



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Bulletin

December 14, 2020 – School Nutrition Programs Bulletin No. 14 - Michigan Department of Education to Request Federal Waiver for the National School Lunch Program Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment

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The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will request a federal waiver of statutory and regulatory requirements in the School Nutrition Programs (SNP), in accordance with federal guidance, on behalf of all sponsors determined to be in good standing in the state of Michigan.

MDE is seeking to request a statewide waiver for the following:

- At least once every three years, assess schools' compliance with the local school wellness policy, and make assessment result available to the public. In a nationwide waiver, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowed sponsors to extend the triennial assessment due date to June 30, 2021, but due to the current situation, MDE would like to extend the waiver another year.

The waiver will allow food service staff and school staff to continue to focus on reaching as many students as possible with nutritious meals, as well as allow Local Education Agencies (LEAs) time to effectively assess Local Wellness Policy goals

and to in turn have a greater effect on the LEA wellness initiatives. This waiver will also allow LEAs to maximize program participation and minimize hunger in the community.

The waiver will minimize the burden for Michigan SNP sponsors during this public health emergency by allowing LEAs the option to accept the new regulatory deadline and instead complete their first triennial assessment by June 30, 2022. These LEAs then would submit a second triennial assessment by June 30, 2025. LEAs wishing to accept this new deadline must inform the State Agency by June 30, 2021.

SNP sponsors will be required to notify MDE if they intend to elect to use the Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment waiver. Upon approval of the waiver from the USDA, further guidance will be issued to sponsors in Michigan.

Questions regarding this Bulletin, may be directed to the SNP unit by email to mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

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.

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