STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

August 29, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Mike Flanagan, State Superintendent

SUBJECT: At-Risk After School Snack/Supper Program

Today's students face difficult challenges on their path to educational success. Poor diet, lack of opportunities for movement, difficult home situations, too much television, drugs, sexual behaviors, and stress are obstacles our students must overcome to achieve academic excellence.

Many students go home to an empty cupboard and absent parents. Their food needs are great, but the resources are minimal or non-existent. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk After School Snack/Supper program could be a stop-gap measure. What child wouldn't want something to eat immediately after the school day? Students who participate in the CACFP At-Risk After School Snack/Supper program receive healthy snacks and/or balanced suppers.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act authorized the service of afterschool meals through the At-Risk After School component of the CACFP in all states. As another option, School Food Authorities (SFAs) can also participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) afterschool snack program with the flexibilities and streamlined requirements for participation noted below.

MDE encourages schools to apply for one of these programs today. Your school's participation can support children by providing them a safe environment, constructive activities, and snacks or meals that will help them maximize their health.

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Agreements
SFAs in good standing that already have an agreement with the Michigan Department of Education to administer a Child Nutrition Program, such as the National School Lunch Program, are required only to sign an addendum to the existing agreement.

Certifications, Training, Meal Pattern, and Monitoring
The SFA may go into their NSLP application in the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) and apply for the CACFP At Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper Program or the NSLP Afterschool Snack Program. Site information, meal pattern, enrichment activities, and certifications specific to either program can be easily entered in the respective portion of the Michigan Education Information System (MEIS) website at www.michigan.gov/meis.

When school is out and parents are still at work, these programs allow children to participate in a variety of enrichment activities, have opportunities for learning, and receive the nutrition they need to thrive all with supportive adults around them. Please see the USDA Fact Sheet attached on "The School Day Just Got Healthier."

For assistance with the application or more information, please contact the Michigan Department of Education's CACFP office at 517-373-7391.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

FACT SHEET: ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AND AFTERSCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

This paper provides some explanation and direction for States Agencies and School Food Authorities to use in discussions on providing afterschool meals and snacks to students participating in athletic programs.

- Schools have two options for serving nutritious food to children after the bell has rung: afterschool snacks offered through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and afterschool snacks and meals offered through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

- NSLP afterschool snacks are available to schools offering an afterschool educational and enrichment program. Schools located in low-income areas provide snacks free of charge. Schools which are not located in qualifying low-income areas may also participate. In these cases, reimbursement is provided at the free, reduced price, and paid levels.

- Alternatively, schools located in low-income areas also have the option of providing snacks and meals through the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the CACFP. These programs support educational and enrichment programs for children and youth, through age 18, in low-income neighborhoods by providing free meals and snacks.

- When school is out and parents are still at work, children need a safe place to be with their friends with structured activities and supportive adults. Afterschool programs that serve meals or snacks draw children and teenagers into constructive activities that are safe, fun, and filled with opportunities for learning. The meals and snacks give them the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow.

- Eligible afterschool programs:

    - Are located in the attendance area of a public school where at least 50 percent of the enrolled students are certified as eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

    - Provide educational or enrichment activities in an organized, structured, and supervised environment after the end of the school day, on weekends, or on holidays during the school year.

    - Are open to all children, and do not limit enrollment or membership on the basis of a child's ability. Programs designed to meet the special needs of enrolled children, such as programs for children with learning disabilities or children who are academically gifted, may also be eligible to participate.

- At-risk afterschool meals and snacks are ideal for programs that include supervised athletic activities, such as those typically sponsored by the Police Athletic League, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA.

- School districts are also well positioned to offer afterschool programs. There is significant flexibility in organizing such programs, and in the specific educational or enrichment activities that may be offered. For example, some programs may focus on homework and tutoring, while others offer activities including drama, chess, and physical activity.

- Programs may be targeted to specific age groups or may accommodate the needs of a wide variety of ages. Programs that provide meals to various age groups also must provide educational or enrichment activities for the various ages of the children served.

- Students who are part of school sports teams and clubs can receive afterschool snacks or meals as part of a broad, overarching educational or enrichment program offered by a school.

- Afterschool "drop in" programs are acceptable. There is no enrollment requirement, so individual student athletes who attend afterschool programs before or after team practices may receive meals and snacks.

- There is no requirement that the afterschool programs track the specific activities in which the children participate or document that the children participated in the offered activities. As long as appropriate educational or enrichment activities are provided, the site is eligible to serve meals to the children that attend the program.

- Go to these links for examples of successful afterschool programs that include service to student athletes:

    - http://www.dailymail.com/News/201209200282

    - http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57345857/high-school-football-team-battles-malnutrition/?tag=cbsContent;cbsCarousel