

School Nutrition News From



December 13, 2019

Serving Up USDA Foods Photo Contest

The USDA's 4th Annual Photo Contest called "Show Us Your Tray" contest might have a new name, but we still want to see how you are "Serving Up USDA Foods" in your school meals! Inspire other child nutrition professionals and submit a picture of your most creative breakfast or lunch using USDA Foods. With over 200 USDA Foods items available including proteins, fruits, vegetables, grains, and dairy, we want to highlight the innovative ways in which they can be used. To see the 2019 winners, including Michigan's Birmingham Public School's Ramen Bowl, visit [Show Us Your Tray Photo Contest Winners](#).ⁱ

Your submissions will provide child nutrition professionals with healthy, creative, student-approved meal ideas using USDA Foods. The Serving Up USDA Foods photo contest ends January 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EST! For 2020 contest and submission details, visit [Photo Contest Submission Details](#).ⁱⁱ Be sure to read all details and review the sample submission before deciding which school meals to feature and before taking and submitting photos. Please send all entries to the USDA Foods mailbox at USDAFoods@usda.gov.

Maternal Infant Health Summit – Save the Date

The Mother Infant Health and Equity Improvement Plan and the Maternal Infant Strategy Group are pleased to announce the 2020 Maternal Infant Health Summit March 30-31, 2020. This conference seeks to create synergy and align priorities between public and private organizations as well as provide educational opportunities that will allow members to keep abreast of the latest developments in the field. For further information, visit [Maternal Infant Health Summit](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

From USDA

SP 16-2019 School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit

The flexibility described in SP 16-2019, *School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit*, was set to expire November 21, 2019, and was extended through December 20, 2019, via the *Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019* (P.L. 116-69).

Please visit SP 16-2019 at [School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit](#)^{iv} for details about this flexibility.

Reminder – Upcoming Events

Talk @ 2pm

The Office of Health and Nutrition Services is excited to announce Talk @ 2pm, an exciting opportunity for professional development and training via Skype. Talk @ 2pm will typically be held once per month throughout 2019. Join School Nutrition Programs staff for an informal 30-minute to 1-hour Webinar meeting. Staff will provide a brief description of the topic and

the remainder of the time is open for Q & A. Preregistration is required. After registering, a link to copy and paste into your browser to access the webinar will be emailed to you in your registration confirmation. Following is information on the upcoming Talk @ 2pm topic:

Topic: In's and Out's of USDA Foods

- Learn how USDA Foods entitlement is calculated
- Learn how to monitor entitlement balances on your PAL Report
- Learn the different USDA Foods programs to allocate entitlement to
- Discuss how to maximize your USDA Foods dollars

When: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 – 2:00 pm

To Register: [Talk at 2 pm In's and Out's of USDA Foods Webinar^v](#)

Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) Introductory Webinar

When: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

To Register: [MEGS+ Introductory Webinar^{vi}](#)

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

Registration is limited. If registration is full, more training sessions will be scheduled in the future. Materials will be emailed prior to your scheduled session (webinar). If you have any questions or concerns, please email MEGS@Michigan.gov.

MEGS+ Intermediate Webinar - Featuring Status Change and Review Comments

This webinar is designed to explain the Review Comments feature in MEGS+. Review Comments is used by MDE staff for review and approval of submitted materials and can also be used by agencies to make note or provide clarification of application and report materials.

In addition, MEGS+ has application and report statuses that are assigned to track each application and report in MEGS+ throughout the grant process. Available status options depend upon contact security access, due date of the application or report, in addition to the current status of the application or report. These statuses will be thoroughly defined and explained in this workshop presentation.

When: Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.

To Register: [MEGS+ Intermediate Webinar^{vii}](#)

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Registration is limited. If registration is full, more training sessions will be scheduled in the future. Materials will be emailed prior to your scheduled session (webinar). If you have any questions or concerns, please email MEGS@Michigan.gov.

Questions of the Week

The Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Poll

Michigan Department of Education is required to oversee the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) provision. We requested information on the PLE Exemption for School Year (SY) 2019-2020 and SY 2018-2019 through a required online poll that was sent on November 12. The poll responses were due Friday December 6. If you have not submitted a response, here are some common questions and answers to assist with completing the poll:

Question: I do not see a pending task to complete the poll. How do I access the poll?

Answer: Ensure you have security access for the Grants Electronic Monitoring System/ Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS). If not, please go to the [GEMS/MARS](#)^{viii} homepage and under the login section click on the Security Authorization Form for Sub-recipients. Complete the form and email to GEMS/MARS at MDE-GEMS@Michigan.gov.

Answer 2: If you already have security access for GEMS/MARS, contact your assigned financial analyst and they can assign the task to you. Your assigned financial analyst was copied on the original scheduling email. You can also reference our [Fiscal Team's Territory Map](#).^{ix}

Question: We participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or non-pricing; do we still have to complete the poll?

Answer: Yes. On the questionnaire, select N/A and then submit the responses.

Question: Do I have to complete the poll for both years?

Answer: Yes

Question: What financial documentation do I need to submit?

Answer: Financial statements (i.e., Balance Sheet, Trial Balance, or Summary General Ledger), that clearly indicate the Food Service Fund balance level as of the specified dates is required. The financial documentation required is **as of January 31, 2018**, for the SY 2018-2019 PLE Exemption and **as of December 31, 2018**, for the SY 2019-2020 PLE Exemption. Note that documentation of year end financials is not accepted for these data collections.

Question: What is an agreement number and where do I find it?

Answer: Your agreement number (a.k.a. sponsor or SFA number) can be found at the top of your MEGS+ application.

Question: I thought I submitted, why did I get a past due notice?

Answer: Double check that you hit the submit button in the bottom right corner of the page after you have saved and closed the poll submission screen.

Question: I received a task that said the poll is done. Do I have to do anything else?

Answer: No. Your submission is recorded and considered complete if you received a letter and a task saying it is done.

The most recent guidance is found in [Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2019-20](#).^x If you have any questions or need additional information, please send an email to your assigned Financial Analyst or MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov and indicate PLE exemption question in the subject line.

ⁱ<https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/2019-show-us-your-tray-photo-contest-winners>

ⁱⁱ<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020%20Photo%20Contest%20Info%20Sheet.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ<https://mihealthsummit.com/>

^{iv}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-breakfast-program-substitution-vegetables-fruit>

^v<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talk-at-2pm-webinar-ins-and-outs-of-usda-foods-registration-77114017101>

^{vi}<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/megs-introductory-webinar-registration-84979872085>

^{vii}<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/megs-intermediate-webinar-featuring-status-change-and-review-comments-registration-85141547661>

^{viii}<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/user/login.aspx>

^{ix}https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/DistrictMap-Edit__11-1-18_671684_7.pdf

^x<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/paid-lunch-equity-guidance-school-year-2019-20>