

# Howard's News From MDE

February 8, 2018

## February Monthly Training Topic

See the attached information regarding the Afterschool Snack Program and Smart Snacks.

## Tuesday at 2 Teleconference

One Tuesday each month, we will host a teleconference at 2:00 p.m. that will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Each teleconference is designed to provide quick updates on the "latest and greatest" information on a designated topic for that month with the opportunity for participants to ask questions. Our next Tuesday at 2 Teleconference topic will be Meal Counting and Claiming on February 20, 2018. To join the call, [pre-registration is required](#).<sup>i</sup> With your registration, you will be sent the conference call number and access code. Please take advantage of this opportunity and join us in getting your meal counting and claiming questions answered!

## Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Reimbursement Rates

The [SFSP Reimbursement Rates](#)<sup>ii</sup> have been posted to the website.

## Join Our STEPS Wellness Challenge

We need your help! The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) School Nutrition Program's Team Nutrition is working with School Nutrition Association (SNA) [STEPS](#)<sup>iii</sup> and [School Nutrition Association of Michigan \(SNAM\)](#)<sup>iv</sup> to enroll 200 Michigan school nutrition professionals by October 25, 2018, which is the date of the next [SNAM Conference](#).<sup>v</sup> Those who sign up for the [STEPS program](#)<sup>vi</sup> and submit points will be automatically enrolled in a drawing for a \$100 nutrition education gift card for their school and receive a monthly newsletter to keep you fit, healthy, and at your best. A winner is selected every month! The STEPS program is a free program to SNA members. Non-members can also participate. Not an SNA member? Email your points to Nick Drzal at [drzaln@michigan.gov](mailto:drzaln@michigan.gov).

## Produce Safety Requirements and Training Needs Survey

The [Michigan Farm to Institution Network](#)<sup>vii</sup> team is conducting a survey of institutional buyers like you to learn more about your food safety requirements and to identify areas of interest for future training opportunities on this subject. This brief [Survey](#)<sup>viii</sup> will take just 5-10 minutes to complete. Your feedback to help develop meaningful educational offerings to better meet your needs is appreciated! Please complete the survey by February 23, 2018.

## USDA's SuperTracker News

See the attached information from USDA regarding SuperTracker News.

*Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS*

Supervisor, School Nutrition Programs

517-373-3892

February is Career and Technical Education Month in Michigan

[www.michigan.gov/octe](http://www.michigan.gov/octe)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tuesday-at-2-meal-counting-and-claiming-registration-41077165909>

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/1\\_2018\\_Reimbursement\\_Rates\\_613309\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/1_2018_Reimbursement_Rates_613309_7.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://schoolnutrition.org/Resources/STEPS/Home/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://michigansna.org/index.php>

<sup>v</sup> [http://michigansna.org/content.php?page=Annual\\_Conference](http://michigansna.org/content.php?page=Annual_Conference)

<sup>vi</sup> <https://schoolnutrition.org/Resources/STEPS/SignUp/>

<sup>vii</sup> [http://www.canr.msu.edu/michigan\\_farm\\_to\\_institution\\_network/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/michigan_farm_to_institution_network/)

<sup>viii</sup> [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_24clOnlufj0OBSJ&Q\\_JFE=0](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_24clOnlufj0OBSJ&Q_JFE=0)

## Office of Health and Nutrition Services School Nutrition Programs

The Monthly Training topic for February is Snacks: Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP) and Smart Snacks. We hope you find this information helpful.

- **SNACK:** There are two main types of snacks covered by Michigan School Nutrition Programs (SNP). The key requirements for following Federal rules for snacks in schools are listed below.
  - **Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP):**
    - Serve two “components” (food groups) allowed by the ASSP meal pattern
      - If serving milk, use milks allowed in National School Lunch Program
      - Serve grain based desserts no more than twice per week
    - Monitor the program two times per year (forms are available online)
    - Register to participate through the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus ([MEGS+<sup>1</sup>](#)) School Nutrition Programs application
    - If a building has at least half of its students qualifying for free and reduced-price meals, it can offer the snacks for free to all children
    - If a building does not have at least half of its students qualifying for these meals, there are other ways it may still be able to offer free meals to all participants – visit the website linked below or contact an SNP staff member
    - Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) may serve on weekends
    - Visit the [Afterschool Snack Program page of the SNP website<sup>2</sup>](#)
  - **Smart Snacks (foods sold outside of School Nutrition Programs):**
    - Foods sold outside of reimbursable meals (not through the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or the Afterschool Snack Program):
      1. Must meet the Smart Snacks standards (and may be sold anywhere on school campus at any time, unless the Local Wellness Policy is stricter), OR
      2. May be sold as an “exempt fundraiser.” These optional fundraisers can take place up to two times per building per week (One fundraiser is no longer than a single full school day; may NOT be sold in food service area during meal times, regardless of exemptions). Please review the link to the [MDE exempt fundraiser policy<sup>3</sup>](#) for more information
    - Check the [online-based Smart Snacks Calculator<sup>4</sup>](#) to see if a food or beverage meets the standards
    - [Smart Snacks page of the SNP website<sup>5</sup>](#)

For more information, contact Michigan School Nutrition Programs at [mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov) or 517-373-3347.

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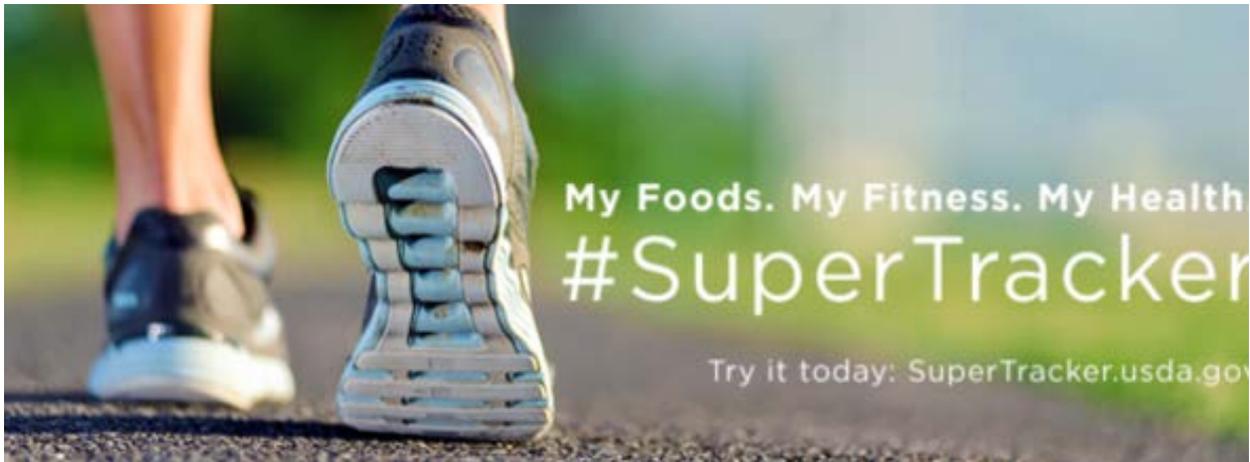
<sup>1</sup> Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus Website, available at [https://mdoe.state.mi.us/megsplus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE\\_MEGSPPLUS](https://mdoe.state.mi.us/megsplus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPPLUS)

<sup>2</sup> Michigan School Nutrition Programs Afterschool Snack Program website, available at [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_50144-194517--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-194517--,00.html)

<sup>3</sup> Michigan School Nutrition Programs exempt food fundraiser policy, available at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin\\_Policy\\_21\\_492716\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Policy_21_492716_7.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Calculator, available at [https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take\\_action/schools/snacks\\_and\\_beverages/smart\\_snacks/alliance\\_product\\_calculator/](https://www.healthiergeneration.org/take_action/schools/snacks_and_beverages/smart_snacks/alliance_product_calculator/)

<sup>5</sup> Michigan School Nutrition Programs Smart Snacks webpage, available at [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_50144-327975--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-327975--,00.html)



## SuperTracker News

As MyPlate ambassadors that frequently use, or help to promote, USDA's SuperTracker, we are writing to inform you that SuperTracker will be discontinued on **June 30, 2018**. This includes the Challenges and Groups, Food-a-pedia, the Body Weight Planner, and the electronic versions of the President's Champions and PALA+ programs.

When SuperTracker first launched in 2011, it was one of the first free tools available for diet tracking. Since that time, the private sector has launched many great tools with a shared mission. It is time for us to discontinue SuperTracker so that we can invest in more modern and efficient ways to help Americans find a healthy eating style that is right for them.

Over the coming months, we will provide periodic updates to help users transition to using new tools. Please visit [ChooseMyPlate.gov](https://www.choosemyplate.gov/)<sup>i</sup> for additional resources to help find and maintain a healthy eating style.

We have enjoyed providing this service to 27 million users over the past 6 years, and reading success stories from all over the country. Thank you for all you do to help Americans find their MyPlate, MyWins.

For more information, please visit [choosemyplate.gov/supertracker](https://www.choosemyplate.gov/supertracker).<sup>ii</sup>

Sincerely,

The USDA MyPlate Team

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/tools-supertracker>