



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

March 25, 2021

Introducing the New Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition!

Team Nutrition is excited to announce the launch of the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN), a new division of the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) that provides school nutrition professionals with in-depth, hands-on culinary training and resources that are foundational for scratch-based cooking and the creation of culinary-inspired school meals that are healthy, flavorful, and student-approved!

CICN Culinary Resources and Events

CICN Website: Explore CICN's new website – an online information center that provides School Nutrition Program operators with a means for accessing valuable culinary resources for their program operations. The CICN website serves as a centralized place to store, organize, manage, and share culinary knowledge and tools developed by the CICN, State agencies, and allied organizations with School Nutrition Program operators. Visit the [CICN website](#).

Check out the [i-Bites Recipe Videos](#), a series of short culinary videos designed to provide school nutrition program operators with topic-based culinary information and resources.

CICN Culinary Webinar Series: Starting April 1st, the CICN will host a one-hour monthly culinary webinar series that occurs on the first Thursday of each month and focuses on culinary topics that enhance the overall cafeteria experience, including

“Visually Marketing Foods”, “Scratch-made Salad Dressings and Condiments”, and “How and When to Use Fresh Herbs”. [Register for the April webinar!](#)

The MixUp Podcast Series: In this podcast series, Chef Patrick Garmong, Associate Director of Culinary Education and Training at the CIGN, interviews School Nutrition Program chefs from around the country to take a peek inside their kitchen operations and see how they are inspiring child nutrition. Check out the [MixUp Podcast series](#).

Coming Soon - Grab & Go Recipes: The CIGN will launch a series of scratch-based cooking recipes for grab & go meal service that can be easily produced in School Nutrition Program kitchens nationwide using minimal equipment and foods that are readily available. Each recipe card will feature standardized recipes in 50 and 100 serving quantities as well as visual step-by-step instructions for production of the recipe.

Important Summer Food Service Program Reminders

Waiver Extensions

The waivers that were extended begin July 1, 2021 and go through September 30, 2021. They allow for safe meal distribution sites that serve all children for free, regardless of income. In addition, the waivers:

- Allow meals served through the [Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP) to be made available in all areas at no cost;
- Allow meals to be served outside of the normally required group settings and mealtimes; and
- Allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding children.

2021 SFSP MEGS+ Application

The application is now available and is due May 21st.

Webinars/Trainings

Be sure to check for upcoming 2021 MEGS+ Application Webinar dates. Information on the webinars can be found on the training calendar or under the Upcoming Events section in this communication.

[Training Calendar](#)

SFSP Trainings will be available SOON!

The 2021 Planning and Administering the SFSP (Michigan-100) is the SFSP training sponsors are required to take at least once every 3 years. The Michigan Waiver Training (Michigan -141a) is a short mandatory online training covering the nationwide waivers and is required to be completed by **ALL** sponsors who are completing a 2021 SFSP MEGS+ application.

31k Funding for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness School Year 2020-2021 – Second-Round Communication

Exciting news! We have additional funding left for the 31k grant! For School Year 2020/2021 only, we were awarded \$1 million in new state school aid fund money appropriated (Section 31k) for reimbursement payments to public school districts, charter schools and public-school academies who forgive all outstanding current student-meal negative balances.

After the first round of applications last fall, we have \$709,076.35 left in available 31k funding. The second-round of the [31k grant application](#) is now live.

Reimbursement payments can be awarded to eligible districts that apply. The second-round application has a firm deadline to apply no later than April 30, 2021. *Please note: If you have received a reimbursement payment in the first round, you are ineligible to apply in this second round.*

Submissions will be evaluated and reimbursement payments for selected districts will be made within 60 days of the final deadline. The funds may be prorated if there is not enough to cover all eligible submissions.

To be eligible districts must:

- Write off current/active/enrolled student meal negative balances with a transfer from the General Fund.
 - Student Meal Negative Balances paid off from private donations or angel funds are not eligible for Forgiveness Reimbursement.
 - Previously written off negative balances are not eligible.
 - Bad debt written off for inactive students in prior school years is not eligible for this grant.
- Adopt a meal charge policy that prevents public identification and all forms of lunch shaming as outlined in State Aid Section 31k (see below)

The application will require submission of the following:

1. The transactions used to write off outstanding current student meal negative balances in the Food Service Fund with a transfer from the General Fund within the 2020/2021 school year.
2. Total amount of forgiven negative balances for current/active/enrolled students by eligibility status
3. A copy of the student roster by eligibility of negative balances for current/active/enrolled students
4. Meal charge policy that prevents lunch shaming with the specifics outlined in State Aid Section 31k as follows:
 - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to wear a wristband or handstamp.
 - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to perform chores or other work to pay for school meals.
 - prohibits the requiring of students to dispose of a meal after it has been served because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative balance.
 - prohibits the direct communication with a student about a negative balance unless your district has unsuccessfully attempted to contact the student's parent or legal guardian first through telephone, mail, and electronic mail.
 - prohibits discussing a negative balance with a student in the presence of other students.

The 2nd round of the [31k grant application](#) is now live.

Questions regarding this grant opportunity can be sent to the Fiscal and Administrative Services Monitoring Team at MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov or 517-241-5380.

Questions and Answers:

Q: How far back can we go for negative balance write offs?

A: To be eligible the negative balances must be outstanding from current students, and it must be written off from the general fund within the 2020/2021 school year. Negative balances from inactive students (bad debt) are not eligible and previously written off negative balances from prior school years are not eligible.

Q: Can I just wipe/forgive the negative balances from the Food Service Fund without a transfer from the General Fund?

A: No. It is not allowable to absorb negative balances in the Food Service Fund. They must be paid for from a non-federal funding source like the General Fund (excluding donations or Angel Funds).

Q: Does the meal charge policy have to be Board approved?

A: No, this is not a requirement. However, it is a best practice.

Q: How will I be notified if my district is chosen to receive the Forgiveness funding?

A: You will receive a notification from GEMS/MARS once the awardees have been chosen.

Q: What if I am not selected for a grant payment? Can we reverse the write off entries in the Food Service Fund?

A: No, once the negative balances are written off the Food Service Fund they cannot be reversed. The district can choose to try to collect on those negative balances within the General Fund, however.

Q: If I was denied in the first round of applications, can I apply for the second round?

A: Yes, if they are for current outstanding balances within the 2020/2021 school year.

Linking MILogin and MEIS

We want to remind everyone about the messages coming through MEGS+ requesting users to create a MILogin for Third Party account and link that account to their current MEIS account.

This is a requirement and the first step in the transition to our new system, NexSys. If you haven't done this already, please do so as soon as possible. [Instructions](#) on how to complete this are available.

By getting this step done now, it will save time and added stress when users are finally required to access and work in NexSys.

Upcoming Events

SFSP Application Webinars

Topic: Training will be conducted on the 2021 SFSP MEGS+ Application.

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83310481687?pwd=WUpZVHI3R0h3dXJCZm1VZEEdHdWln dz09>

SFSP Application Webinars

Topic: Training will be conducted on the 2021 SFSP MEGS+ Application.

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87463008934?pwd=bExMTlgrejVGYnhjTW1wUUZqNFRWU T09>

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

No Kid Hungry Workshop

Topic: Designing a More Inclusive School Meals Program: A Workshop

Description: This interactive workshop will feature school nutrition staff and community partners who work together to create inclusive school meals programs, specifically assessing and removing barriers students may face in accessing meals programs. The speakers will provide insight into actionable items that school nutrition departments may implement in their own communities. Afterwards, attendees will spend 30 minutes creating their own action plans for designing a more inclusive school meals program at home.

Speakers for this session include:

Maria Anderson, Roseville School District (MN)

Grant Melendez, Immigrant Welcome Center (IN)

Frances Montoya-Greenwood, Vaughn Next Century Learning Center (CA)

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Register Today!](#)

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88530753598?pwd=SWZPY2NsY3QwU3A5Z3c2a3E3R2tWdz09>

Password: 7DyTyP

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

SFSP Office Hours

Topic: Office Hours will be hosted by MDE staff to assist with completing the 2021 SFSP MEGS+ Application. Join anytime during the hour to ask your questions.

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or

Android: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83798016222?pwd=V0ZCc2U3L1Q5OHpmRmpidlNISXlidz09>

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

SFSP Office Hours

Topic: Office Hours will be hosted by MDE staff to assist with completing the 2021 SFSP MEGS+ Application. Join anytime during the hour to ask your questions.

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or

Android: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83798016222?pwd=V0ZCc2U3L1Q5OHpmRmpjdjNlSXlidz09>

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86202532416?pwd=M0NzVkFhNk1JSzNzbktlbzdWVEJGZz09>

Password: b3A3JS

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services

New feature alert for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

A new feature is now available on the [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the PSTTT and works to make continuous enhancements to the tool. In response to user requests, Team Nutrition has added a new capability for School Director users. School Directors now can request additional access to manage and log employee training for multiple districts, including districts in different states. PSTTT users who would like to utilize this new feature may do so by using the Contact Us feature available under the Help tab on the tool.

Track your professional standards [required training hours](#) today using USDA's free Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

FY2021-2022 Income Eligibility Guidelines

This notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program.

[Federal Register Notice Link](#)

Training Corner

Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

During this time of necessary social distancing, it is very important for the field to have access to all the virtual trainings available to them, to help them continue to do their jobs. If you are offering an online/virtual training, please fill out and submit this questionnaire: [I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#). Be sure to fill out ALL of the information including NA if the question does not apply. Trainings cannot be added to the calendar without the complete information.

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#), a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be for our Child Nutrition Programs!

If you have questions, contact MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov.

[How to Access the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#)

Questions of the Week

Question: Do I have to complete a 2021 SFSP application?

Answer: Yes. In order to get reimbursement for May and June meals, a 2021 SFSP application needs to be complete (assuming you are running the SFSP this school year).

Question: What is the different between the SFSP Application Webinar and the SFSP Office Hours?

Answer: During the SFSP Application Webinar you will get walked through on how to fill out the 2021 application. The SFSP Office Hours staff will be available to answer any of your 2021 SFSP MEGS+ application questions.

Question: If I already took the Planning and Administering the SFSP (Michigan-100) training, do I need to take this again?

Answer: This training is required every three years. If you completed this training in the Spring of 2020, you do not need to complete again. However, the Michigan Waiver Training (Michigan -141a) is a mandatory training required for all SFSP sponsors. Both of these trainings will be available soon.

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.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the School Nutrition News and Updates and SNP Bulletins, visit [School Nutrition News and Updates Subscription](#).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability,

age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Links Used in this Document:

<https://theicn.org/cicn/>

<https://theicn.org/cicn/ibites-recipes/>

https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kF-dTlzpR76T1xfNLDLxmg

<https://theicn.org/podcast>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>

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

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i1d1taaa>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i1d1taaa>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/External_Linking_MILogin_and_MEIS_716177_7.pdf

<https://strength.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlIdu2srzopG9OGaFQAioEyLgmYUM863Tsk>

<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>

<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/04/2021-04452/child-nutrition-programs-income-eligibility-guidelines>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/P-EBT_Contact_Person_713638_7.pdf
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/kALoj6HPHg65VpDDCq7AMI9E7NpUEHsEa2_d2s8yFhBJSXPnqMaZIBFf4YxvbalwJzhNWqPL5EyZ_IJb.PyIfxqSLDYDcE3DC?startTime=1612467913000&x_zm_rtaid=WaeuN17tRfKmxYTjeNxNRw.1613052510618.8aa7d454c8d52a669508cee2030e1c94&x_zm_rhtaid=155
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508154--,00.html
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