



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

April 9, 2021

Good to Great! – Using Social Media and the Michigan Meal Campaign

Join Michigan Department of Education No Kid Hungry and United Dairy Industry of Michigan for the first meeting in the Good to Great series. The meeting will be an hour filled with conversation and helpful tips and ideas to assist with social media marketing and meeting school nutrition professionals where they're at! Participants will be able to choose which break out rooms best meet their individual skills and knowledge on social media.

Breakout Room 1: Beginner Level -For participants just getting started, learn about the basics and how to start a social media presence for school meal programs.

Breakout Room 2: Moderate Level- For participants who currently have a social media presence but would like to optimize for greater impact and reach.

Breakout Room 3: Expert Level- For participants that feel very comfortable with social media and want to take marketing to the next level.

Date: Thursday April 15th

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Cost: FREE

[Pre-registration](#) is required.

Cost of Delivering School Meals During the Pandemic Survey

Researchers at the University of Washington School of Public Health and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health are studying the cost of delivering school meals during the pandemic. They are asking districts and nutrition service directors from around the country to provide information about the specific costs related to distributing school meals to students during COVID-related school closures. They are hoping to have at least 5 school districts from Michigan participate.

The survey takes about **15-20 minutes**, and upon completion respondents can **enter a raffle for one of three \$100 cash cards**.

The survey asks for districts' total labor costs, equipment and supply costs, and food costs. They will use these estimates to calculate a range nationally of cost per meal delivered to students. Their hope is study results will inform policy and program response for both future emergencies and long-term anti-hunger efforts.

The survey can be found at [Cost of Distributing School Meals Survey](#). Please respond by Friday, April 23, 2021.

Please email the project manager, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw (walkinl@uw.edu) with any questions.

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

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. The Michigan Waiver Training (Michigan -141a) and the 2021 Planning and Administering the SFSP (Michigan-100) are both **NOW** [available](#).

If an access code is needed, use 1234.

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

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=V0ZCc2U3L1Q5OHpmRmpjdjNlSXlidz09>

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=V0ZCc2U3L1Q5OHpmRmpjdlNISXlidz09>

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

CACFP Information Collection Request 60 day Federal Register Notice

On March 25, 2021, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a notice inviting comments on a proposed reinstatement of the information collection request (ICR) for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The previously approved ICR expired on February 29, 2020. FNS published an initial 60-day notice to renew this collection on December 26, 2019 (84 FR 70930). In response to the comments received, FNS revised the burden estimates associated with the collection. State agencies and sponsoring organizations are encouraged to comment on the accuracy of these revised burden estimates under this reinstatement request. Your comments provide important feedback to FNS and allow for the successful operation and improvement of the CACFP.

Comments can be submitted through [regulations](#) and must be received on or before May 24, 2021.

For more information, including instructions on how to submit comments, please visit: [information collection](#).

New feature alert for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs!

A new feature is now available on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-based Tool. Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capability of the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) for Grains using Method C. With this latest update, Method C can be used to determine the ounce equivalent grains contribution based on the grams of creditable grains for all items (Groups A-I) listed in Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. Program operators can use Method C to calculate the grains contribution of the recipe when a grain product is made on-site or a manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement is available. Registered users of the FBG Web Tool can view their saved RAWs on the FBG Mobile App.

Check out the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) today!

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: Our food service director is retiring soon. Where can I go to find information about hiring standards for a new director?

Answer: For information about minimum education standards and other hiring requirements, please visit the [MDE Professional Standards webpage](#).

Question: If my school district's last day of school is June 4 and we are not going to continue feeding in the summer, do I still have to fill out a 2021 SFSP application?

Answer: Yes. In order to claim and get reimbursed for meals served in May and June, you must complete a 2021 SFSP application.

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

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, 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

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

<https://moe.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/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf)

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508154--,00.html

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