

School Nutrition News From MDE

August 30, 2018



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.

School Year (SY) 2018-2019 Food Service Administrative Memos

Three new Food Service Administrative Memos have been posted to the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Website:

- [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 2](#)ⁱⁱ - Guidance for Direct Certification Requirements for Public and Nonpublic Schools Participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs
- [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 3](#)ⁱⁱⁱ - Claim Submission 60 Day Deadline Schedule and Late Claim Exception Options
- [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 4](#)^{iv} - School Meals Program Meal, Snack, and Milk Reimbursement Rates to School Food Authorities Effective July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Carry Over Benefits

A student's eligibility from the previous school year (before July 1) carries over for up to 30 operating days into the new school year, **or until a new eligibility determination is made**, whichever comes first.

Thus, during the carry over period, when a benefit is issued (either by paper application or direct certification), the benefit issuance is immediate. For example, if a student had a free carry over benefit and a new paper application was received qualifying the student for reduced meal benefits, the change to reduced would be immediate. This is a determination of a benefit from the current school year, thus discontinuing the carry over. The ten-day grace period is used when **current school year** benefits decrease. An example of that circumstance would be a change due to verification of a paper application.

Direction Certification Release Dates

Our Direct Certification partners at the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) have gotten final approval on all Direct Certification release dates for SY 2018-2019.

We will let you know when their calendar is updated. In the meantime, they were able to provide us with these upcoming dates:

Cutoff date for Early Roster Records to be included in the next Direct Certification refresh Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Direct Certification Refresh Friday, September 7, 2018

Cutoff date for Early Roster Records to be included in the next Direct Certification refresh Sunday, September 16, 2018

Direct Certification Refresh Friday, September 21, 2018

Employment Opportunity

The Department of Education has posted a Limited Term Departmental Analyst 9-11 position (position has an ending date) for the Office of Health and Nutrition on the State of Michigan posting website. This position is limited term and is located in Lansing. Position is open to internal and external employees. To apply and/or view the position description, visit [Department Analyst Limited Term Position](#). Applications will be accepted until September 5, 2018, 5:00 pm Eastern.

Building Healthy Communities

The [Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness Program](#)^v (BHC: SUFSW) offers any public, charter, or private nonprofit school in Michigan serving any grade levels (K-12) the opportunity to apply for the program and customize it with at least two (and up to nine) different resources, including **Smarter Lunchrooms. Now through September 30, 2018**, you can apply for this program on behalf of any school(s) in your district and select Smarter Lunchrooms as one of your two resources. **If awarded Smarter Lunchrooms, each school will receive \$1,000 for cafeteria changes that they choose!** The BHC: SUFSW program offers a flexible structure that allows schools to select only the resources they are ready to implement. Then, in future years, schools can reapply to build on and sustain school wellness efforts by adding additional resources. Each resource has a school coach to assist with implementation and schools that are new to the program will receive \$1,000 to complete Michigan's Healthy School Action Tools (HSAT). Full eligibility information, program descriptions, and application information including the Request for Applications (RFA) are available at [Building Healthy Communities](#).^{vi} Schools can email the Program Coordinator, Deb Grischke, at dgrischke@actionforhealthykids.org with any questions or join the upcoming Informational Webinar September 12, 2018, at 10:00 am. [Registration for the Webinar](#) is required.

School Meals Program Requirements Calendar

For information on upcoming due dates visit the School Nutrition Programs Requirements Calendar.^{vii}

August Monthly Training Topic

Attached is the August monthly training topic: Offer Versus Serve. We hope you find this information useful.

Food Safety Tips to Keep Foodborne Illness Out of the Classroom

It's the start of the new school year, which means new teachers, a bunch of homework assignments, and the never-ending dilemma of what to include to make a healthy and safe school lunch. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is passing on tips for packing lunches and [Food Safety Tips to Keep Foodborne Illness Out of the Classroom](#).^{viii}

School Nutrition Programs

Office of Health and Nutrition Services
Michigan Department of Education
517-241-5374

www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition

Our collective efforts can help make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years!

Here are the goals and strategies: <http://mi.gov/top10in10/>



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

ⁱⁱ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No_2_630999_7.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No_3_631001_7.pdf

^{iv} https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Admin_Memo_No_4_631171_7.pdf

^v <http://buildinghealthycommunities.arewehealthy.com/>

^{vi} <http://buildinghealthycommunities.arewehealthy.com/>

^{vii} https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SY_2017-2018_Program_Requirements_Calendar_602723_7.pdf

^{viii} <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/newsroom/news-releases-statements-transcripts/news-release-archives-by-year/archive/2018/nr-081418-01>

Office of Health and Nutrition Services School Nutrition Programs

Offer Versus Serve

Offer Versus Serve (OVS) is a concept that applies to menu planning and the meal service. OVS allows students to decline some of the food offered in a reimbursable lunch or breakfast. The goals of OVS are to reduce food waste and to permit students to choose the foods they want to eat.

