

**From:** Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 4:05 PM  
**To:** MDE-SchoolNutrition  
**Subject:** Weekly News from MDE 022714

I cannot believe it! Next week is March already! Must be that complaining about cold weather and snow makes time go by faster!!?? Here is the latest:

- 1) News on Milk Substitutions from USDA - It was brought to our (USDA) attention that there is some conflicting guidance between the new CACFP Crediting Guide and CACFP 21-2011-Revised on fluid milk substitutions. To clarify, any fluid milk substitutions requested for children with a non-disabling medical condition must be nutritionally equivalent to milk (as stated in CACFP 21-2011). A Q&A in the new CACFP crediting guide incorrectly indicates that the fluid milk substitution rule does not yet apply to CACFP. This was inadvertently included based on old guidance – please disregard it. For those looking for a list of fluid milk substitutes that are nutritionally equivalent to milk, some states (including Minnesota) have developed a list. Please let me know if you'd like it passed along. Keep in mind products can change and should be verified at the SFA level.
- 2) June 10-12 Conference – Our Second Annual June Conference will be held in Lansing at the Lansing Center with the Radisson providing lodging for those that need it. In order to plan sessions that will address the issues that are most needed in the field, we ask for you to take this very brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XF99FDF>. We realize the 10-12<sup>th</sup> may cause some problems with school days but hotel availability was a real challenge going back to September when we first started looking for space. So please, block out the dates and complete the survey. Thanks.
- 3) School Meals Overview Training – Our 2 day director training, March 5-6, at the Kellogg Center here in Lansing still has openings, so I am encouraging anyone that can participate to come join us. I don't want to resort to begging, but help us fill the room. You can register by going to: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Registration\\_Memo\\_-\\_March\\_5-6\\_2014\\_446480\\_7.pdf?20140225105400](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Registration_Memo_-_March_5-6_2014_446480_7.pdf?20140225105400).
- 4) March is National Nutrition Month – Please encourage your schools to use Team Nutrition messages to promote nutrition education and healthier school environments. Here is a link to some resources for National Nutrition Month - <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/hsmrs/marchnutrition/>.
- 5) Local Wellness Policy – Attached is a press release in an email from the White House detailing some of the changes required with the Local Wellness Policies this coming school year. Please read and any changes you can make now to help make the start of the next school year more successful will be worth the effort.
- 6) Summer Food Service Webinars – Attached is an email from USDA with information related to SFSP including webinars that are being offered. If you are participating in SFSP or are considering participating, I encourage you to check it out.

- 7) Important Update – Last fall, we issued a policy regarding electronic fees for meal payment. For revised information on these fees for school food service programs, please see Revised Food Service Administrative Policy No. 8 – SY 2013-2014 at the following link:  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Administrative\\_Policy\\_No\\_8\\_Electronic\\_Fees\\_439129\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Administrative_Policy_No_8_Electronic_Fees_439129_7.pdf).
- 8) Meal Periods – As you may know, we recently did a survey on the length of meal periods. Schools need to offer their students adequate time to eat a healthy lunch. This gives students enough time to be fully nourished and reduce the amount of food resources thrown away. Please read the memorandum from State Superintendent Mike Flanagan at the following link:  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Adequate\\_Time\\_to\\_Eat\\_448938\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Adequate_Time_to_Eat_448938_7.pdf).
- 9) Send Michigan Team Nutrition your School Breakfast pictures to be highlighted by Dayle Hayes & School Meals That Rock during the month of March! Send via social media   or email Emily Purves [purvese@michigan.gov](mailto:purvese@michigan.gov) and include school name and contact person. Also, don't forget the Michigan Boost Breakfast Regional Trainings March 24-27!! (Flyer attached.)
- 10) Save the Date - Michigan Learning Connection Summit will explore how we can use current science linking physical activity, nutrition, breakfast, and learning to partner with schools to enhance children's health and readiness to learn. Hear from Michigan schools that have made that connection and how they were able to overcome challenges to make it happen. Details about the event are attached and how to register will be released soon.
- 11) Farm to Institution - Join us to celebrate Michigan's rich history of Farm to Institution programs to date and to contribute to developing strategic solutions to the challenges that remain to take local food purchasing at institutions to the next level! MFIN will unveil Cultivate Michigan, a local food purchasing initiative to help institutions ramp up local food purchases to meet the 20% by 2020 goal. Attached is an email with all the details for this important event.

That is it for now. Have a great weekend!

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"The MDE School Nutrition Programs team is committed to the success of child nutrition programs through training, support, and leadership by fostering partnerships to ensure the nutritional well-being of all students in Michigan."