

Howard's News From MDE

May 10, 2018



The information in this document helps support Goal 4, Strategy 4.1, of [MDE's Top 10 in 10 Initiative](#)ⁱ by helping to ensure students receive important nutritional resources to help them learn and grow.

Income Eligibility Guidelines for School Year (SY) 2018-2019

For income guidelines, visit [SY 218-2019 Income Eligibility Guidelines](#).ⁱⁱ Remember, you will use last year's free/reduced application for the SY 2018-2019.

Important Information Regarding Whole Grain-Rich (WGR) and Flavored Milk Exemptions for SY 2018-2019

Due to the latest Interim Rule from USDA regarding new flexibilities, School Food Authorities (SFAs) should read the attached document for information about exemptions for SY 2018-2019.

- WGR exemptions – all SFAs need to reapply for WGR exemptions for SY 2018-2019, beginning July 1, 2018. There will be no carry-over of currently approved exemptions. The link for the exemption is live and you may begin completing the exemption survey now (see the attached document for link).
- Flavored Low-Fat Milk exemptions – SFAs will no longer need to apply for an exemption in order to serve flavored, low-fat (1%) milk.

Non-Discrimination Statement (NDS)

Visit United States Department of Agriculture (USDA's) [Non-Discrimination Statement](#).ⁱⁱⁱ The document posted at the link provides three different statements, each for different audiences or programs. The NDS that should be used for school nutrition programs is on the second page. Be sure to use that one when communicating to your community about your school meals programs.

2018 MDE-SNAM June Conference

Our annual conference is coming up soon. Here are the details:

- **When:** Preconference is Monday, June 18. The two-day conference is Tuesday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 20.
- [Registration and Schedule](#)^{iv}
- **Hotels:** Please use the registration information below to book your hotel rooms. The rate is \$144/night.

- [Online Registration](#)^v
- Phone Registration (mention “Nourishing Michigan’s Future”): Call 800-253-3590
- **Speakers:** If you have been asked to speak at the conference, please talk with your conference contact or Adrienne Davenport before registering.
- **Deadline:** Please register by Friday, June 8.
- **Questions?** For conference content questions, please contact Adrienne Davenport at DavenportA1@michigan.gov and for registration, location, and hotel questions, please contact Whitney Haughey at WHaughey@msbo.org.

Tuesday at 2 Webinar

One Tuesday each month, we will host a webinar at 2:00 p.m. that will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Each webinar 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 Webinar:

- Date: May 15, 2018
- Topic: Professional Standards

To join the webinar, pre-registration is required. The link for the webinar will be provided with your registration confirmation from Eventbrite. Please take advantage of this opportunity and join us in getting your Professional Standards questions answered!

You can join this webinar from a desktop or laptop computer with speakers. Phones are not necessary to hear the audio for this webinar. Mobile devices can also be used, but some aspects of the webinar (i.e., polling questions) may not be visible on your screen. We will be using Skype for Business. If you are not familiar with this technology, you may want to join the webinar before 2:00 pm to check your video and audio settings.

Sharing Information

The purpose of this notification is to serve as a reminder of current statutory and regulatory requirements and a resource as local education agencies (LEAs) assist in providing students with non-program benefits and services, while ensuring any disclosure of confidential student eligibility information is consistent with federal statutory and regulatory protections. The Food and Nutrition Service understands that LEAs routinely receive requests for disclosure of the student eligibility information including names of students who receive free and reduced price meals for non-program purposes. Requestors may seek to provide students with non-program, financial benefits, such as free and reduced price text books, tutoring, athletic equipment, or even college entrance testing fees.

The Food and Nutrition Service supports LEAs’ efforts to provide non-program benefits and services at free and reduced prices to students who may not otherwise easily access these benefits and services. However, federal law requires that parents and guardians must be advised of these types of potential non-program uses of student

eligibility information and have the opportunity to accept or decline these benefits and services. To that end, LEAs may provide the confidential information to those requestors which do not meet the statutory or regulatory requirements for receipt of the confidential information by requesting and receiving written parental consent. A Sharing of Information with Other Programs form (under the heading *Prototype Household Letters*) can be included in either the school packet or the application for meal benefits provided to households at the beginning of each school year. The form allows parents and guardians to consent to the LEA's disclosure of their child's eligibility status in order to receive free and reduced price non-program benefits and services.

