



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

March 11, 2020

2021 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant Available

The National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant 2021 application is now available. For further information, visit [NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant 2021 Memo](#).(1)

Summer Food Service Program Application Available

The Meet Up and Eat Up Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) team is excited to announce the 2020 SFSP Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) application is available for sponsors. Applications are due to MDE by **May 1, 2020**. Refer to [SFSP Operational Memorandum #2 \(2\)](#) for SFSP application information and amendments.

Food Service Administrative Memo No. 7

For information on updated guidance regarding share tables in School Food Programs: United States Department of Agriculture guidelines and application of the Food Code, please visit [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 7 - School Year 2019-2020.\(3\)](#)

New MIND System Training Video

[MIND Security Levels and How to Access Them.](#)(4) This short 10-minute video will walk through the process of getting Levels 1, 2, and 3 access to the MIND system. This includes who can grant the access and what they need to do.

Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Now Available! New Enhancements to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)

Enhancements to the PSTTT are now available. Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the Tracking Tool and works continuously to enhance the user experience. The new enhancements include improving the functionality to provide a more user-friendly way to search, select, and record a training title. The user is now able to select easily the correct training title when multiple training titles exist in the tool's database with the same name. Additionally, the update includes an alert system to notify the user if attempting to enter a duplicate training record with all matching information

Track your annual required professional standards training hours using USDA's free Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool at [Training Tracker Tool.\(5\)](#)

School Children Consumed More Whole Grains Following Change in School Meal Standards

A study by ERS and University of Georgia researchers found that in 2013-14, the whole grain to total grain consumption ratio for the school foods children ate (USDA school meals and non-USDA snacks or meals obtained at school) was 21.5 percent—higher than the 17.2 percent ratio for home-prepared foods and the 2.6 percent ratio for foods from restaurants and fast food places. For more information, visit [Schoolchildren Consumed More Whole Grains Following Change in School Meal Standards.\(6\)](#)

Request for Comments on the Proposed Information Collection for the Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price School Meals and Free Milk

On January 21, 2020, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a 60-day notice and request for comments on the proposed information collection for the Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals and Free Milk.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this information collection. Every 3 years, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) must publish the burden, or time and frequency, of every record-keeping and reporting activity. State agencies and program operators are especially encouraged to comment on the accuracy of these burden estimates to provide important feedback to the USDA and allow for the successful operation of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Special Milk Program.

Any comments should be submitted by March 21, 2020, through the [Federal Register Notice](#).(7)

Request for Comments on the Proposed Information Collection for the Turnip the Beet! High Quality Summer Meals Award Program.

On February 7, 2020, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a 60-day notice and request for comments on the proposed information collection for the Turnip the Beet! High Quality Summer Meals Award Program. FNS invites you to comment on the proposed Turnip the Beet information collection, known as the "Turnip the Beet ICR." In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. Every 3 years, FNS must publish the burden, or time and frequency, of every record-keeping and reporting activity. State agencies and sponsors are especially encouraged to comment on the accuracy of these burden estimates to provide important feedback to the USDA and allow for the successful operation of Turnip the Beet! Any comments should be submitted by April 7, 2020, through the [Federal Register Notice](#).(8)

Training Corner

Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#),(9) 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\(10\)](#)

[I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar.\(11\)](#)

[I would like MDE staff to come and train at my training.\(12\)](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics Webinar on the Importance of School Meals

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), with support from National Dairy Council, is hosting a webinar on the importance of school meals. Join the webinar for a discussion on the vital role school meals play in child growth and development as well as helping children learn about and practice healthy eating. Robert Murray, MD, FAAP, will share opportunities to help pediatricians work effectively with schools on practical approaches to address nutrition during the office visit. Donna Martin, EdS, RD, LD, School Nutrition Director for Burke County Schools in Georgia, will share a case study about practical implementation approaches of the school meal program.

