crazy....something I know a lot of you can identify with. Wednesday I gave a speech at MSU and then headed to the SNAM conference in Traverse City. On the way to TC, hit a deer....I'm fine, car and deer are not. Returned from the conference Sunday, so Monday, a state holiday, I'm out getting the car checked out for repairs. But now, back to work. I was at the SNAM for the entire pre-conference and conference. While I heard a lot of concern related to such things as plate waste, 6 Cent Certification, the new meal pattern, and grain/meat maximums, for the most part, they were not new issues to me but issues that obviously still need to be communicated to USDA. It would have been interesting having a high level USDA employee at some of the meetings I was in. Having said that, this week's news will hopefully clarify some of the issues still out there and also provide some new information. Get a cup of coffee (or a low fat milk) and read:

- 1) It Will Be OK.... – In just about all the meetings that I was one of the presenters at the SNAM conference, I had to repeat and emphasize how this year is a transition year and both MDE and USDA are going to be flexible with schools as we make the necessary changes to come into compliance with the New Meal Pattern for lunch. Please understand I cannot tell you not to follow the law! However, having said that, I can say it is understandable how it may take some time to come into compliance.
  1. Start by at least offering a variety of fruits and vegetables including subgroups, whole grain foods, and make sure students take a fruit/vegetable for a reimbursable meal. A good faith effort to make these changes is a good start.
  2. **There is no deadline for 6 Cent Certification!!** I know it is a MONSTER!! The way it works is you can submit a week menu for any month this school year. If for example, you submit a week of December menus by the end of the next month (January), once approved, it will be retroactive to December 1. This applies to any month. You could submit December menus in December and it would be retroactive to December 1. I know it is a major project but it does not need to be done yesterday!! So actually, you could apply say in May using April's menu if you wanted and once approved it would be retroactive to April 1. The downside to waiting is you will miss the 6 Cents for all of the prior months. And, as an FYI, if you don't complete the certification in School Year 2013, you move to the top of the list for potential Administrative Review (what was called CRE) for School Year 2014.
  3. Use USDA Foods even if using those products put you over the weekly grains/meat/calorie maximums. For the 6 Cent

Certification, put in the correct size portions and calories to make the menu in compliance, not the actual portions and calories if you are still using up your USDA Foods.

4. The staff here at MDE will be doing Verification Reviews on 25% of the sponsors submitting the 6 Cent Application. Our focus during these reviews will be training and technical assistance, if needed. We will not be looking to be punitive or for ways to take funds from your program. With that said, needless to say, errors like just plain not offering milk or poor Point of Service count systems, could lead to fiscal action. Do Not Panic. We want to work with all of you to make sure progress is being made in achieving the goals of the new meal pattern.
  5. As I said, it is important to note, I cannot and will not tell you to ignore the laws under the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. It WOULD NOT be a good plan to ignore the law. However, I will repeat a past riddle "How do you eat an elephant?"....."One spoonful at a time." We do not expect everyone to be in compliance on day one but we do want to see good faith efforts in meeting the new standards. We will work with you to help make it happen. We will not be out to be punitive. Submit 6 Cent when ready and able.
  6. The question of fruits and vegetables on a salad bar has come up and schools are wondering if they should put, for example, 2 cups fruit at a high school where there is no limit on the quantities of fruits or vegetables. My recommendation in cases like this is to put in the 6 Cent application the 1 cup of fruit as some students will take more and some less. You are planning on serving a cup and if some choose more or less it will work out.
  7. Here is some good news – both MDE and UDSDA are both still listening. In our communications with USDA, they support a flexible approach and they are still asking us for feedback on the challenges facing the implementation of the new meal pattern. Will there be any changes? I can't speak to that at this point. The first week of December I will be attending a conference near Washington D.C. where I will be able to communicate directly with USDA staff about the challenges instead of just email or voicemail. I will communicate any important, pertinent information from that meeting.
- 2) The SNAM Conference – I don't know about the other attendees, but I had a great time at the conference. It was great presenting, listening to all of the concerns related to our business, and meeting all of the school food professionals. Thank you to all that said "Hi" to me and introduced yourself. Whether presenting, attending a session, or "networking", I learn something at each year's conference. Thanks to all the dedicated people at SNAM for making the conference possible. This year nearly the entire School Nutrition Programs (along with other Child Nutrition) staff attended so it was a great chance for them and for directors to put names

and faces together. It also provided opportunities for many questions to be asked and answered.

