



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

July 23, 2020

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Press Release – Income Eligibility Guidelines

MDE announced the household income eligibility guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. Visit [MDE Press Release](#).

New School Year Guidance

Looking for guidance on how to serve meals during the 2020-2021 school year? Please look at the MDE National School Lunch Program [Resources](#) webpage. New items are being added each week.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Update

Please note that USDA has not yet released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 FFVP grant allocations to the states. MDE cannot announce FFVP grant recipients for FY 2020-2021 until we receive notification from USDA as to the amount of money we will be awarded. MDE has also submitted several waiver requests for the FFVP for

SY 2020-2021, which would include allowing parent pick-up of FFVP snack, allowing FFVP snacks to be distributed with lunch and/or breakfast meals for off-site consumption, and allowing non-congregate FFVP snacks for students participating in off-site distance learning. Thank you for your patience and understanding. MDE will move as quickly as possible when we get more information from USDA.

Institutional Produce Safety Survey

A team of educators from Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with Fresh Systems, LLC., Michigan Food and Farming Systems, and the Wallace Center at Winrock International have developed a national survey about institutional food safety programs to inform educational initiatives for fresh produce buyers. The aim of this survey is to gather data on accepted food safety verification programs for fresh produce, awareness of the program's requirements for farms, and confidence in these verification programs.

Do you purchase fresh produce for an institution or know someone that does? Please consider taking and/or sharing a [Survey About Food Safety Requirements for Suppliers](#). All of the questions are in multiple choice format and the survey will take an estimated time of 7 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous and participation is completely voluntary. The survey will be open through August 31, 2020.

See the attached below flyer for more information:

[Institutional Produce Buyer Flyer](#)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the survey, feel free to contact Mariel Borgman from MSU Extension at mborgm@msu.edu.

Reminders and Due Dates

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/93609707698?pwd=cjduWUUh3R3daM1QveUYwUks0Y2wzZz09>

Password: 4bzywE

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/91361943270?pwd=MFY3c0VJdjgrSWVJRzR3Q0V4SEd2Zz09>

Password: 3fB4Hg

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

2021 MEGS+ CNP: SNP Application Available

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+](#).

Application Due Date

The table below shows the MEGS+ application deadlines based on the first month in the 2020-2021 School Year for which you may submit a claim for reimbursement in the School Nutrition Programs.

Claim Month	Application Due
August 2020	August 1, 2020
September 2020	September 1, 2020

Please note a 2021 SNP Application must be submitted and approved in order to submit claims for July and August 2020.

Questions regarding the 2021 SNP MEGS+ application may be directed to your analyst, mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov, or 517-241-5374.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

You must notify the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) unit of your intention to participate in the CEP for School Year 2020-2021 by August 31, 2020, or the first day of school, whichever is earlier. The [Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Deadlines](#) extended the deadline for electing CEP for the upcoming school year. SNP requires the notification to occur by selecting "yes" to question number 12 and saving the *Sponsor Information Page* in the 2021 CNP: School Nutrition Program

MEGS+ Application. This selection must be made by the deadline, as a late selection cannot be approved.

The USDA CEP waiver also allowed for an expansion in the data used to calculate Identified Student Percentage (ISP). For the 2020-2021 school year, the waiver allows for school districts to use direct certification data from anytime between April 1 and June 30, instead of the normal deadline of April 1.

Districts that are 100% Free Claiming with the available data are good to complete and submit the 2021 CNP: School Nutrition Programs MEGS+ Application. The 2020 School Level CEP Eligibility Report using Spring 2020 data is now posted to the [CEP website](#).

Districts that currently participate in CEP and are not at 100% Free Claiming or plan to participate for the first time need to upload enrollment documentation if they wish to use the CEP waiver and determine eligibility based on June 30 data. An Excel file with the full student enrollment from the end of SY19-20 should be uploaded into [GEMS/MARS](#) that contains the following information: UIC, last name, first name, DOB, address, student number, school building code, school name, F/R determination basis, application/household number, and McKinney Vento students. Student data should not be emailed, it needs to be uploaded using the secure [GEMS/MARS](#) link.

Questions regarding CEP may be directed to MickelsonN@michigan.gov.

USDA Foods Program

USDA Foods - School Food Authorities (SFA's) must complete the *Request for USDA Foods Delivery* portion of the SNP application within MEGS+ to participate in the USDA Foods Program for **School Year 2021-2022**. When completing the SNP application within the View/Edit screen, the *Request for USDA Foods Delivery* form will be found under Program Forms. The deadline to choose to participate in the USDA Foods Program is October 15, 2020. **The SFA consortium decision is then irrevocable for School Year 2021-2022.**

Attached below you will find two documents that might assist you with making your consortium choice, those documents are the USDA Foods Consortia Services and Department of Defense (DoD) Services by Consortia. As a friendly reminder, your SFA already selected its consortium choice for SY 2020-2021 within the SY 2019-2020 MEGS+ SNP application and food ordering for the upcoming school year has already begun. If you have questions, please contact Jaime Malnar at MalnarJ1@michigan.gov or MDE-FMFD@michigan.gov.

[USDA Foods Consortia Services SY 2021-2022](#)

[Consortia DoD SY 2021-2022](#)

New School Nutrition Program (SNP) 2021 MEGS+ Application Completion Instructions

Indirect Cost (question #13 on the Sponsor Information page):

For Public Schools and Public School Academies: Please answer “Yes” to 13d (Public School rate) - every Public School and Public School Academy has an approved unrestricted indirect cost rate and we do not need any documentation uploaded.

For Non-public Schools, RCCIs, or brand-new Public School

Academies: Please answer “No” to 13d. You will then be required to answer 13a. This answer should be “0” unless you have a negotiated indirect cost rate from another Federal Agency/Entity. Any questions about Indirect Cost rates can be directed to MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov.

Quick guide:

- If you put a “0” for 13a., you do not need to do anything else for question #13.
- If you put anything other than “0” for 13a., you will be required to answer 13b. and 13c. by uploading supporting documentation, specifically a letter from the other Federal Agency/Entity that verifies your approved negotiated indirect cost rate.

Attachments (shown on the bottom of the View/Edit Page):

For District-wide CEP: You are not required to upload any letters or documents (unless you have a new Food Service Director).

For any RCCIs without day students (meaning you answered “No” to question #11 on the Sponsor Information Page): You must upload a document for each attachment. It can say “We are an RCCI without day students”. Unfortunately, this could not be avoided so please upload the same document for each attachment.

For any RCCIs with day students (meaning you answered “Yes” to question #11 on the Sponsor Information Page): You must upload all documents and letters relating to Free and Reduced-Price Meals Applications.

For all other programs (including Partial-CEP): You must upload all documents and letters relating to Free and Reduced-Price Meals Applications.

For all Special Milk Program sponsors: You will need to upload the documents and letters relating to Free and Reduced-Price Meals Applications. You can ask your analyst if you have questions.

All questions about completing your SNP 2021 MEGS+ application, please contact your SNP analyst or email MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov.

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

Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool Update Release

On July 10, FNS released updates to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool as part of the ongoing operations, maintenance, and enhancements of the project. The update includes the addition of reward badges to motivate school nutrition professionals and make the process of completing annual training requirements fun.

New Feature Alert: Show what you know by earning reward badges!

Users of the tool can earn a badge for each key area (Nutrition, Operations, Administration, and Communication and Marketing) by completing one or more trainings under a specific key area. Users can also earn achievement badges (Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze) by completing trainings in more than one key area. Once annual training requirements are met, users can print their certificate, which will also display the badges they have earned.

- Earn a key area badge:
- Complete two trainings in any of the key areas (Nutrition, Operations, Administration, and Communication and Marketing) and earn a badge for that specific key area.
- Earn an achievement badge:
- Earn a badge in **one** out of the four key areas and receive a **Bronze** badge!
- Earn badges in **two** out of the four key areas and receive a **Silver** badge!
- Earn badges in **three** out of the four key areas and receive a **Gold** badge!
- Earn badges in **all four** key areas and receive a **Platinum** badge!

Visit [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool](#) to start tracking your training hours today!

Below is information on a webinar regarding the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool

Title of Webinar: Track Training Like a Star with the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Target Audience: All School Nutrition Professionals (School Staff, State Agency Staff), FNS National Office Staff, and Regional Office Staff

Team Nutrition is excited to demonstrate the latest enhancements to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Team Nutrition has been continuously working to incorporate feedback to enrich user experience. This webinar will showcase the newest enhancements, such as a streamlined way to enter training titles, the ability to deactivate employees, and the ability to earn badges for completing one or more trainings under a specific key area and completing trainings in more than one key area.

Join us for a live demo to learn about the benefits of using the PSTTT and the features it will provide for managers and staff to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

You do not want to miss this webinar. Register today at [Webinar Registration](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you are unable to attend the LIVE webinar, there will be a recording of the webinar announced and posted a few weeks after the webinar's completion.

