

School Nutrition News From MDE

August 23, 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.

National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week is October 15 – 19, 2018. The theme this year is, "School Lunch: Lots 2 Love." Let us know if you are planning any special events or activities for the week by emailing the details to MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov by close of business on September 7, 2018.

1 Percent Flavored Milk Allowed Without Waiver Reminder

Now that school is starting back up we wanted to remind you of the flexibility that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued regarding milk earlier this year (see the USDA Memo [SPS 18-2018, CACFP 13-2018](#)ⁱⁱ and the attached USDA CNP: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements for School Year 2018-2019 document). One percent flavored milk can be served as part of a reimbursable meal without demonstration of hardship. Whole grains exemptions are still in place. Sodium continues at Target 1.

School Year (SY) 2017-2018 Resource Management (RM) Reviews Update

SY 2017-2018 RM Reviews are behind schedule but in the works. School Food Authorities (SFAs) up for an RM Review that have not received their findings reports and/or close out letters can expect to receive determinations within the next 2-3 months. Any questions regarding the RM Reviews may be directed to our Fiscal Monitoring Unit at 517-241-5348 or MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov.

Federal Procurement Threshold Update

On June 20, 2018, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memo that changed the micro purchase threshold to \$10,000 and the simplified acquisitions (small purchase) threshold to \$250,000. The State of Michigan maintains a more restrictive threshold for food purchases of \$100,000 and a threshold of \$23,881 for supplies for public school districts, academies, and ISDs. The supplies threshold is due to be updated this fall. The new federal thresholds for services of \$250,000 and micro purchases of \$10,000 are allowed **immediately**. The Michigan Department of Education is currently working on updating our instructions, guidance, and tools to reflect these changes. Any questions regarding the new

procurement thresholds may be directed to our Fiscal Monitoring Unit at 517-241-5348 or MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov.

Team Nutrition Resources for the New School Year

Visit [Team Nutrition](#)ⁱⁱⁱ for new school year resources.

Income Calculator

For those of you that manually approve applications, the state of Iowa has an [Income Calculator](#)^{iv} which you may find helpful.

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

Nourishing Michigan's Future...during school and during the summer! Find a Summer Food Service Program site nearest you and encourage Michigan's children to Meet Up and Eat Up! www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup



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

ⁱⁱ https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP18_CACFP13_2018os.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/SP18_CACFP13_2018os.pdf

^{iv} <https://reports.educateiowa.gov/ICAVES/Home/Calculator>

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Program (CNP): Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements for School Year (SY) 2018-2019

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) agency of USDA has published an [interim final rule](#)ⁱ that addresses three menu planning flexibilities for CNP operators in SY 2018-2019:

- The option to offer flavored, low-fat (1%) milk
- Extending the State Agency's (SA) option to continue approving whole grain-rich (WGR) exemptions for the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Retaining the Sodium Target 1 in the SBP and NSLP

WGR Exemptions

What does this mean for School Food Authorities (SFAs) with currently approved WGR exemptions?

MDE is requiring **ALL** SFAs to re-apply for WGR exemptions for SY 2018-2019. Please complete the [SY 2018-2019 Request for Whole Grain-Rich \(WGR\) Exemption](#)ⁱⁱ via Survey Monkey.

Why is MDE making SFAs re-apply?

WGR exemptions have been approved and carried over for the past two school years. During this time, there have been changes in menus, grain products, and food service directors. MDE wants to ensure that SFAs assess their menus and grain offerings and apply for a WGR exemption only when really needed for hardships, including lack of product availability, financial concerns, an increase in plate waste, and /or lack of student acceptability.

Do SFAs still need to include WGR items on their menus, even if they have an approved WGR exemption?

Yes. SFAs still must make sure that at least 50% of grains served weekly for both breakfast and lunch meals are WGR, regardless of whether or not they have a WGR exemption.

How will I know that my WGR exemption request was approved?

Once you successfully complete and submit the request, you will receive an email confirmation from MDE within 14 days of submission. If you do not get a confirmation within 14 days, please contact the School Nutrition Programs office at 517-241-5374.

Flavored Low-Fat (1%) Milk Exemption

Does an SFA need to apply for an exemption in order to serve flavored, low-fat (1%) milk?

No. SFAs no longer have to apply and receive an exemption in order to serve flavored, low-fat (1%) milk.

Sodium Target 1 Level

What sodium targets do I need to meet for meals in SY 2018-2019?

SFAs should continue to meet the Sodium Target 1 Level. Please refer to the [Comparison of Previous and New Regulatory Requirements under Final Rule "Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs" \(published January 26, 2012\)](#)ⁱⁱⁱ for Target 1 sodium limits for each grade group. MDE encourages SFAs to continue to look for and introduce reduced sodium food items into their menus.

ⁱ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/11/30/2017-25799/child-nutrition-programs-flexibilities-for-milk-whole-grains-and-sodium-requirements>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XG2XS2Z>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/cn/comparison.pdf>