



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

December 3, 2020

Upcoming Events

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87977525907?pwd=Njk1MGIrTXFpclVCT1V2ZnU4aTJIQT09>

Password: vxrHH1

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

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

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86120065891?pwd=NnpDU25FTnFOZENxVGdyWWZqRH_RwUT09

Password: 3aXe91

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) Virtual Annual Conference & Exhibit Show - November 10 until December 31, 2020

Registration is now open. Please visit [HERE](#) to register today.

Chef Jeff will be kicking us off on November 10 at 2 pm with a live keynote.

The remainder educational sessions will be pre-recorded and available from November 10 until December 31 so that you and your team can watch as many as you would like at a time most convenient to you! Sessions will involve the following topics:

1. Mental Health, self-care, employee health, leading in stressful times, having fun, treating people nicely
2. Local foods, food distribution, meal quality, meal service options and related equipment
3. MDE track: all things school meal regulations
4. Financial: best use of commodity dollars, increasing participation, KPIs, meal debt

There will also be a virtual food show presented by From the Show Floor, where you will have the opportunity to view episodes from your favorite vendors, anytime during our conference event. Please visit the [registration page](#) for a full list of participating industry partners.

More information to come on a detailed agenda.

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

USDA Publishes Proposed Rule Maintaining School Meal Flexibilities

November 24, 2020 - In line with USDA's unwavering promise to serve America's children well through school meal programs, the department announced today it will publish a [proposed rule](#) maintaining flexibility for schools to serve tasty meals their kids will be eager to eat. These proposed changes respond directly to the needs of nutrition professionals who are the experts on-the-ground, hearing from our children every day.

The proposed rule would maintain flexibility in USDA child nutrition program meal requirements related to milk, grains, and sodium, by:

- Allowing flavored, low-fat milk in the Child Nutrition Programs;
- Allowing half of the weekly grains offered through the school meal programs to be whole grain-rich; and
- Providing schools more time for gradual sodium reduction by retaining Sodium Target 1 through the end of SY 2023-2024, continuing to Target 2 in SY 2024-2025, and eliminating the Final Target.

Yesterday, USDA issued a [separate rule](#) as an administrative step to ensure the department's procedural compliance with a court ruling regarding its 2018 final rule on child nutrition program flexibilities. Today's rule proposes to restore the flexibilities included in the 2018 final rule. Despite this procedural formality, schools do not have to change their meals, thanks to the [meal pattern flexibilities USDA has already provided in all child nutrition programs through June 30, 2021](#), in response to the pandemic national emergency.

The proposed rule announced today will publish in the Federal Register on November 25, followed by a 30-day public comment period. USDA is committed to listening to and collaborating with customers, partners, and stakeholders to make these reforms as effective as possible, and encourages all those who are interested in school meals to share their comments and recommendations for improvement through [regulations.gov](#).

See also:

- Proposed Rule: [Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities](#) (11/25/2020)
- Notice of Vacatur: [Rescission of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities](#) (11/24/2020)
- Final Rule: [Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements](#) (12/12/2018)

- Interim Final Rule: [Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements](#) (11/30/2017)
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Off-Site Monitoring Fact Sheets for Child Nutrition Programs

USDA FNS issued eight [Off-Site Monitoring Fact Sheets for Child Nutrition Programs](#) to assist states and sponsors in conducting off-site monitoring of child nutrition programs during the pandemic. These documents include a fact sheet that has background information on all programs, as well as separate facts sheets for state and local operators for each program. The fact sheets reiterate that unless a flexibility has been provided through an individual waiver (the State oversight waiver and plan), State agencies and local operators must continue to monitor Program operations in line with regulations but may review off-site (e.g., through a desk audit) this year. FNS is issuing these attached fact sheets in order to provide best practices for monitoring activities as monitoring processes may need to be adapted. The contents of these documents do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. These documents are intended only to provide clarity regarding existing monitoring requirements.

USDA Standardized Recipes in Spanish Now Available

On November 23, 2020, Team Nutrition released 40 Spanish language recipes in yields of 6 servings and 40 recipes in yields of 25-50 servings for the use in Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) family child care homes and centers. This diverse collection of standardized recipes supports CACFP operators in planning menus that appeal to the taste preferences of children in their care. Each recipe includes a statement showing how the food counts towards CACFP meal pattern requirements.

The English versions of the recipes were previously released as the CACFP Multicultural Recipe collection. These recipes reflect cuisines from around the world, such as the Beef Picadillo (Picadillo de carne), Red Beans and Rice (Frijoles rojos con arroz), Quick Quesadilla (Quesadilla rápida), Baked Batatas and Apples (Batatas y manzanas al horno), and more!

The recipes are free to download, print, and share with others at [Team Nutrition Recipes](#). Please share this information with State agencies. Questions concerning the recipes may be sent to TeamNutrition@usda.gov.

Reminders and Due Dates

2021 MEGS+ CNP: SNP Application

Even if you are following Extended SFSP, you must still complete the 2021 MEGS+ SNP application. It is very important that MDE approves both the 2020 SFSP and the 2021 SNP applications.

Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP): School Nutrition Programs (SNP) 2021 Application is now available.

The MEGS+ website for completing the SNP 2021 Application is at [MEGS+](#).

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](#)

School Nutrition Programs Training - Update

During this time of necessary social distancing, MDE has canceled scheduled in-person trainings for the time being. Instead, MDE will begin offering virtual training on various topics. Please check back periodically at the [MDE Training Website page](#) to see what is planned.

No Kid Hungry Webinars - Michigan School Nutrition Best Practices During the Pandemic

This 4-part webinar series will be a combination of Michigan Department of Education guidance on regulations as well as best practices from districts around Michigan. Each session will feature a different relevant topic that food service directors and community sponsors are faced with on a daily basis while serving meals through Extended SFSP during the time of the pandemic. All sessions are free of charge. If you aren't able to attend the live sessions, sessions will be recorded to view at your convenience.

The first webinar will be held December, 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

For registration and further information, visit [No Kid Hungry Webinar - Michigan School Nutrition Best Practices](#).

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - Increasing Access to Drinking Water in Schools – New Professional Development Microlearning Modules Available

[CDC Water Access in Schools](#). Drinking water provides a healthy alternative to sugar-sweetened beverages, improves cognitive function, including memory and attention, helps children maintain a healthy weight status, reduces risk for some chronic diseases, such as type two diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and helps prevent dental cavities, if fluoridated. Yet 1 in 5 children and adolescents do not drink any plain water during the day, and about half of school-aged children are underhydrated.

Schools can help kids stay hydrated by addressing water access through promotion campaigns, local school wellness policies, needs assessments, parent and student engagement, and community partnerships. [CDC Healthy Schools has developed a series of professional development microlearning modules](#), with each video lasting less than 5 minutes, for school administrators, teachers, wellness coordinators, and school health committees and teams to learn more about the steps to take and resources available to help schools:

- Ensure water is safe.
- Make clean, free drinking water easily available in multiple places at school.
- Meet free drinking water requirements in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.
- Promote water as an ideal beverage choice.

[Watch the modules today](#) and access other valuable resources focused on increasing water access:

- [Increasing Access to Drinking Water in Schools Tool Kit](#)
 - [Comprehensive Framework for Addressing the School Nutrition Environment and Services](#)
 - [AQWA: Assessing Quality of Water Access Toolkit](#)
 - [Increasing Water Availability in Schools](#)
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Questions of the Week

Question: What do I do if my milk delivery is late and I run out of milk during the virtual student meal distribution?

Answer: Submit the online [Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver form](#) to report the issue to MDE, so you can still claim those meals at the end of the month. Fill in the sponsor information and questions 10 and 11 on the form. You can leave the other questions blank. Fill out the form as many times as you have issues to report. The form should be submitted within 3 days of the incident.

Question: Are we allowed to provide more than 7 days worth of meals during the holidays?

Answer: Sponsors **cannot** provide more than 7 days of meals as current USDA guidance does not support this.

Question: We typically provide multiple meal distributions on Fridays. Can we hand out 7 days of meals on Friday, December 18 (for December 19 - 25) and then hand out meals again on Wednesday, December 23 (for December 26 - January 1)?

Answer: Yes, because the weekly meal service distribution would land on a major holiday, MDE will allow this one time exception so households can get meals for the second week of break and food service staff will get a break! You cannot provide more than 7 days of meals and you must document accordingly.

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://michigansna.org/meetinginfo.php?id=608&ts=1601664768>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-112520>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nationwide-waiver-meal-pattern-flexibility-extension-4>
<https://www.regulations.gov/>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-112520>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-112420>
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https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/megsplus/
<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
<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/michigan-school-nutrition-best-practices-during-covid-19>
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/wateraccess.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/water_access_videos.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/wateraccess.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/npao/wateraccess.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/nutrition/schooldistrictnutrition.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/nutrition/schoolnutrition.htm?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370
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https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/851?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370
https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/851?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1009-DM43370&ACSTrackingLabel>New%20Professional%20Development%20Microlearning%20Modules%20Available&deliveryName=USCDC_1009-DM43370

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<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JMS579W>

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

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