Webinar Professional Standards Learning Objectives:

Key Area: 3000 (Administration)

Training Topic: 3400 (Human Resources); 3200 (Program Management)

Learning Objective: 3430 (Develop and Track Employee Training Plans), 3210 (Staff Management)

USDA Posts the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's Final Report

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) posted the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's final scientific report, an objective review of the latest available science on specific nutrition topics. The report's evidence-based findings will inform USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as they co-develop the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which will provide recommendations on what to eat and drink to promote health and prevent chronic disease. For further information, visit [USDA News Release](#).

Training Corner

New Director Training Coming Soon!

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](#)

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.

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) S.T.A.R. Webinar

Name: Maintaining Customer Service While Serving at a Distance

Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020

Time: 3:00-4:00 pm ET

Learning Objective(s): Participants will be able to identify emerging best practices for maintaining high-quality customer service. Participants will also be able to determine the key strategies for delivering high-quality customer service for back to school planning.

Maintaining customer service in child nutrition programs is essential and requires even more focus during unexpected times. It is important for school nutrition professionals to stay inspired and deliver exceptional service while navigating the current parameters for program operations. Join us on this webinar to hear from professionals in the field who maintained high-quality customer service during the 2019-2020 school closures, and the best practices and key information they are

including in their back to school plans. Participants will walk away with strategies that can be shared with their teams to help everyone stay motivated and learn how to maintain excellent customer service. Speakers will include the following members of the Houston Independent School District (Houston, Texas): Najah Callander, Community Relations Director, Keith E. Lewis, Senior Operations Area Manager, and Betti Wiggins, Officer of Nutrition Services.

To Register: [Webinar Registration](#)

A continuing education certificate will be available after completion of the webinar.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you are unable to attend the LIVE webinar, there will be a recording of the webinar available on our website 24-48 hours after the live webinar. The recording will be located on the ICN website at [ICN STAR Program](#).

Webinar Professional Standards Learning Objectives:

SNA Key Area: 4-Communications

USDA Professional Standards Code: 4000 Communications

Questions of the Week

Question: I see that there are new flexibilities on hiring standards for new school food service directors (FSDs). What has changed?

Answer: Effective April 30, 2019, USDA is allowing hiring flexibilities for new FSDs in Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with a student enrollment of 2,499 or less. Please note that the new flexibilities do not apply to new FSDs hired in LEAs with student enrollment of 2,500 or greater. Here is a summary of new flexibilities for LEAs with 2,499 students or less: Requires relevant food service experience rather than school nutrition programs experience, State Agency will allow documented volunteer or unpaid work as relevant experience, for LEAs with < 500 students, the State Agency will allow less than the required years of food service experience if the candidate meets the minimum required education.

Question: Is the grandfathering rule still in effect for FSDs that were hired prior to July 1, 2015?

Answer: FSDs that were hired prior to July 1, 2015, were grandfathered in at the LEA size they were working in as of July 1, 2015, and were exempt from meeting any educational requirements. A grandfathered FSD may move (be hired) to an LEA of the same size or less without having to meet any educational standards. If a grandfathered FSD moves (is hired) to an LEA of a higher student enrollment than what they were grandfathered in, then the FSD must meet the new hiring

standards-- this means they must meet all educational and experience requirements of the higher LEA size and follow the current hiring standards.

Question: The final rule for Hiring Flexibilities under Professional Standards says the State Agency has the discretion to consider documented volunteer or unpaid work as relevant experience for new school nutrition programs directors in LEAs with 2,499 or fewer students. Is MDE allowing this flexibility?

Answer: Yes. This flexibility applies to LEAs with 2,499 students or fewer only.

Question: The new hiring flexibility for LEAs with 2,499 or fewer students allows a food service director to be hired who has relevant food service experience, rather than school nutrition program experience. What type of food service experience counts?

Answer: Types of acceptable food service experience could include the following: hospital, nursing home, assisted living, restaurant, catering--this is not all inclusive.

Question: The final rule for Hiring Flexibilities under Professional Standards says the State Agency has the discretion to accept less than the required years of food service experience for a new director hired in an LEA with fewer than 500 students, as long as the director has the minimum required education. Is MDE allowing this?

Answer: Yes. In this situation it is best to contact the School Nutrition Programs office prior to hiring to ensure the potential candidate meets hiring standards.

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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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.

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Hyperlinks used is this document:

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https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6QLJ74mU1NT2Dw9
https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/megsplus/
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEP_Deadline_Waiver_-_3.25.20_685437_7.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_80468--,00.html
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i7tf8rfd>

<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/bulletins/295cf17?reqfrom=share>
<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
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