For more information on the requirements for the disclosure of confidential student eligibility information, see [Section 9\(b\)\(6\) of the NSLA](#),^{vi} 42 U.S.C.1758(b)(6), regulations found at [7 CFR Part 245.6](#),^{vii} and also memorandum, SP 16-2016, CACFP 06-2016, SFSP 10-2016: Disclosure Requirements for the Child Nutrition Programs and guidance noted in *Section 5 Confidentiality and Disclosure of the 2017 Edition of the Eligibility Manual for School Meals, Determining and Verifying Eligibility*.

Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS

Supervisor, School Nutrition Programs
517-373-3892

Please Note: Beginning May 22, my phone number will change to 517-241-5375.

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 <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-80635---,00.html>

ⁱⁱ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2_-_Income_Eligibility_Guidelines_2018-19_-_ADA_623531_7.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cr/nondiscrim-english.pdf>

^{iv} <http://michigansna.org/meetinginfo.php?id=438&ts=1525092568>

^v <https://book.passkey.com/event/49262312/owner/2529966/home>

^{vi} <https://book.passkey.com/event/49262312/owner/2529966/home>

^{vii} <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text->

[idx?SID=4c211a738d6109939c6054a6286ac109&mc=true&node=pt7.4.245&rgn=div5#se7.4.245_16](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=4c211a738d6109939c6054a6286ac109&mc=true&node=pt7.4.245&rgn=div5#se7.4.245_16)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Program (CNP): Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements for School Year (SY) 2018-2019

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) agency of USDA has published an [interim final rule](#)ⁱ that addresses three menu planning flexibilities for CNP operators in SY 2018-2019:

- The option to offer flavored, low-fat (1%) milk
- Extending the State Agency's (SA) option to continue approving whole grain-rich (WGR) exemptions for the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Retaining the Sodium Target 1 in the SBP and NSLP

WGR Exemptions

What does this mean for School Food Authorities (SFAs) with currently approved WGR exemptions?

MDE is requiring **ALL** SFAs to re-apply for WGR exemptions for SY 2018-2019. Please complete the [SY 2018-2019 Request for Whole Grain-Rich \(WGR\) Exemption](#)ⁱⁱ via Survey Monkey.

Why is MDE making SFAs re-apply?

WGR exemptions have been approved and carried over for the past two school years. During this time, there have been changes in menus, grain products, and food service directors. MDE wants to ensure that SFAs assess their menus and grain offerings and apply for a WGR exemption only when really needed for hardships, including lack of product availability, financial concerns, an increase in plate waste, and /or lack of student acceptability.

Do SFAs still need to include WGR items on their menus, even if they have an approved WGR exemption?

Yes. SFAs still must make sure that at least 50% of grains served weekly for both breakfast and lunch meals are WGR, regardless of whether or not they have a WGR exemption.

How will I know that my WGR exemption request was approved?

Once you successfully complete and submit the request, you will receive an email confirmation from MDE within 14 days of submission. If you do not get a confirmation within 14 days, please contact the School Nutrition Programs office at 517-373-3347.

Flavored Low-Fat (1%) Milk Exemption

Does an SFA need to apply for an exemption in order to serve flavored, low-fat (1%) milk?

No. SFAs no longer have to apply and receive an exemption in order to serve flavored, low-fat (1%) milk.

Sodium Target 1 Level

What sodium targets do I need to meet for meals in SY 2018-2019?

SFAs should continue to meet the Sodium Target 1 Level. Please refer to the [Comparison of Previous and New Regulatory Requirements under Final Rule "Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs" \(published January 26, 2012\)](#)ⁱⁱⁱ for Target 1 sodium limits for each grade group. MDE encourages SFAs to continue to look for and introduce reduced sodium food items into their menus.

ⁱ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/11/30/2017-25799/child-nutrition-programs-flexibilities-for-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-requirements>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XG2XS2Z>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/comparison.pdf>