



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

February 11, 2021

New Equipment and Capital Expenditure Prior Approval Process

The OHNS Fiscal Monitoring unit is pleased to announce the release of a new equipment and capital expenditure approval process. We are excited about the overhaul and believe it will improve the equipment approval process, along with clarifying the policy and guidance requirements. This will also reduce the number of equipment requests that Sponsors must submit. The new process is more streamlined and automated which will benefit both Sponsors and MDE. The online [Equipment and Capital Outlay Request Form](#) can be found on our [website](#) as well. The new equipment process and policy goes into effect immediately.

Benefits

- The [Pre-approved Food Service Equipment List](#) includes most ordinary food service equipment. Requests will now only be for unique items or large projects.
- Eliminated the \$25,000 Rule – We eliminated the rule that required Sponsors to get approval when equipment purchases exceed \$25,000 cumulative per building per year.
- Automated Process- The [Equipment and Capital Outlay Request Form](#) is now entered online directly in GEMS MARS. No more filling out the form and emailing it to us.

- The step-by-step online process will guide Sponsors through the online form. When an approval is not required, the system will let users know.

Please review the [MDE Food Service Administrative Memo #5 SY2020-2021 When Do You Need Pre-Approval for Food Service Equipment Purchases?](#) along with the [Pre-approved Food Service Equipment List](#) for more details about the new equipment process and requirements.

If you have questions, please email us at MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov.

Celebrate School Breakfast: NSBW March 8th-12th

There has never been a better time to promote breakfast! With breakfast counts rising due to more students eating breakfast in the classroom, more grab and go breakfast models and breakfast and lunch meal kit distributions for virtual learners, this is a great time to promote breakfast! Join schools across the country on March 8th-12th for National School Breakfast Week and celebrate the benefits of a healthy breakfast and the important role it plays in student academic achievement! The School Nutrition Association has put together GREAT [resources](#) to make it easy to implement!

You are all Breakfast Heroes for continuing to feed children throughout this entire year! We want to hear your stories and recognize you and your program for *Scoring Big with School Breakfast!* Please share your story and the impact it has had on students so we can recognize your great work!! Be on the lookout for more information on how to submit your National School Breakfast Week stories!

Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)

Team Nutrition just released updates to the [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool](#) (PSTTT) based on user feedback. Users logging in training for themselves will now see “My Training History” and “Print My Certificate” under the Welcome menu to easier access to these features. Additionally, school directors will have the ability to add a new district if their district is not currently listed in the PSTTT, as well as the ability to edit information (i.e., district name, county, zip) using “Manage School Districts” found under the Employees menu.

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

FREE Webinar! New Dietary Guidelines What You Need to Know

Description: The new 2020-25 DGA's were recently released featuring some significant changes, including newly developed recommendations for infants and toddlers 0-24 months and pregnant/lactating women. These guidelines are developed using substantial and robust scientific evidence that indicates following a healthy dietary pattern can help people throughout the lifespan achieve and support good health while reducing risk for chronic disease.

Why you should attend: Approximately 85% of Americans, adults, and children, do not consume the adequate recommended servings of dairy, vegetables and fruit each day. Encouraging adequate intake of these foods can help to close nutrition gaps especially for vulnerable populations. As a health care, school, or public health professional you will learn valuable information and tips to help guide those you work with to healthier eating patterns and better health.

Join us as we explore the newest guidelines and discuss important recommendations that you can share with your patients and families. In the spirit of being well nourished, *lunch is on us!* You will receive a \$15 Door Dash code after attending the webinar to reimburse you for lunch during the webinar.

Speaker: Toby Amidor, MS RD CDN, FAND. Professor, Wall Street Best-selling Author and FoodNetwork.com Nutrition Expert, Toby brings her extensive science background to the kitchen table to guide people to healthier lifestyles.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the evidence-based process used to create and update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs).
2. Identify and summarize the changes and updates published in the 2020-2025 DGAs.
3. Create and share actionable healthy eating messages with clients based on the DGAs.

[Register now!](#)

SUGGESTED PI: 6.2.5, 8.1.1, 8.1.4, 13.2.1 CDR ACTIVITY TYPE: 171, CPE LEVEL 2, CPE: 1 Credit

Presented by: milkmeansmore.org

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. We are opening a second and final round of applications soon.

Reimbursement payments can be awarded to eligible districts that apply. The second-round application will go live March 1st with 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.

More details and a link to the application will be sent out through the SNP News and other communication avenues later in February.

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.

Child Nutrition Emergency Operating Costs Reimbursement Program

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is offering two temporary reimbursement programs.

Purpose: To provide additional funding to sponsors whose revenues were impacted due to the pandemic

Who is Eligible: Sponsors in the School Nutrition Programs and/or Child and Adult Care Food Program

- If a sponsor had a lower reimbursement during the Spring of 2020 compared to the Spring of 2019, they will be eligible for this additional reimbursement.
- If a sponsor is eligible, they will be notified in the coming months.

Our office is working to apply to participate in these programs along with developing our implementation plan. More information will be provided when our plan is approved by USDA.

Strengthening the connection between school nutrition and the social and emotional climate in schools can enhance teaching and learning

A positive [social and emotional climate \(SEC\) in schools](#) is more important than ever, as our students face added stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The research clearly shows the benefits to both SEC and social and emotional learning (SEL)—and ultimately, the well-being and academic success of our students. Did you know that school nutrition policies and practices can improve the overall SEC and reinforce SEL core competencies?

School leaders can improve the overall school environment by strengthening the connection between school nutrition, SEC, and SEL.

Our [new research brief](#) on this topic includes a description of the SEL core competencies and provides examples of school nutrition policies and practices that reflect each competency. This [information](#) makes it easy for school leaders to focus on policies specific to their needs and setting.

Grant Opportunities

10-Cents a Meal

The 10-Cents a Meal [grant application](#) has re-opened. Please see the Application Tips section for assistance with the application.

What is 10-Cents a Meal?

This is a competitive, matching grant for all school districts (public, PSA, or private), RCCIs, and child care centers who participate in the USDA child nutrition programs of Extended Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during the school year, National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to receive reimbursement for buying and serving Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes. It is open to all participants state-wide.

How does it Work?

1. Purchase local produce. You will need to purchase at least twice the amount of your grant award in local produce.
2. Serve it in your USDA reimbursable meals.
3. Make sure to promote the Michigan produce and provide some educational components about local agriculture and products.
4. Submit your receipts and invoices on a monthly basis.
5. Complete 3-4 surveys.
6. Receive reimbursement.

Application Tips

- You may access the application by using your MEIS login and password. This will allow you to save the application and return to it. If you login as Guest, you will have to complete the application at one time.
- The application has FOUR sections that you need to complete – Contact Information, Budget Detail, Assurances and Program Information. These may be found on the drop down menu on the left hand side (Under Select).
- The Program Information section includes current local, minimally processed produce purchasing and how it's used in your program(s), current farm-to-school partnerships, marketing plans for local purchasing initiatives, and project goals including educational efforts.
- The more thorough your application response is, the better chance you will have to be granted funds.

To learn more about the grant and the success districts have had, visit [10-Cents Michigan](#).

For questions about the application, please contact Liana Bennett, BennettL4@michigan.gov or Jaime Malnar, MalnarJ1@michigan.gov.

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program Funding Opportunity

The Food and Agriculture Service Learning program increases knowledge of agricultural sciences and improves the nutritional health of children. The program focuses on increasing the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering community engagement between farms and school systems. This initiative is part of a broader effort to increase access to school meals for low-income children and greatly improve meal quality. For more information, read the [Food and Agriculture Service Learning funding opportunity](#).

Upcoming Events

Workshop Webinar

Topic: Special Dietary Needs

Date: February 24th

Time: 1-3pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Presenter: Wen Guo, MS, RD

Description: Dealing with student's special dietary needs has become a critical issue in our school nutrition programs. Hear from a Registered Dietitian who specializes in creating both modified and individualized diets for school districts, and working these into operations, and school regulations. We'll also have a Q&A with an expert panel of Registered Dietitians from several districts across the state.

Registration: \$75

Register today at our [SNAM website](#).

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84858034028?pwd=WlhBZ2NDUGNiVVJ5YndwQ2gyVVVYZz09>

Password: zDNdE0

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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

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

New CACFP Meal Pattern Training Slides

The USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is excited to announce new meal pattern training slide presentations for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). These ready-to-go presentation slides may be used by State agencies, sponsoring organizations, child care centers, and others to train providers, operators, and menu planners. The three new slide presentations include:

- Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP

- Serving Vegetables in the CACFP
- Using the WIC Food Lists to Identify Grains for the CACFP

The slide presentations are free to [download](#). Team Nutrition also provides training resources to accompany the above slide presentations. These training resources are available at:

- [Mealtimes with Toddlers](#) in the CACFP
- [Serving Vegetables](#) in the CACFP
- Using the [WIC Food Lists](#) to Identify Grains for the CACFP

For questions or assistance with these new Team Nutrition resources, please contact TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.

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](#)

P-EBT For Non-Public School Sponsors

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 1:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545163574?pwd=ejd2UnN4V3F6eTE4K2NDaVNNMGZDdz09>

Password: 29Ju3N

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Questions of the Week

Question: I attended a county call with my analyst. How can I provide feedback?

Answer: Please fill out the evaluation survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F5LHKR5>

Question: How do I submit contact person names for my school for P-EBT?

Answer: To find out more on the MDHHS P-EBT Eligibility Reporting Survey for SNP Sponsors Please review and follow directions in the following January 21, 2021, memo: [MDE Memo #COVID-19-152- Identifying Pandemic EBT Contact Person\(s\)](#). All sponsors will need to submit contact names and complete the survey regardless of your mode of education.

Question: Where can I view the MDHHS P-EBT Introductory Calls from February 4, 2021?

Answer: The meeting can be viewed at [P-EBT Introductory Call - February 4, 2021](#).

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, 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 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Links Used in this Document:

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireResponse.aspx?code=i3e7o9cz>
<https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Pre->

Approved_Food_Service_Equipment_List_715591_7.pdf
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireResponse.aspx?code=i3e7o9cz>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No._5_715592_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Pre-Approved_Food_Service_Equipment_List_715591_7.pdf
<https://schoolnutrition.org/news-publications/news/2021/nsbw-2021-toolkit-now-available/>
<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov>
<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wB8ABItTT_CRcvQZs0U0GQ
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i8d9taaw>
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/sec.htm>
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/nutrition/pdf/321123-A_FS_SchoolNutrition.pdf
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/nutrition/school_nutrition_sec.htm
<https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/>
https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-and-agriculture-service-learning-program?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=
<https://michigansna.org/>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-pattern-training-slides-cacfp>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/mealtimes-toddlers-cacfp>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-vegetables-cacfp>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/using-wic-food-lists-identify-grains-cacfp>
<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