

School Nutrition News From

June 12, 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.

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) June Nutrition Conference

MDE-SNAM June Nutrition Conference is quickly approaching! The conference this year is at Shanty Creek, June 18-20, 2019, and will focus on Nourishing the Whole Person the Whole Year. Please make sure to register as soon as possible if you plan to attend. Registration deadline is June 14, 2019. To register, visit the [SNAM website](#).ⁱⁱ We look forward to seeing you there!

Buy American Provision

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has released a resource for Program Operators on the Buy American Provision. For a copy, contact Linda Bushong, School Nutrition Programs, at 517-241-5374. This provision safeguards the health and well-being of our Nation's children and supports the U.S. economy, American farmers, and small and local agricultural businesses. The National School Lunch Act requires school food authorities (SFAs) to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. Questions regarding the Buy American Provision may be directed to the Fiscal Monitoring Team at 517-241-5348 or MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov.

The Great Dairy Adventure

Mark your calendar for the Great Dairy Adventure on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This event is geared towards families, daycare centers, summer camps, and anyone who wants to learn more about dairy farming while sampling free ice cream and other dairy products. Pack up the kids, a camera, and the picnic basket, and head out to the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing, Michigan for a "dairy" fun-filled day! For more information, visit [The Great Dairy Adventure](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

Michigan Child Nutrition Training Calendar

Please visit the [Michigan Child Nutrition Training Calendar](#), 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 mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be!

Upcoming Events/Deadlines

School Meals Overview Training (SMOT)

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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines.

When: August 6, 7, and 8, 2019

Where: University Center at Gaylord

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

Note: There are no room blocks for hotels in Gaylord for the SMOT training, so you are encouraged to book your own lodging soon. Please keep in mind that this area is a popular summer destination and hotels may sell out.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

You must notify the MDE School Nutrition Programs (SNP) unit of your intention to participate in the CEP for School Year 2019-2020 by June 30, 2019. SNP requires the notification to occur by selecting "yes" to question number 12 and saving the Sponsor Information Page in the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) CNP: SNP 2020 Application. This selection must be made by the deadline, as a late selection cannot be approved.

Questions of the Week

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Question: I am a returning sponsor with returning sites, do I have to complete a first week visit for SFSP?

Answer: Yes. All sites (new or returning) are required to have first week visits completed within the first week of a site's operation.

Question: My site wants to change their meal service time. Can I change their meal service times?

Answer: Yes. sponsors can make amendments in their MEGS+ application throughout the summer. Sponsors must give MDE 72 business hours to review and approve application amendments.

Question: How do I find the Field Trip Notification Form?

Answer: The Field Trip Notification Form is available on the [SFSP Website](#).^{iv} Scroll down to Sponsor Forms & Publications, select Sponsor Program Forms and click on

the Field Trip Request Form to open the [Field Trip Notification Form](#)^v in GEMS/MARS. Field trip notifications must be submitted at least 24 hours prior to the field trip.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Question: When will Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program awards be made?

Answer: The notification memo was issued by USDA last week. This will allow us to make conditional awards in the coming weeks. These awards will be tentative, until receipt of our permanent award notification in October.

Whole Grain Rich Exemption

Question: I don't see any information about completing a whole grain-rich (WGR) exemption for grain items for the upcoming School Year (SY) 2019-2020. Do we still need WGR exemptions?

Answer: No WGR exemption is needed. Effective February 11, 2019, USDA published a final rule requiring one-half of the weekly grains in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program menu be whole grain-rich (WGR), thus ending the need for the WGR exemption process. So, when planning weekly lunch and breakfast menus, make sure that at least one-half of your grain items are WGR. Non-WGR items would need to be enriched.

Clarification of New Hiring Flexibilities for School Food Service Directors. For a copy of the Summary of School Nutrition Program Director Professional Standards by Local Educational Agency Size, contact Linda Bushong, School Nutrition Programs, at 517-241-5374.

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:

1. Requires relevant *food service experience* rather than school nutrition programs experience;
2. State Agency will allow documented volunteer or unpaid work as relevant experience;
3. 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.

Professional Standards Information Needed in the MEGS+ CNP Application

Question: I've noticed that we must now upload supporting documentation for new FSDs that includes education and work experience. What is MDE looking for?

Answer: In order to validate educational experience, MDE needs to see a diploma. If an associate or bachelor degree diploma does not clearly indicate that the academic major or concentration is in one of the following areas: food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or related field, we will ask to see transcripts. This is the only way we can determine if the FSD meets educational requirements. MDE asks to see the resume of a new FSD because that is the only way we can determine if the FSD meets work experience requirements.

Question: Our FSD was hired mid-year in SY 2018-2019, well after our CNP application had been approved. We amended the 2018-2019 application to reflect the new FSD and uploaded the required educational and work experience information. Do I need to upload the same information in the SY 2019-2020 application?

Answer: Yes, you still need to upload the required information in the 2019-2020 application (Sponsor Information page, question 8d: Was the food service director hired on or after July 1, 2018?) when you respond "Yes" to question 8d. For audit purposes, we need to see supporting documentation in the current application because information from a previous year's application is not pulled forward.

Question: I'm completely confused about Professional Standards. Who do I contact at MDE to talk to?

Answer: Please contact Linda Stull, our Professional Standards Consultant. She can be reached directly by email to stulll@michigan.gov or by calling 517-241-3884. Encourage anyone involved in the hiring process of a FSD to reach out with any questions or concerns prior to hiring to ensure you are in compliance with USDA regulations.

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



Free Family Resources for Navigating the World of Special Education.

email: info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org, visit www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org, or call us at 1-800-552-4821.

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

ⁱⁱ <https://michigansna.org/meetinginfo.php?id=519&ts=1558713602>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.milkmeansmore.org/great-dairy-adventure/>

^{iv} https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_34491---,00.html

^v <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i9a9rabG>