- 3) Where Did It Go!!?? – I understand MEGS+ is acting up again. For those of you that have submitted your 6 Cent Certification, my understanding is the application disappears from the list of applications you can access once you submit. Until the issue can be fixed in MEGS+, you can check to make sure your application is in by going into MEGS+, click on Quick Search at the top of the web site page, choose CNP: School Nutrition Programs – 6 Cent Certification, type in your district name or agreement number, and hit Search. It should show up. You should also be aware that if you have submitted your application more than a week ago, by the end of the week, you should hear from the Analyst that has been assigned your application. This process will continue throughout.
- 4) “Innocent Information” – I don’t want the field to be afraid of contacting MDE to get the answer to a question that may implicate their program as not being in compliance. I would prefer you ask us the question so we can tell you the right way to do something. I do not use what I call innocent information, to initiate, for example, a CRE Review. My preference would be for you to ask the question so you can do the correct thing so at the next regularly scheduled Review, it will be a non-issue. Now there are some circumstances where I would have to act – fraud, for example – but for the usual type of technical assistance questions we get, we are glad to give you the right answer.....it’s best for all of us.
- 5) Your Administration – At the SNAM conference, it was brought up that many Superintendents and Business Managers do not understand what a challenging year it is and why it may be difficult to complete all of the changes. The time involved in completing the 6 Cent Certification process was specifically mentioned. Attached, I have completed a memo directed to your administrators. Many administrators that are listed in your MEGS+ application will automatically get this email but if yours does not, please feel free to use the memo at your discretion. I know it is a challenging year.
- 6) Survey Results – Thank you all that participated in the survey I sent out in my last Weekly News!! We had over 350 completions so it was an excellent response. To let you know, from the survey, we were asked by USDA to send the top 5 concerns. Marla Moss and I selected the following issues:
  1. The complexity of the 6 cent certification process.
  2. The costs of the additional fruits and vegetables.
  3. Significant increase in the amount of food wasted.
  4. Developing menus that meet all of the different requirements of the new meal pattern and finding appropriate food products that meet the new meal pattern requirements.

5. At secondary schools, students perceiving they are not getting the portion sizes or calories needed to get them through the day. If you want to see a summary of all the results, click on this link: [https://www.research.net/sr.aspx?sm=sql\\_2ffxotXNm0oZoA2ebmPwPxFJJYHkf\\_2fLLwBc8DcDgE\\_3d](https://www.research.net/sr.aspx?sm=sql_2ffxotXNm0oZoA2ebmPwPxFJJYHkf_2fLLwBc8DcDgE_3d)
- 7) Allergy Information – We receive frequent inquiries on how to handle allergy issues for students. For great allergy information and tips to manage allergies in the school setting, go to <http://www.foodallergy.org/page/food-allergy--anaphylaxis-network-guidelines>.
- 8) Success Stories - We know you're doing great things to provide healthy meals to your students. Let social media help you promote and share those great things by Joining the Conversation. Join the Conversation is a Michigan Team Nutrition effort to celebrate the success of programs like yours. This is an opportunity to share success stories, recipes, or photos with other programs in the state. Michigan Team Nutrition will also be holding online Facebook competitions throughout 2013 and 2014 to showcase the successful things you're doing. In order to participate, you have to "like" Michigan Team Nutrition on Facebook! Our goal is for every director to appoint at least one member of your team to be the social media lead by January 1, 2013. Then:
- Become a Team Nutrition school: <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/team.html>
  - Like Michigan Team Nutrition on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/michiganteamnutrition](http://www.facebook.com/michiganteamnutrition)
  - Follow Michigan Team Nutrition on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/TeamNutritionMI>
  - Subscribe to the Michigan Team Nutrition YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/miteamnutrition1](http://www.youtube.com/user/miteamnutrition1)
- 9) 6 Cent Certification Uploading – We are hearing schools are having challenges in uploading the required documents for the 6 cent certification process. To help you with this issue, attached is a memo describing the process along with screen shots. I hope this helps in addressing this issue with the time consuming 6 cent process.
- 10) Champions for Healthy Kids Grant - Through the Champions for Healthy Kids program, the General Mills Foundation will award 50 grants of \$10,000 to organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth (ages 2-18). SPARK is a model program for this grant and can provide the resources you need to promote physical activity and healthy eating.
- Eligibility: Schools, after school programs, daycares, community-based organizations & government agencies
  - Award Amount: \$10,000
  - Deadline: December 3, 2012

Next Steps:

1. Click on the following link for more information and to access the grant application.

[http://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/community\\_engagement/Grants/Champions\\_for\\_healthy\\_kids.aspx](http://www.generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/community_engagement/Grants/Champions_for_healthy_kids.aspx)

2. Contact SPARK at 1-800-SPARK PE or [spark@sparkpe.org](mailto:spark@sparkpe.org). A Program Consultant will ask you a few questions, learn about your current program, and listen to your vision for improving nutrition and physical fitness behaviors in your program. Together, we'll create a program that will WORK and LAST.

Good luck!

- 11) Showcase of Chefs – Here is a wonderful opportunity for your staff to participate in a fun and informative seminar. If you are even contemplating being a HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) school, please read the attached document.
- 12) Farm to School News - National Farm to School Network has developed a new fact sheet, "Farm to School: A Tool for Success with New Nutrition Standards." I have provided a link below to the downloadable version of this fact sheet. Please feel free to share this resource widely. The fact sheet may be accessed via the following link:  
[http://www.farmentoschool.org/files/publications\\_493.pdf](http://www.farmentoschool.org/files/publications_493.pdf).

Think that's enough for this edition of the News. Sorry this has been so long. You are probably on your second low fat milk by this time. Let me know how things are going out there.

*Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS*

Supervisor  
School Nutrition Programs  
Michigan Department of Education  
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RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

November 15, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: School Administrators

From: Howard Leikert, Supervisor, School Nutrition Programs *HL*

Subject: School Meal Programs and the 6 Cent Certification Process

As you are likely aware, the new school year has brought about significant changes in your school meal programs. These changes are a result of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) of 2010 signed by President Obama in October of 2010. The intent of the HHFKA is to address the worthy dual issues of low food security and childhood obesity. I have been in school foodservice since 1978, and the changes being implemented in your schools this year are by far the most significant of my career. Whenever change occurs, there is a transition period that can be challenging for all involved. I am proud to report how the school food service professionals across the state are working hard to provide healthier meals for your students under difficult circumstances. It is very challenging to meet the customer (students!) preferences while still providing meals that meet the new requirements. Meeting the new requirements may very well need to be a "project in process" in your district as immediate compliance with all the new regulations could be problematic. We are committed to working to help and support your food service program. Our strong preference is to be supportive with training and technical assistance while avoiding being punitive whenever possible.

One of the most challenging aspects of the program is the 6 Cent Certification process. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed the assessment tool in order to allow schools to receive an additional 6 cents in reimbursement for each lunch served. The Excel spreadsheet USDA developed is very large and complex. In addition, there is a significant amount of information your food service directors will need to compile and calculate in order to complete this spreadsheet. Without direct assistance, it will likely be a long and time consuming process for your food service director. If this process has already been completed, that is GREAT! If it has not been completed, it still may take some time and I would urge support of the person(s) asked to complete this complex process.

Changes in the school meal programs have been significant. The goals are worthy. Over time, the benefits to our children, your community, and society will be significant. I ask for your support in promoting the program changes designed to improve the health of the students we serve. In addition, I ask for your support of the School Food Service staff working hard to make these changes a reality. All of the changes may not happen today or even within a few months but good faith efforts in achieving these goals will be beneficial to all involved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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## How to Upload the 6 Cents Certification Worksheets and Corresponding Menus

The upload is done on the Completed School Breakfast / Lunch Certification Workbook and Menu page of the application.



The upload is a 3 part process and all three steps must be completed prior to hitting the save button. All the steps appear at the top of the page.

### **COMPLETED SCHOOL BREAKFAST/LUNCH CERTIFICATION WORKBOOK AND MENU**

1. Provide a title for this set of attachments you are about to save.
2. This set requires two attachments:
  - Completed School Breakfast/Lunch Certification Workbook (Allowed formats: \*.xls, \*.xlsx)
  - Complimenting Menu.
3. Upload the required attachments by clicking the "Browse" button.
4. Click the "Save" Button.
5. To add another set of attachments, click "Add" and repeat steps 1 through 5.
6. On saving multiple sets, use the Page Title drop-down on this form to navigate between the sets. You set name and click 'go' to navigate to that set.
7. To delete a particular set, navigate to that specific set using the Page Title drop-down on this page and button.
8. Note: You can delete a set that has not been reviewed.

First in part one you need to name the set of documents. This should be as clear as possible to make the review process smooth. So for example, let's say you are uploading middle school breakfast. In step 1 the name could be Middle School 6-8 Breakfast.

Middle School 6-8 Brakfast

finalbrkfst

\* 1. Provide a title for this attachment set:

Next, immediately proceed down to Step 2 (do not hit the save button yet). In Step 2 you will hit the "Browse" button and find where you save the Excel Worksheet for 6-8 breakfast. Once you find it, click on the name of the document and hit "Open". The file name should then appear in the box.

