



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Bulletin

December 21, 2020 - School Nutrition Programs Bulletin No. 16 - Michigan Department of Education to Request Federal Waiver for the National School Lunch Program Verification Process, Reporting, and Recordkeeping Requirements

Michigan Department of Education to Request Federal Waiver for the National School Lunch Program Verification Process, Reporting, and Recordkeeping Requirements

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 School Food Authorities (SFAs) determined to be in good standing in the state of Michigan.

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

- The local educational agency must verify eligibility of children in a sample of household applications approved for free and reduced-price meal benefits for that school year. In a nationwide waiver, USDA allowed sponsors until February 28, 2021, to complete verification, but due to the current situation, MDE would like to waive verification for this year.

- Participating school food authorities are required to submit forms and reports to the State Agency or the distributing agency, as appropriate, to demonstrate compliance with program requirements. MDE would like to waive verification reporting for this year.

Households who are currently receiving meal benefits under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) will likely not comply with verification due to confusion. To distribute second written requests according to the required due process for non-compliance timeline will require additional time working at the school building and daily checks for documents received by mail. To provide written notifications and receive household documentation will require district staff working remotely to return to school buildings, increasing potential health risks and concerns. The waiver will allow food service staff and school staff to continue to focus on reaching as many students as possible with nutritious meals.

Upon approval of the waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), further guidance will be issued to SFAs 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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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Links used in this document:

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/michigan-school-nutrition-best-practices-during-covid-19>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/LoginClick>

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229

https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf