



## School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

January 13, 2021

### United Dairy of Michigan (UDIM) “Helpful Reminders for Sending Meals Home” Resource Available!

UDIM has developed helpful reminders schools may use to inform children’s families about perishable foods send home. These beneficial reminders include sample PA announcements, social media posts and newsletter clips. There is also information on how you can order free stickers or postcards to remind students and grown-ups that there is fresh food in their bags that needs to be refrigerated. Check out these great resources at the UDIM [website](#) under Schools and Educators. [Helpful Reminders for Sending Meals Home.](#)

### ***CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Webinar on Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the CACFP***

On January 21, 2021, USDA’s Team Nutrition initiative will present [Using the Nutrition Facts Label in the CACFP](#). Registration for this free webinar is now available, using the following registration links:

- 2-2:30 p.m. ET **English Webinar** [\[Register Now\]](#)
- 3-3:30 p.m. ET **Spanish Webinar:** [\[Register Now\]](#)

Registration links are also available at [CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays](#).

This upcoming webinar will show Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators how to use the information on the Nutrition Facts label to identify foods that can be served as part of reimbursable meals and snacks. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions to the presenters and to check their knowledge through interactive polling questions. FNS Regional Offices, State agencies, sponsoring organizations, and CACFP program operators are invited to participate.

Team Nutrition will provide certificates of participation to individuals who attend the entire thirty-minute webinar. The National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) is also offering webinar participants the opportunity to submit and track continuing education credits. Additional information on this opportunity is available from the [NCA](#). The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Commission on Dietetic Registration has also approved this webinar for 0.5 hours of Continuing Professional Educations Units (CPEUs).

State agencies are encouraged to share this announcement with their CACFP sponsoring organizations, independent centers, and school food authorities. For more information, please visit the [CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays](#) webpage. Questions about this webinar may be sent to [TeamNutrition@usda.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@usda.gov).

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## 2021 SFSP Reimbursement Rates

This notice informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program for Children. These adjustments address changes in the Consumer Price Index, as required under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The notice is published in the [Federal Register](#).

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## Verification and the School Food Authority Verification Collection Report (SFA-VCR)

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has [requested a federal waiver](#) on behalf of all School Food Authorities (SFAs) determined to be in good standing in the state of Michigan for verification reporting.

The School Food Authority Verification Collection Report (SFA-VCR) will not open for SY20-21 until MDE has received a response from USDA for the waiver request.

Questions regarding the SFA-VCR may be directed to Natalee Mickelson at [mickelsonn@michigan.gov](mailto:mickelsonn@michigan.gov).

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## Direct Certification

The table below includes all of the remaining direct certification refresh dates for SY 20-21. In addition to the direct certification refresh dates, all of the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) report collection windows and deadlines are posted to the [CEPI calendar](#).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1/14/20	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
1/28/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
2/11/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
3/1/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
3/19/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
4/12/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
4/22/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
5/13/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
5/27/21	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)

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## Upcoming Events

### Town Hall Meetings

**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=NnpDU25FTnFOZENxVGdyWWZqRHRwUT09>

Password: 3aXe91

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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

### New MyPlate Digital Tools and Resources Available Today!

Did you hear? The USDA and HHS just released the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025](#) – our nation’s leading nutrition advice to help all Americans lead healthier lives.

[MyPlate](#) is here to help you and your family put the *Dietary Guidelines* into action with new digital tools and resources available starting today! *Start Simple with MyPlate* offers free, personalized resources based on your eating needs and habits.

Follow these simple steps and get started with these MyPlate resources:

1. *Find your starting point.* **Take the quick [MyPlate Quiz](#)** to see how your eating habits stack up against the MyPlate recommendations. Based on your answers you’ll receive tailored resources and a personal quiz results code to sync with the *Start Simple with MyPlate* app.
2. *Set simple goals based on your personal needs:* **Use the [Start Simple with MyPlate app](#)** to help you set daily meal- and snack-based goals to help you eat healthier. Sync your results from the MyPlate Quiz for a personalized experience. Join challenges, see progress, and earn badges to celebrate successes.
3. *Learn how much you should eat:* To find out what and how much to eat from each of the food groups, **get your own personalized [MyPlate Plan](#).**
4. *Put your plan into action:* **Discover recipes on [MyPlate Kitchen](#).** Check out hundreds of healthy, budget-friendly recipes that provide detailed nutrition and food group information to help you choose recipes that fit your needs.

5. *Save money and eat healthy:* Use [Healthy Eating on a Budget](#) to help you save money at the store by making a shopping plan, shopping smart, and preparing healthy meals to stretch food dollars.

6: *Keep up the good work!* One big change is that we've officially changed our website from ChooseMyPlate.gov to MyPlate.gov. **Explore [MyPlate's new website](#)** – MyPlate.gov – with streamlined information for you to find tips, tools, and recipes that will fit your healthy eating needs.

The benefits of healthy eating add up over time, bite by bite. Small changes matter, [Start Simple with MyPlate](#).

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## **Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations during School Year 2020-2021 – Q&As #4**

The following [USDA memo](#) includes questions and answers intended to provide clarification to State agencies and Program operators as they continue to operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) during the school year.

Pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and based on the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has issued several nationwide waivers and has exercised existing statutory and regulatory authorities to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. Find additional information on the FNS Response to [pandemic](#).

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## **Training Program Operators to Use Grains Ounce Equivalents**

On February 10, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. ET, USDA's Team Nutrition initiative will host a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Trainers' Circle Webinar on "Training Program Operators to Use Grains Ounce Equivalents." This webinar will help State agencies, CACFP sponsoring organizations, and independent centers provide training on using ounce equivalents instead of "servings" to determine amounts of grains. CACFP operators are required to use ounce equivalents for grains by October 1, 2021 ("[Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the Child and Adult Care Food Program Final Rule](#)").

Registration for this free webinar is now available via the [Team Nutrition website](#).

Webinar participants will learn about existing [training tools](#) and strategies available on grains ounce equivalents. Additionally, Oregon's Department of Education will share how they used virtual training techniques to provide training for CACFP operators.

Team Nutrition will provide certificates of participation to individuals who attend the entire webinar. The National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) is also offering webinar participants the opportunity to submit and track continuing education credits. Also, Continuing Professional Educations Units (CPEUs) have been approved from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Commission on Dietetic Registration.

State agencies are encouraged to share this announcement with their CACFP sponsoring organizations and independent centers. For more information, please visit the [CACFP Trainers' Circle](#) webpage. Questions about the CACFP Trainers' Circle webinars may be sent to [TeamNutrition@usda.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@usda.gov).

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## **Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) Enhanced!**

Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Per the overwhelming feedback, Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capability for Directors and Manager-users to edit the names and emails for those employee profiles that are not associated with an eAuthorization account. Additionally, user profiles now have a new field for an employee identification number. This feature is designed to make logging and tracking training easier for districts that have employees with the same, or similar names.

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

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## **Nationwide Waiver for Selected Child Nutrition Program Reporting Requirements**

A nationwide waiver related to select Child Nutrition reporting requirements for State Agencies has been released. MDE will not have to submit certain USDA reports due to the pandemic for School Year 2020-2021. You can find more information on the waiver [here](#).

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## **The 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans**

We have some exciting news to share. The *2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* have been released jointly by USDA and HHS. As many of you know, these are the cornerstone of the federal food assistance programs, and drive our delivery of nutrition education and nutrition policy. Please review the official [USDA Press Release](#).

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## 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](mailto:MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov).

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

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### 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.

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## **New Training Videos: Mealtimes With Toddlers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program**

Children's nutritional needs and developmental abilities change and evolve dramatically in the first few years of life. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal patterns reflect the changing nutritional needs of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. On December 18, the Food and Nutrition Service's Team Nutrition initiative released new training videos about mealtimes with toddlers (1- and 2-year-olds) in the CACFP. These videos complement Team Nutrition's Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP Operator Booklet and Family Handout, and may be used by State agencies and CACFP operators to increase understanding of meal pattern requirements for this important age group.

The 2-3 minute videos are available in English and Spanish and address the following hot topics:

- Assisting toddlers in learning how to feed themselves
- Encouraging toddlers to try new foods
- Types of milk to serve children in the CACFP

The videos, along with the Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP Operator Booklet and Family Handout are available on the [Team Nutrition web site](#). The videos include audio descriptions to promote access for those who have low vision or who are blind.

CACFP operators play an important role in helping children establish healthy eating patterns early in life, which can have a lasting impact on food preferences and eating patterns later in life. State agencies are encouraged to share information about these new resources with their CACFP sponsoring organizations, independent centers, and others who may be interested. Questions about this announcement may be sent to [TeamNutrition@USDA.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@USDA.gov).

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## **Questions of the Week**

**Question:** I have an Excess Fund Balance (EFB), what can I spend the excess funds on?

**Answer:** Since Child Nutrition Program funds must be used only for program purposes, excess funds must be reduced by investing in the program. Here are some of the most common ways to invest in the program:

- improving the quality of food served
- purchasing needed supplies, services, or equipment
- or by adding staffing

- inquire about additional ways to reinvest in your program

Our Fiscal Monitoring Team will send notifications to all School Food Authorities with an EFB from SY2019/2020. An acceptable Spend Down Plan of Action for reinvesting in the food service program will be required in February 2021 through our GEMS/MARS system. Be sure to check out our [All About Excess Fund Balances](#) for a quick guide to EFB guidance and policy. Our [Excess Fund Balance Webinar](#) Recording can also be found on our [Fiscal and Administrative Services Team \(FAST\) Website](#). For further information, contact [MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov) or 517-241-5380.

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**Question:** Where do I find the Program Integrity Plan information?

**Answer:** The [Sponsor Program Integrity Plan Template](#) is available at our National School Lunch Program [Resources](#) webpage.

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**Question:** Where do I learn more about the 10 Cents A Meal Grant?

**Answer:** More information is available at [Ten Cents Michigan](#).

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## Contact Us

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto: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](#).

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## USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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#### Links Used in this Document:

<https://www.milkmeansmore.org/>

<https://www.milkmeansmore.org/schools-educators/take-home-meals/>

[https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/CACFPWorksheet\\_Using\\_the\\_NFL.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/CACFPWorksheet_Using_the_NFL.pdf)

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<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/halftime-cacfp-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series>  
<https://www.cacfp.org/resources/thirty-thursdays>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/halftime-cacfp-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series>  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/31/2020-29093/summer-food-service-program-2021-reimbursement-rates>  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SNP\\_Bulletin\\_No\\_16\\_711166\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SNP_Bulletin_No_16_711166_7.pdf)  
<https://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,4546,7-113-72089---,00.html>  
<https://www.dietaryguidelines.gov/>  
<https://www.myplate.gov/>  
<https://www.myplate.gov/myplate-quiz>  
<https://www.myplate.gov/resources/tools/startsimple-myplate-app>  
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[https://mdoe.state.mi.us/megsplus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE\\_MEGSPLUS](https://mdoe.state.mi.us/megsplus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS)  
<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/mealtimes-toddlers-cacfp>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/fr-092519>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/trainers-circle-cacfp-webinars>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/trainers-circle-cacfp-webinars>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/trainers-circle-cacfp-webinars>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/Nationwide-Waiver-for-Selected-Child-Nutrition-Program-Reporting-Requirements>  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/bulletins/2b336d5?reqfrom=share>  
[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fdocuments%2Fmde%2FSponsor\\_Program\\_Integrity\\_Plan\\_Template\\_707989\\_7.docx&data=04%7C01%7CWolvertonM%40michigan.gov%7C9a3f3bd28aad40002c8408d8b7fa4802%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C637461632861042863%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YAVSUbflbXRUGTn6VdJXkuOB8eiUDwdQr2qOJ4OINbc%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fdocuments%2Fmde%2FSponsor_Program_Integrity_Plan_Template_707989_7.docx&data=04%7C01%7CWolvertonM%40michigan.gov%7C9a3f3bd28aad40002c8408d8b7fa4802%7Cd5fb7087377742ad966a892ef47225d1%7C0%7C637461632861042863%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YAVSUbflbXRUGTn6VdJXkuOB8eiUDwdQr2qOJ4OINbc%3D&reserved=0)  
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<https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/>  
<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/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf)  
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