**2. Completed School Breakfast/Lunch Certification Documents (Formats: \*.xls, \*.xlsx)**

Upload your attachment here:

206198-FINAL-2REVISED(K-12)6CentCert.Breakfast(Week10-8).XLS

Then proceed to Step 3 (again do not hit the save button) and click on the browse button. This time you will find where you save the corresponding 6-8 breakfast menu. Once you find it, click on the name of the document and hit "Open". The file name should then appear in the box.

**3. Completed Corresponding Menu**

Upload your attachment here:

206198-FINAL-2REVISED-OCTBREAKFASTMENU(k-12).DOCX

Once Steps 1-3 are completed for a set of documents, you can then hit the save button in the grey bar at the top of the page.

Then to add another set of documents, you will hit the "add" button in the grey bar at the top of the page and complete the above steps again. You will continue the process until all of the sets of documents appear in the drop down box at the top of the page.

Quick Links: [View/Edit](#) | [Change Status](#) | [Management Tools](#) | [Examine Related Items](#) | [View Comments](#)

Application: FY 2013 - CNP: School Nutrition Program - 6 Cents Certification | Status: Approve Pending Certification | Security Level: Not Assigned

Created By: 8/27/2012 1:41:52 PM

**COMPLETED SCHOOL BREAKFAST/LUNCH CERTIFICATION WORKBOOK**

1. Provide a title for this set of attachments you are about to save.
2. This set requires two attachments:
  - Completed School Breakfast/Lunch Certification Workbook (Allowed formats: \*.xls, \*.xlsx)
  - Complimenting Menu.

Page Title: 6-8 breakfast 
  
 6-8 breakfast
 

- 9-12 breakfast AHS
- 9-12 breakfast Republic
- K-5 breakfast
- Lunch 6-8 Oct. wk.#3
- Lunch 9-12 AHS Oct. wk.#3
- Lunch 9-12 Republic School Oct. 2012 Wk. #3
- Lunch K-5 Oct. wk. #3

## Michigan's School Day Just Got Healthier – Showcase of Chefs!

### 1) November 29 at Jackson Northwest High School starting at 7:00 a.m.

**Address: 4200 Van Horn Rd  
Jackson, MI 49201  
Phone: (517) 817-4701**

### 2) December 6 at Bay City Western High/Middle School starting at 7:00 a.m.

**Address: 500 W. Midland Rd  
Auburn, MI 48611  
Phone: (989) 662-4481**

Each training is open to 1 (one) cook from an individual school building that has not submitted a HUSSC application in the past. There are 8 slots available for each training and will be filled on a first-come, first served basis. Priority will be given to school buildings that plan to submit a HUSSC application during SY 2012-2013 and agree to the following Expected Training Requirements.

#### Expected Training Requirements:

- 1) Cooks will be paired with a host cook. Each cook pair will be assigned a recipe (or two) that will be made for lunch that day. Please bring a French knife & cutting board.
- 2) Each cook pair will be expected to follow each recipe through from preparation to holding to serving; including seeking student feedback on the product(s)
- 3) Each cook will be required to *actively and positively promote* the "Michigan's School Day Just Got Healthier" message while serving and seeking student input
- 4) Each cook will then be required to return to their own building and share their experience with their manager/director and peers
- 5) Each cook will agree to have their experience chronicled by the Michigan Team Nutrition staff for future success stories and/or social media posts about the event

Each of the 8 selected participants will receive a copy of all recipes prepared that day, lunch, and travel reimbursement.

#### Trainings will include such information as:

1. Incorporating dips into the menu for increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables
2. Seasonings/developing flavor for increased student participation
3. Kitchen efficiency for maintaining food quality and acceptability (holding, batch cooking, serving of healthier products, etc.)
4. Assembly bars for faster service (salads, sandwiches, bowls, etc.)
5. Adult promotion of the "Michigan's School Day Just Got Healthier" – how to build bridges so all kitchen/school staff are promoting the great things happening in school meals

If you or one of your cooks would like to be one of the selected 8 for a "Michigan's School Day Just Got Healthier" training event, please send the following information to Diane Golzynski at [GolzynskiD@michigan.gov](mailto:GolzynskiD@michigan.gov) ASAP:

Training date/location  
Name of attendee  
School Building  
School Building address & school phone number  
Attendee phone number where can be reached if a last minute emergency should arise

Please remember that by attending, your building is agreeing to submit a HUSSC application during SY 2012-2013 and that you will adhere to the Expected Training Requirements noted above.

Thank you for all that you do on a daily basis!