



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

August 27, 2020



Updates to the Office of Health and Nutrition Services (OHNS) Website

The OHNS website has a new look. Each unit webpage within the [OHNS Website](#) all have the same buttons to choose from and they are: About Us, Contact Us, Forms

and Instructions, How to Apply, Resources, and Training. The change to the website was made to make it more convenient and consistent for our customers.

Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver

Every school district/RCCI/non-public school is asked to fill out the [meal pattern flexibility waiver](#). Question #14 is the waiver for the 2012 meal pattern. The flexibilities in whole grains, flavored milk, and sodium targets were removed and the 2012 meal pattern is supposed to be implemented, unless you request a waiver through this form. This form also has the request for serving K-8 meal pattern for preschool through 12th grade take home meals. The form is also used to request a waiver because of supply chain disruption.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Claim Reimbursement in MiND

SFSP sponsors now see their reimbursement as one combined amount instead of broken out into separate operating and administrative reimbursement amounts.

In the Simplified Cost Accounting and Other Actions To Reduce Paperwork in the Summer Food Service Program Final Rule, effective June 1, 2018, the USDA combined operating and administrative reimbursements for SFSP sponsors into a single “meals times rate” reimbursement payment. This change has been completed in the MiND Claim system.

Source: [Federal Register Simplified Cost Accounting and Other Actions to Reduce Paperwork in SFSP](#).

Q&A for School Year 2020-2021 Part 2

The School Nutrition Programs has developed a [Q&A for School Year 2020-2021 Part 2](#) for meal service planning based on questions received from our sponsors. We will be updating this document as new questions come up.

Please send questions to your analyst or MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov.

Thank you for all the work you do feeding Michigan students.

Direction Certification Refresh Dates

Our Direct Certification partners at the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) have updated the [Direct Certification calendar](#).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
8/27/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes Early Roster records submitted by 8/24/20)
9/10/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes Early Roster records submitted by 9/7/20)
9/24/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes Early Roster records submitted by 9/21/20)
10/8/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by 10/5/20)
10/22/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by 10/19/20)
11/6/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by 11/3/20)
11/19/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by 11/16/20)
12/4/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by 12/1/20)

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant

Effective July 7, 2020, the office of Health and Nutrition Services notified school districts who were awarded the 2021 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistant Grant. The status of the grant application in MEGS+ is now set to Grant Funds Available.

This is a highly competitive grant. Funds in the amount of \$642,853 were awarded to twenty-nine school districts with a total of forty-five sites. There were hundreds of other school districts who were not awarded funding. As required by the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), priority was given to schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced priced meals and district buildings/sites that have not received this grant in the past. A list of sites awarded funding can be found here in [\(Exhibit A\)](#). The official printable (pdf) version of the

Award Letter Notification is posted in your MEGS+ application under View Management Tools: View Award Packet. You can print it directly from within MEGS+. The non-award sites list can be found here in [\(Exhibit B\)](#). Schools that were awarded the funds but determine they are unable to spend them must contact the Office of Health and Nutrition Services by Monday, September 11, 2020, so that the unspent funds can be made available to other schools before September 30, 2020.

Congratulations to the School Food Authorities on their selection for this grant.

If you have questions, please contact Brenda Sweatman at sweatmanb@michigan.gov or 517-335-6617.

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Cards Being Sent to Districts and Non-Public Schools

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have exhausted all options for directly issuing P-EBT cards to some students. Several thousand P-EBT cards were returned to sender, as federal law does not allow for the P-EBT cards to be forwarded in the United States Postal Service mail. Note: This only applies to students that did not report an updated address in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS).

A report of P-EBT cards that were returned to the sender after the original mailing, was cross-referenced with student data in the MSDS to determine if new address information had been submitted. In the case of some students, a new mailing address was not submitted and, therefore, MDE has made the decision to request that school districts and non-public schools help distribute cards to students who had their original card returned to sender.

Below is a list of parameters that must be considered to successfully distribute the cards:

1. Cards will be mailed for individual students to the last reported public school district main address (including public school academies) or the last reported non-public school address. Please notify district/school staff that handle mail to watch for non-descript white envelopes addressed to individual students.
2. Districts/Schools should identify a designated person(s) to obtain and distribute the envelopes. These envelopes should be kept under lock and key and only accessible by the designated person(s). The designated person(s) should be someone that would have access to the Free and Reduced-Price Meal eligibility, such as your Eligibility Determination Official(s) or in the case of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools, a staff person that handles Household Information Reports. Keep in mind confidentiality rules regarding Free and Reduced-Price eligibility apply to P-EBT Cards.

3. The designated person should notify the parent/guardian of the student listed on the envelope that the package is available and provide instruction for pickup. Use the best available local student data to determine which parent/guardian the envelope should be provided to.
4. In the event a recipient of the envelope cannot be found, or another type of life-changing event happened that the district/school is aware of, please return the envelope back to the sender by marking the envelope with "Return to Sender" and placing it back in the United States Postal Service mail.
5. The designated person should keep a list of the cards received, the cards distributed, and any cards returned to sender for tracking purposes. See the attached log below.

[P-EBT Card Distribution Log](#)

Questions regarding P-EBT or the process of distributing cards to students may be directed to MDE-PandemicEBT@michigan.gov.

Food Service Administrative Memo No. 2 - School Year 2020-2021

For information on outreach to households on the availability of the School Breakfast Program, please see [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 2 School Year 2020-2021](#).

School Nutrition Association - Safe, Nutritious School Meals

For information from the School Nutrition Association on school meals, visit [Safe, Nutritious School Meals Something You Can Count on for 2020-21](#).

No Kid Hungry School Nutrition Grant 2021 Now Open!

No Kid Hungry in partnership with MDE will be offering grants to school nutrition programs to aid in maximizing student participation in federal nutrition programs. The following link provides more details on grant specifics such as: minimum amounts, application instructions and eligibility priorities: [NKH Fall 20-21 Grant RFP](#).

No Kid Hungry and MDE will be hosting a webinar on Monday August 31, 2020, from 2:00 - 2:30 pm to provide more specifics on how funds can be used, application instructions, eligibility priorities, and also be available to answer any other questions

pertaining to the grant. If you are considering applying please attend the following webinar at 2:00 pm on August 31, 2020:

Topic: NKH/MDE MI Grant Webinar

Date: Monday, August 31, 2020

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/99086219241?pwd=UEVDcXpGeGNGbEY5eHhDSUNhMkN4Zz09>

Password: 3nab4s

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Michigan Apple Crunch

See the following message from the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch:

We recognize that this year may be different for many of our schools and other institutions who have typically participated in the Apple Crunch, however, the event will take place this year as planned! We are offering lots of options for Michigan schools, childcare centers, and other organizations to still celebrate Michigan's abundance of fresh, local produce by crunching into Michigan apples or apple slices wherever you may be located come October. The official date is October 8, but you can celebrate any time in October.

We will also be sharing lots of resources to create activities and lessons to highlight the bounty of Michigan's apple season. Please visit our [registration page](#) to ensure your crunch is counted and share your plans, photos from your event, and follow along on Facebook [@miapplecrunch](#).

To support your Michigan Apple Crunch:

- Check out [Cultivate Michigan](#) resources to help you [source](#) Michigan apples from distributors and food hubs for your institutions and [promote](#) them in your cafeterias.
- Visit the [Michigan Apple Committee](#) website that has searchable tools to help you find Michigan apples at farm markets and stores as well as activities for kids and resources for teachers.

- Go to [Michigan Farm to School](#) for a range of resources and tools to help with your ongoing farm to school work at schools and early child care and education sites.

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

To support the transition to School Year 2020-2021, USDA Food and Nutrition Service is releasing the following guidance memoranda.

[Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-21](#)

[Questions and Answers for the Child Nutrition Programs during School Year 2020-21](#)

Reminders and Due Dates

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/96276158649?pwd=THVWdWN1b3d0SjN3QU9pcm1mdmxPZz09>

Password: vw3WPL

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
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 all NSLP Participants: You are required to complete the SY 2020-2021 Meal Service Model Form. Emails were sent on August 6, 2020, explaining the process of uploading the required form.

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.

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](#)

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.

Questions of the Week

Question: Are “And Justice for All” Posters required in every classroom?

Answer: No, posters are not required in each classroom. Schools should display posters in prominent locations throughout the school, such as a bulletin board in the main building entrance, the school office, or another area frequently visited by parents and children. Schools may prefer to copy posters and put one in each classroom, but that is not required.

Question: Is potable water required to be available for breakfast and lunch in the classroom?

Answer: For Breakfast in the Classroom, there has never been a requirement to have potable water available. While potable water must be made available when breakfast is served in the cafeteria, schools are not required to make water available when breakfast is served outside the cafeteria. For Lunch in the Classroom, schools are required to make potable water available to students during meal service. When lunch is served in the classroom, the potable water requirement does apply. Schools are encouraged to make potable water available in all meal service locations as safety permits. MDE has applied for a waiver regarding potable water and is waiting to hear from USDA.

Question: What do we charge students if we have the K-8 nutrition waiver if we have tiered pricing?

Answer: When your meal service model includes meal service on site in the cafeteria or in the classroom, you must use the district’s normal meal pricing per building for those onsite meals. You will also be following the correct meal pattern based on the age/grade group of each building.

If you are serving all grade levels at the same time through parent pick-up or via meal delivery, with students in Kindergarten through 12th grade receiving the same meal (K-8 meal pattern approved exemption), we recommend charging the average price between all standard price points. Or charging the middle school price to all students.

Using the middle school price point is appropriate for:

- Covering the K-8 meal pattern.
- Helps offset additional costs of grab-n-go meals.
- Helps offset other factors impacting product and labor costs during the pandemic.
- Meeting Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) compliance; PLE regulations (7 CFR 210.14(e)) still apply. Otherwise future required price increases could be multiplied.
- Using a meal price too low can result in Resource Management Review findings for PLE.
- A lower price point could also cause financial struggles for the Food Service Fund which could become a burden on the General Fund.

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.

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ldqygivPtkCAnj
<https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/>
https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_to_school/<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?keywords=sp+23-2020>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/questions-and-answers-child-nutrition-programs-during-sy-2020-21>
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://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://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>
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