



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 19, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Selected Non-Public School Administrators
Residential Child Care Institutions

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Critical Funding Ramifications of Collecting Family Income Data

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to share that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced nationwide waivers, which allow schools to provide free meals to students during the 2021-2022 school year.

The waivers released by the USDA allow for meals to be provided to students under the National School Lunch Program seamless summer option (SSO). While this waiver is an important step that provides flexibility to feed students, districts must continue to identify free and reduced-price eligible students at the local level to maximize federal and state revenue.

MDE remains diligent in helping districts to minimize the risk of losing important federal and state dollars. Local districts must continue to gather family income data and properly report the school nutrition eligibility (SNE) designation in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) to maximize federal and state revenue. To fail to gather and properly report these data could jeopardize federal and state funding for a local school district.

MDE's school nutrition programs unit has developed the [Determining Student Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility for School Year 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions](#) to support local districts.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

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District staff can also refer to the [Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility Component Overview](#) for more detailed information on SNE. Questions regarding meal provision or the SNE component can be directed to Dr. Diane Golzynski at GolzynskiD@michigan.gov.

Questions regarding the submission of data in MSDS can be directed to the state's Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) customer support at cepi@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors