



## **School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates**

**October 8, 2020**

### **Special Milk Program Waiver Guidance**

The Michigan Department of Education is pleased to announce a statewide waiver for the Special Milk Program (SMP). This waiver is effective immediately and goes until June 30, 2021.

The intent of this waiver is to allow SMP sponsors to provide milk directly to parents and guardians at non-congregate sites to help ensure children do not experience a lapse in food security. Anticipated methods may include but not be limited to: grab-n-go, home delivery, drop sites at designed locations, etc. So if your school is only offering remote learning or a hybrid learning mode where students are not learning from your building every day, you can still provide the SMP. Keep in mind if students have access to the School Meals Programs, then the SMP cannot be provided as well.

Questions regarding the SMP may be directed to Stephanie Schenkel at [schenkels2@michigan.gov](mailto:schenkels2@michigan.gov).

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# Michigan Department of Education Information Technology System Changes for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is implementing previously planned crucial system updates and improvements to some of the existing information technology (IT) systems that support the department's business functions for local districts throughout the 2020-2021 school year. [MDE IT System Changes](#)

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## Food Service Administrative Memo No. 3 School Year 2020-2021

For information on the claim submission 60 day deadline schedule and late claim exception options, see [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 3 School Year 2020-2021](#).

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## New Grant: 31k Funding for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness School Year 2020-2021

Exciting news! Only for the 2020-2021 School Year, we have \$1 million in new state school aid fund money appropriated (Section 31k) for reimbursement payments to public school districts, charter schools, and public-school academies who forgive all outstanding current student-meal negative balances.

Reimbursement payments can be awarded to eligible districts that apply. We are currently working on this application. The application will go live by early November with a firm deadline to apply no later than December 1, 2020.

Submissions will be evaluated and reimbursement payments for selected districts will be made within 60 days of the final deadline. The funds may be prorated if there is not enough to cover all eligible submissions.

### To be eligible districts must:

- Write off current/active/enrolled student meal negative balances with a transfer from the General Fund.
  - Student Meal Negative Balances paid off from private donations or angel funds are not eligible for Forgiveness Reimbursement.

- Bad debt written off for inactive students in prior school years is not eligible for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness Reimbursement.
- Adopt a meal charge policy that prevents public identification and all forms of lunch shaming as outlined in State Aid Section 31k (see below).

**The application will require submission of the following:**

1. The transactions used to write off negative balances from the Food Service Fund with a transfer from the General Fund as of September 30, 2020.
2. Total amount of forgiven negative balances for current/active/enrolled students as of September 30, 2020, by eligibility status.
3. A copy of the student roster by eligibility of negative balances for current/active/enrolled students as of September 30, 2020.
4. Meal charge policy that prevents lunch shaming with the specifics outlined in State Aid Section 31k as follows:
  - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to wear a wristband or handstamp
  - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to perform chores or other work to pay for school meals
  - prohibits the requiring of students to dispose of a meal after it has been served because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative balance
  - prohibits the direct communication with a student about a negative balance unless your district has unsuccessfully attempted to contact the student's parent or legal guardian first through telephone, mail, and electronic mail
  - prohibits discussing a negative balance with a student in the presence of other students

More details and a link to the application will be sent out through the SNP News and other communication avenues later in October.

Questions regarding this grant opportunity can be sent to the Fiscal and Administrative Services Monitoring Team at [MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov) or 517-241-5380.

**Questions and Answers:**

**Question:** How far back can we go for negative balance write offs? Just the 2019/2020 school year?

**Answer:** To be eligible the negative balances must be from current students, and it must be written off from the general fund. Negative balances from inactive students (bad debt) are not eligible.

**Question:** Can I just wipe/forgive the negative balances from the Food Service Fund without a transfer from the General Fund?

**Answer:** No. It is not allowable to absorb negative balances in the Food Service Fund. They must be paid for from a non-federal funding source like the General Fund (excluding donations or Angel Funds).

**Question:** Does the meal charge policy have to be Board approved?

**Answer:** No, this is not a requirement. However, it is a best practice.

**Question:** How will I be notified if my district is chosen to receive the Forgiveness funding?

**Answer:** You will receive a notification from GEMS/MARS once the awardees have been chosen.

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## Meal Service Model Changing Again?

Many schools that were online only are switching to a hybrid school model and that brings more change for food service. Be sure to consider food safety as you change your service model. [USDA Team Nutrition](#) has a number of helpful tip sheets. [SFSP, page 7](#) suggests having food in separate bags; one for shelf stable and one for refrigerated or frozen foods. Don't forget about [MDE resources](#) for School Year 2020-2021 as well.

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## Governor Whitmer Proclaims October as Farm to School Month

LANSING, MI - Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed October as Farm to School Month in Michigan. Farm to school is a national program enriching the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education settings.

"I am proud of our efforts to increase access to healthy, fresh local foods in Michigan through our Farm to School efforts," said Governor Whitmer. "Farm to School empowers children and their families to make informed food choices and strengthens

the local economy, which contributes to vibrant communities and improves the health and well-being of our kids.”

Michigan’s Farm to School efforts involve state agencies, community partners, academia, farmers, and school food service programs across the state, working together to lift up children, families, and communities in an equitable and inclusive way. The Center for Regional Food Systems at Michigan State University, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) are championing the statewide efforts.

Through the Farm to School program, schools and preschools buy and feature locally produced, farm-fresh foods such as dairy, fruits and vegetables, eggs, honey, meat, and beans on their menus. Schools also incorporate nutrition-based curriculum and provide students with experiential learning opportunities like farm visits, garden-based learning, cooking lessons, and composting and recycling programs. As a result, students have access to fresh, local foods, and farmers have access to new markets through school sales. Farmers are also able to participate in programs designed to educate kids about local food and agriculture.

“Michigan’s local farmers, farm workers, and school nutrition professionals are key components of our state’s vibrant food system,” said MDARD Director Gary McDowell. “The framework in place through Farm to School efforts have been crucial as farmers, school food service workers and volunteers continue to serve as frontline heroes, expanding their efforts to provide food to our students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

A recent United States Department of Agriculture grant awarded to MDE will convene key partners and champion school food service directors to develop a series of Farm to School training videos covering procurement, agriculture education, Farm to School program, school gardens, food safety, food preparation, culinary arts, and more.

“MDE has long supported and fostered farm to school programs through state-level partnerships, multiple federal grants, the *10 cents per meal for Michigan Kids and Farms* project, and encouraging the purchase of Michigan-grown products for all of our nutrition programs,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “Since March, MDE programs have resulted in nearly one million meals being served to school children and their families throughout Michigan as part of the state’s pandemic response efforts.”

MDE houses all federal child nutrition programs outside of Women, Infants and Children and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The department is responsible for school lunch/breakfast programs, after school meals, childcare meals, summer meals, and the food distribution programs of The Emergency Food Assistance Program and Community Supplemental Food Program.

For more information about Michigan’s Farm to School efforts, visit [Farm to School](#).

To read the proclamation, click [here](#).

## National Farm to School Month

This October is also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Farm to School Month celebration, an annual 31-day campaign to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the connections happening across the country between kids, families, and their community food systems.

To help celebrate, you can participate in the annual Apple Crunch event. We recognize that this year may be different for many of our schools and other institutions who have typically participated in this event, however, the event will take place this year as planned! There are 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. Note: the official date is October 8, but you can celebrate any time in October.

Lots of resources will be shared to create activities and lessons to highlight the bounty of Michigan's apple season. Please visit the [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.

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## Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness

We are excited to announce the 2020-2021 *Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness* program is **adding new flexibility and expanding programming** to help schools gear up for a safe return in the fall by providing resources that can be offered in the classroom or through a virtual format. Program expansions include virtual options, expanded resources for mental health through social emotional learning, and food delivery support to address the evolving mode of delivery for school meals. Applications are due **October 30, 2020**, and recipients will be announced in the fall.

The Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness program is an innovative program that provides students, teachers and administrators with the necessary tools to create a healthier school environment. The program empowers and educates children to improve nutrition, increase physical activity and address mental health and well-being, building lifelong habits.

Under the expansion, **all Michigan schools are now eligible to apply**, even if they previously participated in a Building Healthy Communities program.

A key resource available for schools to apply for under the program supports efforts to address the mental health and well-being of students and staff. Schools can apply for social emotional learning education and resources which can help empower students and staff to better understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Another key resource available to schools through the program will increase access to school meals by providing options to transport meals safely to students while addressing the evolving mode of delivery for school meals. Schools can choose options that best support mobile meal delivery and their existing school meal capacity. Examples include mobile food carts, rolling coolers, milk crate bags or even social distancing signage.

School leaders can review the full program and apply at [Building Healthy Communities](#). The program is open to ALL public, charter, or private nonprofit schools in Michigan serving any grade levels.

The Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness is made available to schools through a partnership including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Fitness Foundation, and United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

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## Milk Solutions

Looking for ideas to help your students remember to put their 'to-go' milk in the fridge? Our friends at United Dairy of Industry can help you with that, reach out to Melissa at [gerharter@milkmeansmore.org](mailto:gerharter@milkmeansmore.org) for some possible solutions. Also, check out [Maximize Your Milk Postcard](#) for some cool ideas on how your families can make

more of the milk they receive! Feel free to print it or reach out to UDIM to have some mailed to you. Check out [Milk Means More](#) for other great information.

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## Upcoming Events

### Town Hall Meetings

**Topic:** Town Hall Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/95021278376?pwd=b2diUS95ZEhhYWFUTEZKMlpNTFBxUT09>

Password: S7Uk7G

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference Code: 806533

**Topic:** Town Hall Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020

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

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

<https://zoom.us/j/98740067623?pwd=K1pSwwxjbDZ5VnJNVmZzWGJYdUdxQT09>

Password: X51070

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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### **School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) Virtual Annual Conference & Exhibit Show - November 10 until December 31, 2020**

Registration is now open. Please visit [HERE](#) to register today.

Chef Jeff will be kicking us off on November 10 at 2 pm with a live keynote.

The remainder educational sessions will be pre-recorded and available from November 10 until December 31 so that you and your team can watch as many as you would like at a time most convenient to you! Sessions will involve the following topics:

1. Mental Health, self-care, employee health, leading in stressful times, having fun, treating people nicely
2. Local foods, food distribution, meal quality, meal service options and related equipment
3. MDE track: all things school meal regulations
4. Financial: best use of commodity dollars, increasing participation, KPIs, meal debt

There will also be a virtual food show presented by From the Show Floor, where you will have the opportunity to view episodes from your favorite vendors, anytime during our conference event. Please visit the [registration page](#) for a full list of participating industry partners.

More information to come on a detailed agenda.

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## **No Kid Hungry Webinars**

### **Webinar: Rural Response: Lessons Learned from COVID-19 and Strategies for Back-to-School**

*Date: Tuesday, October 13 - 3:00 - 4:45 pm ET*

Join No Kid Hungry as we continue to highlight solutions, challenges and lingering questions around Covid-19 response and back-to-school. For this installment of our back-to-school series, we'll feature programming and lessons learned from rural communities. School food service leaders will share how they have navigated these challenging times and are implementing back-to-school meal service. We will also feature audience questions and dedicate time for discussion centered on program implementation and adoption of program flexibilities provided by recent waivers.

To Register: [Webinar Registration](#)

### **Webinar: Feeding a Need: Increasing Meal Access in These Changing Times**

*Date: Wednesday, October 14 - 5:00 – 6:30 pm ET*

Child Nutrition Providers have had to make many difficult choices over the last few months on how to feed children during these crises. New innovations and creative solutions have emerged showing us there are many ways to meet the needs of each unique population. Please join No Kid Hungry California and the four Southern California County Public Health Collaboratives for this second Quad-County Webinar where you will hear from Foodservice Directors and leaders from Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino Counties. Community partners and Child Nutrition providers can learn about best practices, increasing meal participation, reentry models, integrity plans and more.

To Register: [Webinar Registration](#)

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

### **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Participant Area Eligibility Data are now Available!**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is excited to announce that the 2021 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) participant Area Eligibility data are now available.

At the start of every fiscal year, FNS releases a special tabulation of data provided by the Census Bureau for CACFP and SFSP that establishes area eligibility in the CACFP and SFSP. These data are effective as of October 1, 2020. The FNS mapping tools have also been updated to reflect the new data. To see the map, click this [link](#). The data set is also available for download on FNS' [open data site](#). To learn more about using census data for establishing area eligibility for CACFP and SFSP Area Eligibility using Census Data, please see our [policy memorandum](#).

Please note that the map works best when opened in the following browsers: Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

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### **Food Buying Guide**

Team Nutrition has released three new training modules on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs. They are designed to take you step-by-step through using the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG). Each module will provide an in-depth look at the FBG with interactive knowledge checks to assist the learner.

Topics covered include:

- An introduction to the FBG
- The Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW)
- Child Nutrition (CN) Labels and Product Formulation Statements (PFS)

These modules and other trainings such as webinar recordings can be accessed on the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs: Training Resources](#) site.

Check out the modules on the Institute of Child Nutrition's [eLearning Portal](#).

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## **New from USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS)**

ERS conducts research on USDA's child nutrition programs and their role in children's food security, diets, and well-being. ERS studies the following child nutrition programs: the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and After-School Snacks and Suppers. Updated charts and data are based on 2018 data from the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA. [ERS Child Nutrition Programs](#)

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## **Reminders and Due Dates**

### **2021 MEGS+ CNP: SNP Application Available**

If your school is going to switch to Extended SFSP beginning in August or September 2020, 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+](#).

### **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.

Application Due Date: October 15, 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](mailto:mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov), or 517-241-5374.

### **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](mailto:MalnarJ1@michigan.gov) or [MDE-FMFD@michigan.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov).

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## 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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## Chef Ann Foundation - Free Course Details

The following is from the Chef Ann Foundation: To support school food workers during this difficult time, the Chef Ann Foundation is offering free [School Food Institute](#) (SFI) courses. The SFI is an online professional development platform focused on healthy school food. SFI uses an interactive design with videos and resources, and meets USDA Professional Standards. Each course typically costs \$99 - \$149.

School food staff members may enroll in **up to 3** free SFI courses of their choosing. Learn more about SFI and view courses by visiting [SFI Course Catalog](#)

This offer is first-come, first-serve, so if interested, we encourage you to enroll as soon as possible. Course access lasts for 6 months from the date of enrollment. Courses are available with Spanish subtitles.

### How to Enroll

- Select your desired course(s) from the [Course Catalog page](#).
- Add the course/s to the cart.
- To check out, click on the cart icon at the top right corner and select "Checkout." At checkout, enter coupon code **RemotePD20** to receive your free registration. Each student must enroll with their own email address (this creates a unique student account). If the code is no longer valid, that means that all seats have been claimed. PLEASE sign up for our [scholarship waitlist](#) - we open new free seats regularly, and would love to support you when we can.
- After checkout, you'll receive an email shortly with links & how to access SFI.

Contact [info@schoolfoodinstitute.org](mailto:info@schoolfoodinstitute.org) with questions.

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## Questions of the Week

**Question:** What do I do if I add a site in my Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) MEGS+ application and it doesn't have a site agreement site number?

**Answer:** Each site under a Sponsor is to have a unique 9 digit site agreement number that contains letters and numbers. If you add a site and it does not have a system generated site agreement number, the site will not show up on the MiND claiming system preventing you from entering claim data.

Due to a bug in MEGS+, some sites added to SFSP applications were not assigned site agreement numbers. While the bug has been fixed, sponsors who have sites without site agreement numbers will need to inactivate these sites and add a new site to generate a site agreement number. If your application is in Approved status, you will have to complete an amendment to update your application – please remember that MEGS+ works best when accessed through Internet Explorer. Inactivating a site is easy. Go to the Site Page Listing in your application. Uncheck the “**Activity Status**” box next to the site name to inactivate the site. Click the **Save button**. To add a site, click the “**Add Site**” **Button**. Adding a site will generate a site number. You should see this number as Question 1 on the Add Site page. Enter in all requested data and click save. Change the status of your application to Amendment Submitted. MDE will review your amendment justification and site and approve your application. It may take a couple days after the amendment is approved for the corrected site to show in MiND. Please contact [mde-sfsp@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-sfsp@michigan.gov) with any questions.

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**Question: Do we need to fill out the first meals served sheet?**

**Answer:** Yes, to keep in line with traditional SFSP, every sponsor that has more than 1 site needs to keep a record of first meals served. These can be found at [MDE SFSP](#).

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**Question: I have been serving all my students at no cost to the student. Do I just claim them all as Free in the School Nutrition Programs Claim for National School Lunch Program?**

No, unless you are a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school the only way to feed student’s at no cost to the student is through the SFSP. For information on how to apply for that program, please go to [MDE SFSP](#).

## 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**

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](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).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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### Links Used in this Document:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/IT\\_System\\_Changes\\_704002\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/IT_System_Changes_704002_7.pdf)  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin\\_Memo\\_No.\\_3\\_704350\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No._3_704350_7.pdf)  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/covid19-resources>  
<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SFSP%20Bulk%20Foods%20Tip%20Sheet.pdf>  
[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_50144\\_94240\\_94245-508146--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508146--,00.html)

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm\\_to\\_school/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_to_school/)  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/2020\\_Farm\\_to\\_School\\_Month\\_Proclamation\\_704235\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdard/2020_Farm_to_School_Month_Proclamation_704235_7.pdf)  
[https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3ldqygivPtkCAnj](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ldqygivPtkCAnj)  
<https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/>  
[https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/sites/default/files/u480/Superguide\\_Updated%20August%202018.pdf](https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/sites/default/files/u480/Superguide_Updated%20August%202018.pdf)  
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