

School Nutrition News From MDE

November 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.

Unpaid Meal Charges Resources on USDA Website

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service is pleased to announce the release of several new unpaid meal charges resources for school food authorities (SFAs). These resources, now available on the USDA Unpaid Meal Charges Website, include:

- **Local Charge Policy Training Template:** An adaptable presentation SFAs can use to develop a training for school and district staff members responsible for enforcing the local charge policy.
- **Unpaid Meals Fact Sheets:** Three fact sheets providing an overview of unpaid meal charges and strategies SFAs can use to prevent "school lunch shaming."
- **Unpaid Meal Charges Talking Points:** Sample talking points school officials can use as a starting point to address questions about unpaid meal charges.
- **Excess Balance Donation Letter:** An adaptable letter and donation form that SFAs can use to encourage families to donate any balances remaining in their account at the end of the school year.

These resources are designed to support SFAs in their efforts to find workable solutions to the challenge of unpaid meal charges and ensure children continue to have access to the wholesome and nutritious meals. To view the resources, please visit [USDA's Unpaid Meal Charges Webpage](#)ⁱⁱ.

Buy American Provision Requirements

For information on requirements for Buy American, visit [Buy American Provision Requirements](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

Tuesday at 2 Webinar

One Tuesday each month, we will host a webinar at 2:00 p.m. that will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Each webinar is designed to provide quick updates on the "latest and greatest" information on a designated topic for that month with the opportunity for participants to ask questions. Our next Tuesday at 2 Webinar:

- **Date:** December 11, 2018
- **Topic:** SFA-Verification Collection Report (VCR)

To join this webinar, pre-registration is required. The link for the webinar will be provided with your registration confirmation from Eventbrite. Please take advantage of this opportunity and join us in getting your SFA-Verification Collection Report (VCR) questions answered!

You can join this webinar from a desktop or laptop computer with speakers. Phones are not necessary to hear the audio for this webinar. Mobile devices can also be used, but some aspects of the webinar (i.e., polling questions) may not be visible on your screen. We will be using Skype for Business. If you are not familiar with this technology, you may want to join the webinar before 2:00 pm to check your video and audio settings.

Online Training Modules and Instructional Materials

The Online Training Module site under School Nutrition Programs has been renamed, "Online Training Modules and Instructional Materials." Instructional guides were developed and posted to the site to assist users in two areas: 1) accessing the Training Module Report in GEMS/MARS and 2) provide guidance for those who do not have a MEIS account when associating the successful completion of a training module with their school district.

To access these quick guides, visit [Online Training Modules and Instructional Materials](#).^{iv}

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.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/USDA_Buy_American_Requirements_Summary_638790_7.pdf

^{iv} https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-380541--,00.html