



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: School Meal Distribution and Compliance with Executive Order 2020-35

The Michigan Department of Education has received questions about school food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-35](#). As a result, the Michigan Department of Education created the document linked below to assist local districts with implementing their continuity of learning plan as required by the executive order.

Executive Order 2020-35 states, "All public school districts, including public school academies, must provide or arrange for continuation of food distribution to eligible pupils." This means that every public school district and public school academy must provide, or arrange for, a plan that outlines steps being taken to ensure families in need are receiving food until the end of the scheduled school year.

The document [Food Distribution and Response to COVID-19](#) outlines feeding program options available to support school districts to meet the nutritional needs of families in our communities. Leveraging multiple meal programs and local partnerships is important to feed children and families. As school districts continue to prepare and distribute meals, we must continue to use necessary precautions to minimize the exposure of the coronavirus to staff and their families, as well as the children and families receiving meals. For more information on this topic, please see previously published guidance titled [Best Practices for School Food Service Providing Meals During the COVID19 Outbreak](#).

Questions regarding this memo may be directed to Dr. Diane Golzynski, at GolzynskiD@michigan.gov or mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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