



School Nutrition News and Updates

February 19, 2020

School Nutrition Programs Website

Coming Soon: The School Nutrition Program website is getting a face lift. You spoke and we listened. The new website will be much more customer friendly and easier to navigate.

Food Waste and Food Recovery Programs

Many School Food Authorities (SFAs) are concerned with food waste and how excessive food waste impacts the carbon footprint of our planet. What can you do to reduce food waste?

1. Plan your food production for one meal per student per meal service.
2. Consider using cycle-menus to improve food order forecasting.
3. Review your menu and replace items that are not taken by the majority of the students.
4. Plan to sell leftover entree items as a la carte items the following day.
5. Implement Offer versus Serve at all meals and in all grades.

6. Implement a share table.

Some SFAs are working with non-profit organizations in food recovery programs when it's not feasible to utilize these foods with their school. This is a program where leftover food is donated to a non-profit organization and the organization is responsible for distribution of foods. Per USDA regulations, any leftover food can be used by the SFA at another meal or donated to a non-profit food recovery program, such as homeless shelters, community food banks, etc. Some SFA's have found success in utilizing apps that identify food donation connections that can assist with food-safety oriented ways to donate these prepared foods.

Please refer to USDA memo SP11-2012 – Guidance on the Food Donation Program in Child Nutrition Programs. It states that any food not consumed may be donated to eligible local food banks or charitable organizations that are tax exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Remember, SFA's must follow the FDA Food Code safe food handling requirements, as well as all state and local health and sanitation codes. Under no circumstances should schools be refilling food containers that are brought from home. The 2009 Food Code, which is currently in use in Michigan, strictly prohibits the re-filling of multi-use containers that are taken home by consumers.

For more information, including how USDA Foods may affect these donations, please refer to the following resources:

[Administrative Policy No. 2 SY 2012-2013 - Donation of Leftover Food and USDA Foods\(1\)](#)

[USDA Memo SP11-2012 - Guidance on the Food Donation Program in Child Nutrition Programs\(2\)](#)

[Comprehensive Guidance for Food Recovery Programs\(3\)](#)

Paid Lunch Equity School Year (SY) 2020-2021

[USDA SP 07-2020\(4\)](#) has allowed a Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Exemption for SY 2020-2021 for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) with a documented positive or zero fund balance in their Non-profit School Food Service Account (NSFSA) as of December 31, 2019. SFAs that had a negative fund balance as of December 31, 2019, are still required to follow PLE pricing requirements.

SFAs with a positive or zero fund balance must still complete the SY 2020-2021 PLE Tool. The PLE Tool is an annual requirement and is dependent on previous years to carry on the applicable requirement price. Although this flexibility has been offered to SFAs with a positive or zero fund balance, paid meal prices may still be raised based on a SFA's discretion. SFAs with a positive or zero fund balance must

document the PLE Tool completion and their fund balance as of December 31, 2019, if they choose to not raise meal prices. Documentation should consist of an updated Detailed General Ledger for the Food Service Fund (Fund 25) as of December 31, 2019, that clearly indicates the fund balance information.

SFAs with a negative fund balance must complete the PLE Tool and follow at least the minimum required price increase.

OHNS will collect data on the PLE Exemption through another PLE Poll in the Fall of 2020. Documentation of the SY 2020-2021 PLE Tool and fund balance, and/or price increase will be required and collected in future Resource Management Reviews.

The SY 2020-2021 PLE Tool and instructions have not been released yet. OHNS will send out the new PLE Tool and instructions as soon as it is released by the USDA later this spring.

Questions regarding PLE Tool requirements can be sent to the Fiscal and Administrative Services Monitoring Team at 517-241-5348.

Questions and Answers:

Question: My SFA has a positive fund balance, do I need to complete the PLE Tool?

Answer: Yes, MDE requires every SFA, regardless of fund balance, to complete the PLE Tool every year. The PLE Tool is an annual requirement and each tool is dependent on the previous tool to carry on the applicable requirement price.

Question: Can I still raise prices if I have a positive fund balance?

Answer: Yes. Even if you have a positive fund balance as of December 31, 2019, you may still decide to raise prices to avoid a larger price increase in future years. It is up to the discretion of the SFA.

Question: My SFA has a negative fund balance, do I need to complete the PLE Tool?

Answer: Yes, MDE requires every SFA, regardless of fund balance, to complete the PLE Tool every year. The PLE Tool is an annual requirement and each tool is dependent on the previous tool to carry on the applicable requirement price. SFA's with a negative fund balance must also raise prices by at least the minimum required.

Question: I do not know how to complete the PLE Tool. Where do I go for help?

Answer: Please contact our Fiscal Monitoring Team at 517-241-5348. Our financial analysts can help!

Question: Where do I find the new PLE Tool?

Answer: The SY 2020-2021 PLE Tool and instructions have not been released yet. The Office of Health and Nutrition Services (OHNS) will send out the new PLE Tool and instructions as soon as it is released by the USDA later this spring.

Question: What do I need to complete the PLE Tool?

Answer: SFAs need to gather the following information in order to complete the tool:

- Previous PLE Tool's unrounded requirement price
- Current school year's paid student meal prices
- October paid student meal counts per price

Question: Do I need to complete all the tabs in the PLE Tool?

Answer: No, the "Unrounded Requirement Finder" and "SY 20-21 Price Calculator" Tabs are required. The "NonFederal Calculator" and "Split Calculator" Tabs are only used if an SFA is contributing nonfederal funds in lieu of a price increase or partial price increase. The "Report" Tab is not required however is very useful for SFAs to track and record the pricing requirements for future PLE Tools. The remaining "SY10-11 Price Calculator" Tab is provided for SFAs that do not have any previous years PLE Tool and need a starting point.

No Kid Hungry Pilot Program

The summer meals program is a lifeline for kids in need, but each summer it fails to reach enough kids. Evidence from previous pilots seems to indicate that [serving adult meals\(5\)](#) and [providing activities or programming at sites\(6\)](#) may be two strategies that can increase participation and improve the user experience for kids and their families. **This summer, No Kid Hungry is looking for up to ten pilot partners to help us put these strategies to the test.** Partners selected for either pilot will receive up to \$10,000 and technical assistance from No Kid Hungry's Program Innovation team to plan and pilot their idea. To be eligible, organizations must be summer meal sponsors in good standing with their state agencies and be able to implement their idea in summer 2020.

Adult Meals:

Many families would like to eat together. But, child nutrition programs like the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) can make it hard for families who rely on these meals to do so. Even though adult meals are not federally reimbursable, No Kid Hungry has heard that adult meals could improve the program experience for families and sponsors. Do you have an innovative idea for how summer meals might be different if designed to serve children and adults? [Submit a proposal to test your idea!\(7\)](#)

Activities and Programming:

Many summer sites pair meals with activities for kids. That is not new. But, No Kid Hungry thinks there is more to learn about how this work impacts participation and the summer meal experience when sites function as spaces designed to meet the broader needs of low-income families. Do you have an idea for launching or improving programming at a summer site? [Submit a proposal to test your idea this summer!\(8\)](#)

To be considered for either pilot, organizations must submit a complete proposal by **March 2, 2020**. Organizations are welcome to apply for both pilots. Questions can be submitted to innovation@strength.org.

No Kid Hungry Chronic Absenteeism Report

Nearly 8 million students a year are considered “chronically absent,” meaning they miss at least three weeks of school per year. School officials around the nation are focused on finding ways to reduce this number. Many schools, however, already have an effective, powerful tool at their disposal – school breakfast. [A new study](#),(9) conducted on behalf of No Kid Hungry by researchers from the University of California Santa Barbara, found:

- Serving breakfast as part of the school day can reduce chronic absenteeism by an average of 6 percentage points.
- For context, holding all other factors constant, a school where 22% of students are chronically absent (the average in the schools studied) could see that drop to 16% after implementing Breakfast After the Bell.
- And while the focus of the study was absenteeism, exploratory analysis also found that Breakfast After the Bell led to improvements in reading achievement and “internalizing behaviors,” such as anxiety, loneliness, and sadness among students.

Serving breakfast as a part of the school day is an effective way to fight hunger and ensure that all students start the day with the morning nutrition they need for focus, health, and emotional wellness. Studies like this will continue to help us reach more

schools and policy makers with the measurable effects of this important meal. Thank you for your support in helping to make No Kid Hungry a reality for more children across the nation.

Reminders and Due Dates

25-Year Service Awards

It is time again to nominate Michigan school food service professionals who have served for 25 years or more. Visit [SurveyMonkey\(10\)](#) and complete the nomination form by March 2, 2020, if one or more of your employees have been involved with the National School Lunch Program in Michigan (public and non-public schools) for 25 years or more. Award certificates for 25 years of service will be mailed to the School Food Authority in April 2020. Please do not list employees who have received this recognition in the past.

Training Corner

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#),⁽¹¹⁾ a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. Use the links below to ***have your training added to the calendar*** or if you would like **MDE staff to come and train or speak at your training**.

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\(11\)](#)

[I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar.\(12\)](#)

[I would like MDE staff to come and train at my training.\(13\)](#)

No Kid Hungry Webinar - Serving Breakfast After the Bell and Its Impact on Chronic Absenteeism

Join this webinar to hear more about how Breakfast After the Bell can impact chronic absenteeism. Nearly 8 million students in the country are chronically absent, meaning they miss more than three weeks or more of school each

year. Attendance Works, a leading national organization focused on chronic absenteeism, will discuss why chronic absenteeism is an important education and equity issue. No Kid Hungry will share new research that demonstrates Breakfast After the Bell can reduce chronic absenteeism and improve other student outcomes. Julie Pittman, North Carolina Teacher of the Year, will offer her perspective on why this new research is so important and share thoughts on how to effectively talk about this with educators.

When: Monday, February 24 at 1:00 pm ET

To Register: [Webinar Registration\(14\)](#)

Talk @ 2pm

Join School Nutrition Programs staff for an informal 30-minute to 1-hour webinar meeting. Staff will provide a brief description of the topic and the remainder of the time is open for Q & A. Preregistration is required. After registering, a link to copy and paste into your browser to access the webinar will be emailed to you in your registration confirmation. Following is information on the upcoming Talk @ 2pm topic:

Topic: Excess Fund Balance

- Allowable ways to spend down excess funds
- How to carry over extension
- How to submit a spend down plan to MDE

When: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 - 2:00 pm

To Register: [Excess Fund Balances Webinar\(15\)](#)

Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar

Success with School Breakfast A balanced, nutritious breakfast helps children have energy and concentrate in class. In the February STAR webinar: Success with School Breakfast, panelists will share tips, strategies, and resources to help educate, promote, and increase the likelihood of students eating school breakfast. Speakers will include Dr. Dana Bing, Nutrition Services Assistant Director with the Richmond County School System (Augusta, Georgia), Jeannine Rios, Senior Program Manager with School Breakfast at Share Our Strength, and Dr. Lewanda Morse, Associate Director of Grants at the Institute of Child Nutrition.

When: Thursday, February 27, 2020 - 3:00-4:00 pm ET

To Register: [Success with School Breakfast Webinar Registration\(16\)](#)

Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) Workshop

The staff of the Michigan Department of Education's School Nutrition Programs unit is pleased to announce a one-day workshop for administrators and food service directors from RCCIs operating United States Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) or interested in operating CNPs. The workshop is intended to provide staff of RCCIs the latest information for administering and operating the CNPs. The workshop format is a mixture of general sessions, table discussions, and networking opportunities.

When: Thursday, March 5, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: Michigan Virtual, 920 Municipal Way, Lansing, Michigan 48917

To Register: [RCCI Workshop\(17\)](#)

School Meals Overview Training

This comprehensive training is for School Food Authorities (SFAs) and RCCIs and will cover items that staff must know to provide quality meals that adhere to the USDA guidelines. Following are the dates for the upcoming SMOTS.

When: May 6, 12, and 21, 2020

Registration Fee: \$120.00

Location: Michigan Virtual, 920 Municipal Way, Lansing, Michigan 48917

For further information and registration information, visit [SMOT May Training Registration](#) (18)

When: August 4, 5, and 6, 2020

Location: Bay College, M-Tec Center, 2000 N 30th St., Escanaba, Michigan 49829

Registration information coming soon.

Questions of the Week

Question: Who is No Kid Hungry?

Answer: No Kid Hungry is a national campaign run by Share Our Strength, a nonprofit working to solve problems of hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. They work on School Breakfast, Summer Meals, Afterschool Meals, Food Skills Education, and Research and Policy. In Michigan, No Kid Hungry partners with the Michigan Department of Education to end childhood hunger in the state by expanding access to school breakfast. Learn more about No Kid Hungry at [No Kid Hungry What We Do](#).(19)

Question: What is the partnership between No Kid Hungry and MDE?

Answer: No Kid Hungry works with MDE to build program awareness and provide technical assistance and grant support across the state. At this time, our team is concentrating on increasing access and participation in the School Breakfast Program. Look for grant opportunities that you can apply for in the near future!

Contact us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway\(20\)](#) 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.

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](#),(21) (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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Hyperlinks for Ease of Access

[12 State Supt 457443 7.pdf](#)

(2) https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP11_CACFP05_SFSP07-2012os.pdf

(3)

[recovery-programs/](#)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7) <https://adult-meals-rfp.questionpro.com/>

(8) <https://activities-rfp.questionpro.com/>

(9) <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/study-chronic-absenteeism-and-breakfast-after-bell>

(10) <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M9K7RZX>

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

(12) https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf

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

(14) <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars/serving-breakfast-after-bell-and-its-impact-chronic-absenteeism>

(15) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talk-at-2pm-webinar-excess-fund-balances-registration-91788643303>

(16) https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wxotiMC-RLe9SOVKGq2GIQ

(17) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/school-nutrition-program-residential-child-care-institution-rci-workshop-registration-90176790207>

(18) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-may-6-12-21-school-meals-overview-training-smot-registration-93144603015>

(19) <https://www.nokidhungry.org/what-we-do>

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

(21) https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf