

Howard's News From MDE

September 28, 2017



Time to pass on some timely information. Here it is:

6 Cent Certification

There has been some good discussion at USDA about six cents certification and Pre-K meals in **non-comingling** situations. As you know the CACFP meal pattern update did not come with additional reimbursement. However, because Pre-K meals are now technically embedded in the NSLP regulations as NSLP meal patterns, they do qualify for the additional six cents reimbursement, even in non-comingled situations. Hopefully this is what you all were planning to do, but I wanted to be sure you had this information.

30 Day Carryover Clarification

If a student's benefit changes during the carryover period because the family submitted a new **current year** application, the guidance states the student's status should change only after notification to the household. So, if the application comes in September 15 and the food service director processes it on September 16, they should then notify the family immediately and the benefit can change on September 17. As far as the 30 days being up (around the middle of October), the status should change immediately if there is no new application in place. It is highly recommended that you notify those households that the change is coming. This can be done via warning letters or e-mail blast to those households. Regarding approving applications, sponsors have 10 days to process it. If they take the entire 10 days, and the student changes to paid, the school can technically notify the household on day 10 and the student status changes to paid on day 11. When it comes to processing new applications, there is no notice of adverse action process that gives the family 10 days to appeal. That provision only applies to Verification or when a **current year** benefit will be affected (i.e. change in income, foster, and now adopted, etc.).

Direct Certification

The SNP team is excited to announce that the Direct Certification Reports refreshed last week did include the Medicaid matches. Further guidance on Direct Certification and the Medicaid matches is available at [MDE Food Service Administrative Policy No 6 SY 2017-2018](#)ⁱ.

School Meal Overview Trainings (SMOT)

MDE has scheduled SMOT trainings throughout the state for SY 2017-18 and summer 2018. While SMOT is tailored for new directors, it is a great opportunity for food service directors to annually get a "refresher" on all USDA requirements. The training format is three days in order to cover all material. Please visit the [School Nutrition Programs website](#).ⁱⁱ Scroll down to Training and click on School Meal Overview Training (SMOT) Workshops. The next SMOT is in November at Northwood University, Midland. There are 14 seats left and registration closes on October 17. To register for this training, click on the link provided.

Undeniably Dairy Virtual Field Trip

Have you HERD? Discovery Education has partnered with National Dairy Council and America's Dairy Farm Families and Importers to bring students behind-the-scenes of the WHEY cool dairy industry! Learn about how innovations are keeping cows, people, and the planet healthy and happy! Join us for our first event - a virtual field trip October 19 at 1 p.m.! [Click here to register to attend.](#)ⁱⁱⁱ

Tuesday at 2

Our SNP team has again put together another series of topics for 2017. 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 Verification on October 17, 2017. To join the call, please register at [Tuesday at 2 Conference Call Registration](#)^{iv}. 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 verification questions answered!

Steps Challenge Wellness Program

You and your staff's health matters. Help Michigan enroll at least 200 school nutrition professionals in SNA's online STEPS Challenge wellness program today. This wellness program is specifically designed for school nutrition professionals. Sign-up at [STEPS Registration](#)^v. Entrants will be eligible for a nutrition education/smarter lunchroom gift card worth \$200!

Non-Dairy Beverage Tool

Wondering if the non-dairy milk substitute beverage you wish to use is equivalent in meeting the nutritional standards of fluid milk? Check out the [tool developed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)^{vi}. – it easily lets you know if your non-dairy beverage meets the requirements.

The Farm to School Roadmap: A Michigan Farm to School Training

A Pre-Conference Training at the SNAM Annual Conference
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel & DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan
October 19, 2017, from 1-4 p.m.

Presenter(s): Staff from the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, MSU Extension, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Learn how to find and buy local foods, before you learn about how to prepare and serve them in Friday's Michigan Farm Fresh Skills class. Attendees will walk through the roadmap of getting a farm to school program started, including understanding seasonality, developing a definition of local, proper procurement of local food, food safety requirements, developing a team, setting goals, and telling your story.

CEU: 3

Registration is required to attend. [Please register here](#)^{vii}.

Turnip the Beet

Attached is information regarding USDA's Turnip the Beet contest which wants to reward and recognize excellence within the Summer Food Service Program. Please read the information and apply by **Monday, October 2, 2017**, for the great work in the SFSP this past summer.

Apple Crunch Time!!

Just wanted to get the Michigan Apple Crunch on your radar - so you can share it with your students and administration. We are currently behind both Wisconsin and Minnesota with our registrations and we are hoping to get caught up this week, as registrations are beginning to roll in. If you have great ideas to expand beyond your school, please share! Visit the [website^{viii}](#) that you can include in your outreach. This is the 5th annual statewide crunch, we would like to reach a goal of 1 million - seems reasonable since there are 9 million in our state!

That's it for now. Hope your school year had a very successful start!

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Our collective efforts can help make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years! Here are the goals and strategies: <http://mi.gov/top10in10/>



ⁱ http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No_6_600993_7.pdf

ⁱⁱ http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144---,00.html

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/Events/view/?eventGuid=9C143BE0-E85D-4D10-A8A6-AD131083D40A>

^{iv} <https://mdeverification.eventbrite.com>

^v <https://schoolnutrition.org/Resources/STEPS/home/>

^{vi} https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/community-nutrition/xls/non_dairy_tool.xlsx

^{vii} http://michigansna.org/meetinginfo.php?id=286&ts=1505828338&utm_content=buffer9b6a1&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

^{viii} <http://miapplecrunch.com/>