



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) News and Updates

September 22, 2021

New Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Resources

The [Seamless Summer Option and Waiver Overview for School Year 2022 \(Michigan-192\)](#) is now available. This is an excellent, free training that reviews all of the SSO requirements for School Year 2021-2022. The training takes about 30 minutes and can be applied toward annual professional standards training hours. If an access code is needed, use 1234. Please take the time to view this!

A [SSO Checklist](#) is also available. Use this checklist to ensure you are meeting all program requirements.

Adult Pricing Worksheet for School Year 2021-2022 For Sponsors operating NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) just received guidance from the USDA regarding adult meal pricing for Sponsors that will be operating the **NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in SY 2021-2022**. The Fiscal Monitoring Team is pleased to announce that the MDE Adult Pricing Worksheet is now complete with a pricing tab for SSO Sponsors which indicates the minimum required adult price for breakfast and lunch. Sponsors should use the MDE Adult Pricing Worksheet every summer prior to the first day of the new school year to ensure adult prices are set to achieve compliance for the Revenue from Non-program Foods pricing requirements

([SP20-2016](#)) in advance. Sponsors that are operating NSLP SSO are not required to complete the tool, only follow the price requirement.

The updated MDE Adult Pricing Worksheet can be found at [FAST-Resource Management Reviews \(michigan.gov\)](#) under the Revenue from Non-Program Foods section.

Please contact the Fiscal Monitoring Team at 517-241-5380 or MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov with any questions on the pricing worksheet and/or requirements.

Special Diets and Allergens

On July 1, FNS participated in the Institute for Child Nutrition's webinar: [Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens](#). During the webinar, FNS provided details about the upcoming GS1 GDSN initiative that will allow states and school districts to access vendor-specific nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information for USDA Foods in Schools. The webinar also featured the Director of National Programs at Food Allergy Research Education (FARE) and Angela Gomez, a nutritionist with the Laveen School District in Arizona, who discussed best practices for developing special diets. Register [here](#) to watch a full recording of the webinar today!

On August 5, FNS hosted a webinar: [Everything You Need to Know About GS1 GDSN! Accessing Nutrition, Allergen, and Ingredient Information for USDA Foods in Schools](#). During the webinar, FNS provided information on how states and school districts will soon be able to access vendor-specific nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information for USDA Foods in schools. FNS also provided details on where this information will be located and the timeline for implementation. Listen to the [webinar](#) today to learn more about this initiative!

Food Service Administrative Memos - School Year 2021-2022

For information on outreach to households on the availability of the School Breakfast Program, please see [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 2 - School Year 2021-2022](#).

For information on the required annual civil rights training reminder for participation in the School Nutrition Programs, please see [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 3 - School Year 2021-2022](#).

No Kid Hungry (NKH) Resources

Following are resources from NKH:

[Serving Remote Learners: Service Model Guide](#)

This guide outlines the steps school districts can take to determine the school or district's need for virtual student meal service, evaluating capacity to provide meals, and choose a service model(s) that best fits the community.

[Tips & Considerations For Serving Remote Learners](#)

This resource is a quick guide on how to implement meal service for remote learners and the tips and considerations you should have in mind when choosing a meal service model that fits the school community.

Milk Guidance

Milk is a required component in School Meals but when the supply chain is in turmoil, it can be easy to forget the basics. [All About Milk](#) provides a reminder of the regulations in the NSLP/SSO.

Upcoming Events

Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Tools and Strategies for Emergency Preparedness in Schools

When: Thursday, September 30, 2021

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET (2:00-3:00 pm CT)

Webinar registration link: [Webinar Registration](#)

Description: It's more important than ever that school nutrition operators are proactive. One should develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive emergency preparedness plans and procedures. Working with a response team to create such steps can help you cultivate effective action plans and strategies unique to your district and school. Join this webinar to hear strategies and tips on being proactive before an emergency occurs and knowing how to pivot by evaluating plans to resume operations.

Learning Objective(s): Attendees will:

- Identify tools and strategies for effectively preparing for emergencies in schools and ways to evaluate emergency preparedness plans and procedures.

A continuing education certificate will be available after completion of the webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you are unable to attend the LIVE webinar, there will be a recording of the webinar available on our website 24-48 hours after the live webinar. You can find STAR Webinars on the fresh, new [iLearn Platform](#).

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

[October 27 - Town Hall Meeting](#)

Password: 250904

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397
USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

Topic: OHNS Town Hall 12-8-21

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: [December 8 - Town Hall Meeting](#)

Password: 464909

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397
USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

Grant Opportunities

School Year 2022 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant is Available

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce that the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application is now available for School Year (SY) 2022. Completed application forms are due to MDE by 5:00 pm (EST) **Wednesday, September 22, 2021**.

The FFVP grant is a competitive grant based on free and reduced-price meal eligibility.

Eligibility

- Eligible sites include those buildings with elementary students (K-grade 6).
- Buildings with elementary students and students in grades 7 and higher may apply but must ensure that **ONLY** K-6 grade students receive the FFVP snacks.
- High schools, middle schools with grades 7, 8, and/or 9 only, and pre-K only sites are **not** eligible to apply.
- Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) may participate, provided they operate an elementary school program during the day.
- Based on past grant awards, only sites with free and reduced-price eligibility at 85% or higher have been approved.
- MDE is using October 2019 fall data (SY 2019-2020) to determine the

SY 2022 FFVP grant awards.

Information about the SY 2022 FFVP grant and all application forms are on the [MDE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Webpage - How to Apply](#).

2022 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant is Now Available in NexSys

The 2021 Agriculture Appropriations Act authorized funds that allow MDE to competitively award Equipment Assistance Grants (EAG) to eligible School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The department received over \$700,000 in federal funds for distribution to SFAs.

If you have applied for the **10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms** grant – consider leveraging an equipment purchase to support cleaning, preparing, storing, or freezing Michigan grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes. Michigan produce can be served outside of the growing season if it is dried or frozen.

Who Can Apply?

Any SFA participating in the NSLP or SSO NSLP including:

- Public School Districts
- Public School Academies
- Intermediate School Districts
- Nonpublic School Districts
- Residential Child Care Institutions

Application Timeline

The grant application will re-open by Friday September 24, 2021, in [NexSys](#). To complete the grant application, users need to create a MILogin for Third Party account and link that account to their current MEIS account. This is a requirement and is the first step in the transition to the new system. If you haven't done this already, please do so as soon as possible using the [Creating a MILogin for Third Party Account](#). More information about NexSys can be found on the MDE NexSys [website](#). Grant applications are due by 11:59 pm on Friday October 8, 2021. It is expected that grant funding will be awarded by October 22, 2021.

If you have already applied for this grant, we will reach out to you with additional instructions on how to finalize your application.

Grant amounts:

Minimum: \$1,000 per piece of equipment, not in the aggregate

Maximum: \$25,000 per building/site

These values do not include the cost of installation and/or any delivery fees.

Questions can be sent to MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov.

Reminders and Due Dates

YOU WILL BE LOCKED OUT IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS!

Linking MILogin and MEIS

We want to remind everyone about the messages coming through MEGS+ requesting users to create a MILogin for Third Party account and link that account to their current MEIS account.

This is a requirement and the first step in the transition to our new system, NexSys. If you haven't done this already, please do so as soon as possible. [Instructions](#) on how to complete this are available.

By getting this step done now, it will save time and added stress when users are finally required to access and work in NexSys.

NexSys - Getting Started Training Dates in September

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is transitioning from MEGS+ to NexSys for applications and grants. MDE will be providing Microsoft Teams trainings for NexSys on the dates and times listed below. These sessions will give the user a brief overview of the basics of MILogin for Third Party account setup, an understanding of the new platform, navigation tips, and general guidance on completing applications in NexSys.

Please Note: These sessions will not include the accounting and cash components of NexSys. A complete list of accounting and cash trainings can be found on the NexSys website: Michigan.gov/MDE-NexSys.

- Monday, September 27, 11 – 12 PM. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Please visit [NexSys](#) for more information or email one of the following: MDE-NexSys-Applications@Michigan.gov or MDE-NexSys-Accounting@Michigan.gov

2022 School Nutrition Program Application is Available

The Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Application is now available. The application should be completed as soon as possible with a final due date of September 30, 2021.

The MEGS+ website for completing the SNP 2022 Application is at [MEGS+ Website](#). Important information and site page instructions can be reviewed in the [Child Nutrition Program Bulletin No. 2](#).

Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services

USDA Waiver #100

USDA released on September 15, 2021, [COVID-19:Child Nutrition Response #100](#) Waiver to Allow Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in School Year 2021-2022.

- FNS waives, for all states, the requirements to take fiscal action during the public health emergency for meal pattern violations related to COVID 19 supply chain disruptions involving missing food components, milk type, and vegetable subgroups.
- These flexibilities apply to the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (including Seamless Summer Option).
- This waiver relates to school meal program administrative reviews in 7 CFR 210.18(l)(2).
- Sponsors do not need to do anything to use this waiver, other than keep documentation of supply chain issues. MDE decides during an AR review if the waiver applies.
- Schools are expected to meet the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible.

Team Nutrition Web Quizzes

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is proud to announce the release of new Team Nutrition web quizzes, available at [Team Nutrition Quizzes](#). The first two quizzes will focus on infant nutrition and school lunch. Quizzes on other topics will be released throughout Fall 2021.

These interactive ten-question web quizzes are a fun way to introduce a variety of nutrition topics. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion.

New Feature Alert for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

A new feature is now available on the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your comments on the PSTTT and works continuously to enhance the user experience. After numerous requests to allow for bulk upload of employee user profiles, Team Nutrition is excited to announce this feature is now available to Director and Manager users of the PSTTT. You can now conveniently upload a spreadsheet using the template found within the tool to import multiple employee user profiles at one time.

Please contact cnpntab@usda.gov for further assistance with this new feature.

Track your professional standards required training hours today using USDA's free [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!](#)

Training Corner

Meal Pattern and Component Tool Refresher

The staff of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) School Nutrition Programs unit is pleased to announce a hands-on, activity-based virtual workshop for school nutrition professionals. This workshop is targeted to food service staff and will provide active sessions where participants can interact with MDE staff.

The workshop consists of a half-day session and will cover nutrition related information for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). There is no cost for the workshop. Group activities will provide the opportunity to save information that can be used in your operation. Register for the training is required.

Date: September 28, 2021 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm - For further information and registration information, visit [Meal Pattern and Component Tool Refresher](#).

Date: November 3, 2021 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm - For further information and registration information, visit [Meal Pattern and Component Tool Refresher](#).

Michigan Nutrition Data System (MIND) 2.0 Office Hours

MIND is getting an upgrade and a new login system! We will be transitioning from using MEIS to MILogin. With the transition, Michigan Department of Education (MDE) wants to make the process as smooth as possible for our participants. We have created help documents available on our website: [MDE -](#)

[Child Nutrition Program - System Help Documents \(michigan.gov\)](#), but are also going to be holding multiple office hour sessions to assist users that need more hands on help. Dates, times and Zoom meeting links for the sessions we are offering can be found at [Revised CNP Bulletin No. 6](#). If none of these dates or times will work for your schedule, please reach out and we will work to help you.

Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

During this time of necessary social distancing, it is very important for the field to have access to all the virtual trainings available to them, to help them continue to do their jobs. If you are offering an online/virtual training, please fill out and submit this questionnaire: [I want my training added to the Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#). Be sure to fill out ALL of the information including NA if the question does not apply. Trainings cannot be added to the calendar without the complete information.

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#), a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be for our Child Nutrition Programs!

If you have questions, contact MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov.

[How to Access the Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#).



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What do I do when there are so many out of stocks and my menu keeps changing? How do I meet the meal pattern?

Answer: The original planned menu needs to meet the meal pattern. Do your best to find substitutes that fit the meal pattern. Remember, CN labeled products are not required. Use the USDA's Food Buying Guide for additional crediting information. Keep documentation of substitutions.

Question: If a student or class is quarantined and the site they attend is eligible for meals under NSLP/SSO, do I have to offer meals to these students during the quarantine?

Answer: Yes, students in quarantine would be eligible to continue to receive meals under the non-congregate/parent pick-up/meal time waivers. This could be accomplished through allowing access at an open site in the district or

offering a preorder system in a closed-enrolled building for just the quarantined students enrolled in that building.

Question: If our school or district shuts down due to the pandemic, do we still need to offer meals to our enrolled students?

Answer: Yes, meals still need to be offered for planned, instructional days according to the board approved school calendar.

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#) provides Child Nutrition Program (CNP) agencies a singular system to access annual CNP applications (MEGSplus), monthly claims (MIND) and periodic administrative reviews (GEMS/MARS) through an integrated dashboard and portal.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates and Bulletins, visit [Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates Subscription](#).

Support

[School Nutrition Programs](#)

www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition
Email: MDE-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov

[Summer Food Service Program](#)

www.michigan.gov/sfsp
Email: mde-sfsp@michigan.gov

[Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

www.michigan.gov/cacfp
Email: mde-cnap-cacfp@michigan.gov

[Food Distribution](#)

www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp
Email: mde-fmfd@michigan.gov

[Fiscal and Administrative Services](#)

www.michigan.gov/mde-fast
Email: MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov

[Procurement and Contracts](#)

www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts
Email: mde-fsmc-vended@michigan.gov

[School Health and Safety](#)

www.michigan.gov/cshsp

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

USDA Civil Rights Complaint Links:

https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf

<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>

Links Used in this Document:

<https://misponsortraining.com/all-courses/>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SSO_Checklist_735369_7.pdf

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nonprofit-school-food-service-account-nonprogram-food-revenue-requirements>

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_72817-544741--,00.html

https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KmC6kBS4QeiLAFY5AGwHQA

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/everything-you-need-know-about-gs1-gdsn>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No._2_734521_7.pdf

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No._3_734523_7.pdf

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/serving-remote-learners-meal-service-model-guide>

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/tips-considerations-serving-remote-learners>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/All_About_Milk_in_NSLP_735999_7.pdf
<https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/3364030/edit>
<https://theicn.docebos.com/learn>
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82080781512?pwd=SEVSQ1A5ZzRITmNOQ1ozLzI4MndLZz09>
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86167054902?pwd=NDBSRnNBeXkrT25wNINjcXcxeWMOUT09>
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94242_94243-504910--,00.html
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/NexSys/IGXLogin/Index?ReturnTo=%2FNexSys%2FDashboard>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/External_Linking_MILogin_and_MEIS_716177_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5236_103242---,00.html
https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/MEGSPlus/
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CNP_Bulletin_No._2_734212_7.pdf
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes>
<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/covid-19-child-nutrition-response-100.pdf>
<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Registration_Memo_731835_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Registration_Memo_-_11-3-21_735666_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-550987--,00.html
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229