Implementing OVS at Lunch

National School Lunch Program (NSLP):

- Schools must offer five food components – milk, fruit(s), vegetable(s), grain(s), and meat/meat alternates.
- Students are allowed to decline two of the five required food components, but must select at least ½ cup of either a fruit and/or a vegetable.
- Students must select the other food components in quantities that are equal to or greater than the daily minimum required amounts.
- Students are allowed to select all 5 food components offered.

A *food component* is one of five food groups that comprise reimbursable lunches. These components are meat/meat alternates, grains, fruits, vegetables, and fluid milk. Schools must always offer all five components in at least the minimum required quantities.

A *food item* is a specific food offered within the five food components. For example, a hamburger patty on a bun is one food item with two of the five food components (meat/meat alternate and grains). Separate ½ cup servings of peaches, applesauce, and pears are three food items that represent one component (fruit).

Below is a table that summarizes the requirements for OVS at lunch.

Function	Requirement
Implementation of OVS	Mandatory at the senior high school level. Optional below senior high school level. (SFA decides if and in what grades)
Planned reimbursable meal	Offer five food components.
Number of food components/food items offered	Five food components/number of food items offered varies.
Required number of components that must be selected	Students must select at least three components, one of which must be ½ cup of fruits and/or vegetables.
Fruit and vegetable food components	Fruits and vegetables are two separate components. Students must select at least a ½ cup of fruit or vegetable or a combined total of ½ cup of both.
Extra foods offered	Not credited for OVS but must be included in dietary specifications.

Implementing OVS at Breakfast

School Breakfast Program (SBP):

- Schools must offer three food components – milk, fruit(s), and grain(s). Meat/meat alternate is optional.
- Schools must offer four food items from the three components.
- Students are allowed to decline one of the four food items but must select at least ½ cup of a fruit (juice or vegetable).
- Some food items may count as 1 or 2 items.
- Students may take duplicate items.
- Students are allowed to select all 4 food items offered.

A *food component* is one of three food groups that comprise reimbursable breakfasts. These components are fruits (or vegetables as a substitute), grains (with optional meat/meat alternate), and fluid milk. Schools must always offer all three components in at least the minimum required quantities.

A *food item* is a specific food offered within the three food components. For the purposes of OVS, a school must offer at least four food items from the three required food components (fruits, grains, milk). Under OVS, the student must select three food items, including at least ½ cup of fruits (or vegetables) to have a reimbursable meal.

Below is a table that summarizes the requirements for OVS at breakfast.

Function	Requirement
Implementation of OVS	Optional at all grade levels.
Planned reimbursable meal	Offer four food items.
Number of food components/food items offered	Offer four food items from three components.
Required number of items that must be selected	Students must select at least three food items, one of which must be ½ cup of fruits (or vegetable).
Fruit component	Vegetables may be offered to meet all or part of the fruit requirement.
Food items for the fruit component	The one cup required quantity of fruit may be offered as more than one food item. For example, a large banana may be counted as 1 or 2 food items, whereas a petite banana can only count as 1 item. One selection must be at least ½ cup of fruit (or vegetable or a combination of both).
Extra foods offered	Not credited for OVS but must be included in dietary specifications.
Duplicate items	Students may select 2 of the same items and these are counted as 2 items. For example, 2 servings of cereal may be selected and count as 2 items. A minimum of ½ cup fruit would then need to be selected along with the cereal for the required 3 items for OVS.

Requirements of OVS

Unit Pricing: School meals must be priced as a unit, regardless of the number of foods/items selected.

Identifying Reimbursable Meals: Students, servers, and cashiers must be able to identify what constitutes a reimbursable meal.

- Signage and menus should provide clear information about allowable food choices and should be posted near or at the beginning of serving lines and indicate what foods constitute unit-priced reimbursable meals.
- Schools using OVS must identify what a student must select in order to have a reimbursable meal under OVS, including the requirement that students must select at least ½ cup fruit or vegetable.

Training: Yearly training must be conducted with staff on OVS and reimbursable meals.

For further information about OVS in the school meal programs, please refer to the [*Offer Versus Serve Guidance for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program*](#)ⁱ (School Year 2015-2016)

ⁱ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/updated-offer-vs-serve-guidance-nslp-and-sbp-beginning-sy2015-16>