When: Tuesday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. CT

To Register: [AAP Webinar Registration\(13\)](#)

No Kid Hungry Webinar - Strategies to Improve the Summer Meals Experience for Kids and Families

The summer meals program is a lifeline for kids in need, but it fails to reach many of the kids who could benefit from program participation. Join No Kid Hungry for a conversation about how to improve the summer meals experience for kids and families through adopting creative strategies and family-centric approaches.

When: Wednesday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. ET

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

Talk @ 2pm

Join School Nutrition Programs staff for informal 30-minute to 1-hour webinars featuring professional development and training via Skype. Look for upcoming Talk @ 2 webinars. **Registration information coming soon.**

Topics include:

Claims Don't Bite (Tips and Tricks for using MiND)
Paid Lunch Equity Tool
Indirect Cost

Targeted Training

A hands-on, activity-based workshop for school nutrition professionals. This workshop is targeted to food service staff and administrative support staff and will provide active sessions where participants can interact with MDE staff.

When: May 20 and 21, 2020

Location: Kalamazoo Public Schools - West Main Professional Development Center, 1627 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan
Registration information coming soon.

School Meals Overview Training (SMOT)

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 \(15\)](#)

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: What are four rules proposed by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) currently open for comment?

Answer:

[Information Collection for the Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price School Meals and Free Milk\(16\)](#) - Comments due March 21, 2020

[Simplifying Meal Service and Monitoring Requirements in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs\(17\)](#) - Comments due March 23, 2020.

[Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the Summer Food Service Program\(18\)](#) Comments due March 23, 2020.

[Information Collection for the Turnip the Beet! High Quality Summer Meals Award Program\(19\)](#) – Comments due April 7, 2020

Proposed Rule Fact Sheets:

[National School Lunch and Breakfast Program Fact Sheet\(20\)](#)

[Summer Food Service Program Fact Sheet\(21\)](#)

Question: How to submit comments and why these comments are so important?

Answer: The USDA needs to hear from program sponsors and State Agencies to understand how these proposed changes will affect day to day operations in districts throughout Michigan. To submit comments, visit [Regulations Website](#).(22) Please take the time to comment on these proposed changes.

Contact us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#) (23) 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](#).(24)

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#),⁽²⁵⁾ (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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(5) <https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>

- (6) <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2020/february/schoolchildren-consumed-more-whole-grains-following-change-in-school-meal-standards/>
- (7) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/21/2020-00908/agency-information-collection-activities-proposed-collection-comment-request-determining-eligibility>
- (8) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/07/2020-02449/agency-information-collection-activities-turnip-the-beet-high-quality-summer-meals-award-program>
- (9) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
- (10) https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf
- (11) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>
- (12) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdq>
- (13) https://aap.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=aap&service=6&rnd=0.099835348379542&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Faap.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b00000004f6a500ce05cfd1b82c8d69afa22ad980dc6509a3c1708f80839cbb3d9f267a36%26siteurl%3Daap%26confViewID%3D154262344830067367%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAASX7r_yzURKGN05d4rys5aq0NAcUqp7j1Xhzxu4xRPoww2%26
- (14) <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars/strategies-improve-summer-meals-experience-kids-and-families>
- (15) <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-may-6-12-21-school-meals-overview-training-smot-registration-93144603015>
- (16) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/21/2020-00908/agency-information-collection-activities-proposed-collection-comment-request-determining-eligibility>
- (17) <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-01-23/pdf/2020-00926.pdf>
- (18) <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-01-23/pdf/2020-00919.pdf>
- (19) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/07/2020-02449/agency-information-collection-activities-turnip-the-beet-high-quality-summer-meals-award-program>
- (20) <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/fact-sheet-school-meals-flexibilities>
- (21) <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/fact-sheet-summer-meals-streamlining-integrity>
- (22) <https://www.regulations.gov/>
- (23) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>
- (24) https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229
- (25) https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf