

School Nutrition News From

March 14, 2019

The information in this document helps support Goal 4, Strategy 4.1, of [MDE's Top 10 in 10 Initiative](#)ⁱ by helping to ensure students receive important nutritional resources to help them learn and grow.

Milk Substitutes

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has learned that with new Nutrition Facts labels, there are slightly different rounding rules. So, it's possible that a new Nutrition Facts label might show an allowed milk substitute (only needed for non-disabilities, not disabilities) doesn't quite meet the "equivalent to milk" guidelines. If the requirements are almost met, it may be wise to contact the manufacturer – the nutrients may actually be higher than what the label shows. This is because the label sometimes rounds to the nearest "5" or "10," depending on the nutrient. This was the case for the Silk beverage we alerted to in our last edition of the School Nutrition News from MDE – the manufacturer explained that the requirements are actually met, it just looks otherwise from the rounding label. For a copy of a milk substitute checker that you can use, contact Linda Bushong at 517-241-5374. For questions, contact Adrienne Davenport at DavenportA1@michigan.gov.

Meal Service for Preschool Students

There has been a little confusion about the meal service options for preschool students, specifically Offer versus Serve (OVS) and Family Style Meal Service. MDE is clarifying information found in [USDA Memo SP 01-2018](#)ⁱⁱ about meal service to preschoolers when the meals are being claimed in the School Nutrition Programs (National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program).

- OVS – schools cannot use OVS when serving meals to preschoolers. This type of service does not allow for children to be exposed to a variety of healthy foods.
- Family Style Meal Service – this type of meal service should be used in preschool programs because it allows children to serve themselves foods from common dishes with assistance from adults, as needed. In order for a meal to be reimbursable in the School Nutrition Programs (SNP), at least ¼ cup fruit or vegetable must be taken as part of the breakfast and lunch meals if the children are eating in a classroom. If preschool students are eating in a comingled setting and are included in the K-5 meal pattern, then at least ½ cup fruit or vegetable must be taken as part of the breakfast and lunch meals.

Any questions regarding this can be directed to any SNP Analyst or contact the SNP office at 517-241-5374 or email mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Reminder that the SFSP 2019 MEGS+ application is open! The application deadline is May 1.

Reminder: 2020 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant Application is Available

The 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant went live Friday, March 1, 2019. A memorandum announcing the [2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant](#)ⁱⁱⁱ was sent to Superintendents on February 28, 2019, in the MDE Official Weekly Communication.

The MEGS+ grant application must be initiated by a MEGS+ Authorized Official (Level 5) or Application Administrator (Level 4) and be submitted by the close of business, **Friday, March 29, 2019.**

It is expected that grant funds will be awarded on or around April 30, 2019.

Questions regarding the equipment grant can be directed to Cheryl Schubel at 517-241-5152 or email at schubelc@michigan.gov.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nutrition Times

For a copy of the latest edition of USDA's Nutrition Times, contact Linda Bushong at 517-241-5374.

School Meals Overview Training (SMOT)

SNP has scheduled an additional SMOT to be held at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center in Flint, Michigan. The dates for this training are May 1, 8, and 15, 2019. For further information and registration information, visit [SMOT Registration](#).^{iv}

Building Healthy Communities Program

Building Healthy Communities is a school-wide initiative designed to prevent childhood obesity and create healthy school environments. There are three program opportunities to help meet the needs of Michigan schools. Michigan schools, grades K-12, are invited to apply for the program that best fits their school environment. See the attached for more information.

No Kid Hungry Webinars

The following webinars are being offered by No Kid Hungry:

Innovations to Expand Access to Summer Meals in Hard-to-Reach Communities Webinar

Each year schools, nonprofits, and community centers seek new opportunities to provide much-needed summer nutrition to kids through the SFSP. While program sponsors work actively to add new sites, the number of summer meals served nationwide continues to decline. The impact of this decline is magnified in rural places, where transportation and the high cost of personal car ownership create additional barriers for program participation.

In this webinar, attendees will learn new, creative approaches sponsors have taken to expand access to summer meals in these communities that are allowable under current regulation. Whether it is bringing meals directly to where kids like to hang out or changing a menu to align with mainstream models, participants will leave the webinar with a new idea to test and the inspiration needed for a successful summer.

When: Thursday, March 28, 2019, 2:00-3:00 EDT

To Register: No Kid Hungry Webinar Registration

Ask the Expert: School Breakfast Edition Webinar

Join No Kid Hungry for the school breakfast edition of "Ask the Expert," where they answer all of your burning questions about Breakfast After the Bell. Please submit questions at the registration page, and they will be answered on the webinar. Questions can cover a wide range of topics from basic implementation concerns to advanced menu planning. This webinar is appropriate for school nutrition directors and cafeteria managers, as well as No Kid Hungry campaign partners, or anyone interested in learning more about Breakfast After the Bell.

When: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 3:30-4:15pm ET

To Register: Ask the Expert: School Breakfast Edition Webinar Registration

School Breakfast Promotion Strategies Webinar

This webinar was previously recorded and is available for [viewing](#).^v Getting the word out about school breakfast helps to ensure that more kids start the day with the fuel they need to learn, grow and thrive. This webinar highlights a variety of marketing and promotion strategies to help you build awareness, generate excitement and ultimately increase school breakfast participation. Learn how you can use contests & challenges, social media, posters & flyers, taste tests, special guests and more to promote the school breakfast program and increase participation.

Michigan Child Nutrition Training Calendar

Please visit the [Michigan Child Nutrition Training Calendar](#),^{vi} a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. If you wish to add your training to the calendar or have questions, contact davenporta1@michigan.gov. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be!

Reminder – Upcoming Events

School Meals Overview Training. This comprehensive training is for School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) and will cover items that staff must know to provide quality meals that adhere to the USDA guidelines.

When: April 9, 16, and 23, 2019.

Where: Wayne RESA-Woodson/Baylor Center

For further information and registration information, visit [SMOT Registration Information](#)

Questions of the Week

Question: On half days, could we send students home with cold packed lunches if they meet reimbursement standards?

Answer: Unfortunately, no. All meals must be eaten at school before dismissal.

Question: Can we serve lunch after school is dismissed on half days, for example during latch key?

Answer: Students must be provided with time to eat lunch before dismissal. Lunch time can be used as instructional time (see attached instructional time memo) prior to dismissal. Contact your SNP analyst for assistance in setting up lunch in the classroom procedures.

Question: Can we serve lunch in the classroom or in the cafeteria prior to school dismissing?

Answer: YES! This is a best practice. On half-days, meals can be served in the classroom or cafeteria prior to dismissal. All students need to have access to the meal service and have enough time to eat prior to the dismissal bell but this would be allowable and reimbursable. Again, see attached instructional time memo for information on lunch in the classroom.

School Nutrition Programs
Office of Health and Nutrition Services
Michigan Department of Education
517-241-5374
www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition

Celebrate **March is Reading Month** by learning more: [Read by Grade Three Parent Awareness Toolkit](#).



ⁱ <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-80635---,00.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP01-2018os.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/NSLP_EAG_2019_647536_7.pdf

^{iv} https://www.michigan.gov/documents/training/Registration_Memo_Genesee_April_2019_ab_648985_7.pdf

^v <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars/school-breakfast-promotion-strategies>

^{vi} <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=minutritiontraining%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FDetroit>

Building Healthy Communities Program

Attention Michigan Schools, apply for a 2019-2020 Building Healthy Communities program.

Building Healthy Communities is a school-wide initiative designed to prevent childhood obesity and create healthy school environments.

There are three program opportunities to help meet the needs of Michigan schools.ⁱ We invite all Michigan schools, grades K-12, to apply for program that best fits their school environment.

- Schools with grades K-5 can apply now for the **Elementary School Program**. Applications are due **April 27, 2019**. This comprehensive program is designed for elementary schools that are ready for multiple healthy eating and physical activity opportunities and education to be embedded throughout the school environment.
- Schools with grades 6-8 can apply now for the **Middle School Program**. Applications are due **March 22, 2019**. This comprehensive model is designed for middle schools ready for multiple healthy eating and physical activity opportunities to be embedded throughout the school environment and education for all sixth graders.
- Schools with grades K-12 are eligible for the **Step Up for School Wellness Program**. This application period will not open until April 2019 and applications will be due **September 30, 2019**. This flexible model is designed to help schools make smaller targeted improvements to their environment by allowing them to self-select resources.

Please go to bcbsm.com/buildhealthⁱⁱ to review eligibility information, a program comparison and detailed program descriptions in each Request for Applications. You'll also find information on how to access informational webinars, conference calls and online applications.

Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Michigan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Fitness Foundation, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Team Nutrition, United Dairy Industry of Michigan, University of Michigan, Wayne State University Center for School Health and Action for Healthy Kids are working together to improve student health and transform school environments through Building Healthy Communities.

BHC [Press Release](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ <https://www.mibluesperspectives.com/news/michigan-elementary-and-middle-schools-invited-to-apply-for-wellness-programming-to-increase-physical-activity-and-healthy-eating/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.mibluesperspectives.com/news/michigan-elementary-and-middle-schools-invited-to-apply-for-wellness-programming-to-increase-physical-activity-and-healthy-eating/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.mibluesperspectives.com/news/michigan-elementary-and-middle-schools-invited-to-apply-for-wellness-programming-to-increase-physical-activity-and-healthy-eating/>



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2018

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

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*

SUBJECT: Counting Instructional Time When Lunch Is Served

The purpose of this memorandum is to address the need for students to have access to lunch on partial instructional days during the school year, and how congregate meal time during partial instructional days may be counted as instructional time under certain circumstances.

The United States Department of Agriculture requires the National School Lunch Program be a congregate meal service, which it defines as meals provided in a group setting. Based on this, districts may not send lunch home with students under this program.

To ensure students receive a lunch on partial instructional days, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will allow scheduled instructional time to be counted on partial days even if students are served lunch during an instructional period. As with all other countable instructional time, the student must be with a certified teacher and engaged in instruction for the time to count toward the instructional hour requirement. This change is effective for the 2017-18 school year when the aforementioned conditions are met.

Examples

Eligible Instructional Time:

- Lunch is served on a half-day in a classroom, to some or all students, while a certified teacher is providing instruction.
- Lunch is served on a half-day during a homeroom period which is not more than 15 minutes in length.
- A group of students did not receive a lunch period due to an educational activity, but were served lunch during the next instructional period.

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Ineligible Instructional Time:

- Lunch served on a half-day in the cafeteria when no instruction occurred.
- Lunch served during homeroom on a late-start day and no instructor was present.

MDE also recognizes the benefits of students having down-time during the instructional day, as well as the importance of having time to socialize while instruction is not occurring. With that in mind, this exception only applies to partial instructional days, or to special circumstances where students are unable to attend the scheduled lunch period.

MDE encourages districts to utilize this exception to provide students with lunch during partial instructional days.

Questions related to this communication may be directed to Brian Ciloski, Office of State Aid and School Finance, at CiloskiB@michigan.gov, or Melanie Brummeler, Office of Health and Nutrition Services, at BrummelerM@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance