

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 2:13 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Weekly News from MDE 062013

I am assuming most of you have finished your school year at this point. Quite a year, eh? Next year will have challenges as well but hopefully not as many or as large as the past year. Here is some news (for those of you still showing up to read email...):

- 1) Community Eligibility Option (CEO) – The deadline to apply to be a part of CEO is June 30, 2013. If you have access to the School Nutrition Program application in MEGS+, your access has been carried over into the CEO application. See the following link for detailed instructions on how to fill out the CEO application:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEO_Application_Quick_Guide_2012_386303_7.pdf. Participating in CEO allows you to qualify your buildings based on the percentage of Directly Certified students in those buildings. Once your building(s) qualify, the percentage of meals claimed at the free rate is eligible for four years. In an effort to collect the data electronically, we are asking that all sponsors wishing to participate in the CEO for the 2013-2014 school year apply in the Michigan Nutrition Data (MiND) system. Here is the link:
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/sfars/mind/mindlogin.aspx>. If you are a returning sponsor, you may use the building numbers utilized in last year's application going into year 2 or 3. If your direct certification numbers will show an increase in your claiming percentage, you may apply with new numbers to ensure that the increase in percentage(s) is seen in 2013-2014. As you may recall, the CEO allows districts to serve all students in an eligible building free breakfast and free lunch based on the direct certification rate which needs to be at least 40%. The vast majority of schools that participated last year seem very happy with the results. Please make sure that participating in CEO is the correct financial decision for your school district. Until you reach a direct cert rate of 62.5% or more (which allows for 100% of meals served and claimed reimbursed at the free rate), it is possible your current system will generate more revenues for you. For example, if you have a 40% direct cert rate, only 64% of meals are reimbursed at the free rate and 36% reimbursed at the lower paid rate. In addition, at a direct certification of 40%, you will not receive the revenue from paid students and you may find that more paid students eat because it is free. The following is a link that will take you to a calculator to help you determine the best financial decision for your district and we encourage you to use it: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEO_Michigan_Calculator_Final_360748_7.xls?20130501104413. Having said all this, the CEO program is a great program in areas of poverty to feed students that need the nutrition without the old stigma of being free or reduced. Our website also has

additional information on the CEO program at www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition, scroll down to the section on CEO.

- 2) Current CEO Participants – Just a reminder that it will be important for districts already participating in the CEO to keep the documentation you used to determine your original eligibility such as direct certification lists and enrollment lists so that two or three years from now you would still be able to show an auditor how you calculated your direct certification rate.
- 3) Free Connect: Chefs to Schools Training Opportunity From NFSMI - Are you a chef registered on the Chefs Move to Schools website and interested in learning more about school nutrition programs? Would you like to receive information that could aid you in deciding how you can be of most help in schools? If so, the National Food Service Management Institute is currently accepting applications for their Connect: Chefs to Schools training on August 15, 2013, at NFSMI. NFSMI will reimburse participants' travel expenses according to the NFSMI Participant Travel Guidelines. For more information or to submit application, contact Lois Coleman at lmcolema@olemiss.edu. Feel free to pass on this information to interested chefs you know.
- 4) 31d Money – I occasionally get asked how come a district's 31d payment went up or down. For this year, in total, 31d payments went up. 2012 - \$20,733,036.....2011-\$20,380,655. Individual schools would have gone up or down based on their allowable costs. The calculation takes allowable cost multiplied by the reimbursement rate of 6.0127%.
- 5) New Nondiscrimination Statement - Attached is the updated Nondiscrimination Statement released by the United States Department of Agriculture for use by state and local agencies and their sub recipients. The statement is effective immediately. Websites and materials should be revised to include the updated statement. Please read the statement carefully. You will notice that the updated statement is longer than the former statement. It begins with, "The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of..." and it ends with "USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer." All state and local agencies administering the Special Nutrition Programs must use this updated statement. For clarification purposes, notice that the first paragraph of the updated nondiscrimination statement includes additional protected classes that were not part of the former statement used for Special Nutrition Programs. However, the same protected classes still apply to SNP (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, age, and disability). USDA expanded this nondiscrimination statement to make it inclusive of all its programs and activities.

In addition, please note the following:

- FNS cannot provide Civil Rights posters at this time.
- The date when posters will be available is as yet undetermined.

If you have any questions please contact Lisa Brown-Taylor, SNP Consultant at 517-241-3885 or browntaylorl@michigan.gov.

- 6) Offer versus Serve (OVS) – Attached are both the USDA policy memo and the new updated OVS guidance manual. They are for School Year 2013-2014.

Hopefully I will see many of you next week at our June “Nourishing Michigan’s Future” conference at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids. For everyone else, have a great summer!!

Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS
Supervisor, School Nutrition Programs
Michigan Department of Education
517-373-3892

“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.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (por sus siglas en inglés "USDA") prohíbe la discriminación contra sus clientes, empleados y solicitantes de empleo por raza, color, origen nacional, edad, discapacidad, sexo, identidad de género, religión, represalias y, según corresponda, convicciones políticas, estado civil, estado familiar o paternal, orientación sexual, o si los ingresos de una persona provienen en su totalidad o en parte de un programa de asistencia pública, o información genética protegida de empleo o de cualquier programa o actividad realizada o financiada por el Departamento. (No todos los criterios prohibidos se aplicarán a todos los programas y/o actividades laborales).

Si desea presentar una queja por discriminación del programa de Derechos Civiles, complete el [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) (formulario de quejas por discriminación del programa del USDA), que puede encontrar en internet en http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, o en cualquier oficina del USDA, o llame al (866) 632-9992 para solicitar el formulario. También puede escribir una carta con toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Envíenos su formulario de queja completo o carta por correo postal a U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, por fax al (202) 690-7442 o por correo electrónico a program.intake@usda.gov.

Las personas sordas, con dificultades auditivas, o con discapacidad del habla pueden contactar al USDA por medio del Federal Relay Service (Servicio federal de transmisión) al (800) 877-8339 o (800) 845-6136 (en español).

El USDA es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.



DATE: June 13, 2013

MEMO CODE: SP 45-2013

SUBJECT: Updated Offer versus Serve Guidance for the
National School Lunch Program and School
Breakfast Program in School Year 2013-2014

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Offer versus Serve (OVS) is a provision in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) that allows students to decline some of the food offered. The goals of OVS are to reduce food waste in the school meals programs while permitting students to decline foods they do not intend to eat.

Attached is the updated guidance manual for operators utilizing OVS, which is optional at all grade levels for breakfast and required at the senior high school level only for lunch. As parts of the NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements are being phased-in over multiple years, this memorandum provides guidance for School Year (SY) 2013-2014 *only*. The guidance will be revised as needed to reflect new requirements as they are phased-in.

This guidance is intended to clarify the requirements of OVS, specifically related to what students must take in order to have a reimbursable meal.

OVS at Lunch

At lunch, schools must offer students all five required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at lunch are: meats/meat alternates; grains; fruit; vegetables; and fluid milk. Under OVS, a student must take at least three components in the required serving sizes. One selection must be at least ½ cup from either the fruit or vegetable component.

OVS at Breakfast

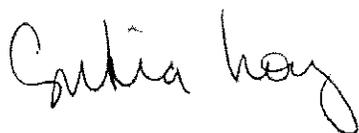
At breakfast, schools must offer students all three required food components in at least the minimum required amounts. The components at breakfast are: grains (with optional meats/meat alternates allowed); juice/fruit/vegetable; and milk. Under OVS, a student

Regional Directors
State Directors
Page 2

must be offered at least four food items and must select at least three food items. In SY 2013-2014, students are not required to take a minimum of ½ cup of fruit or vegetables for OVS.

For specific questions related to the lunch meal pattern requirements, please refer to Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) memorandum SP 10-2012 (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2012/SP10-2012ar6.pdf>), and to SP 28-2013 (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Policy-Memos/2013/SP28-2013os.pdf>) for questions related to the SBP meal pattern. Please note that SP 28-2013 has been updated to reflect consistency with the additional flexibility described in this OVS guidance.

We appreciate all you do for the School Meal Programs and look forward to continue working with you to improve the nutrition of America's children. State agencies are reminded to distribute this memo and attachment to program operators immediately. SFAs should contact their State agencies for additional information. State agencies may direct any questions concerning this guidance to the appropriate Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.



Cynthia Long
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Attachment