

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 4:21 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Weekly News from MDE 082812

With everyone coming back to work and change on the way, I will get back to my routine of weekly news. There is new information to pass along including a lot of attachments. Here it is:

- 1) Last Week's Training – Admittedly, the trainings last week had its good points and bad. We had issues relating to handling questions and several technology issues with the live streaming. With that being said, I am still confident that we were able to pass on a lot of useful information and guidance to a lot of people. In contrast to the live streaming, the videotape of the presentations should not have any of the technical issues. We expect to post the videos of all three days of training within 2 weeks. I want to thank everyone who did attend. It was a “fun” few days!!
- 2) 6 Cent Certification Policy Memo – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a policy memo on the 6 Cent Certification process. The memo, SP 44-2012, is attached. The memo includes 17 Q & As on various topics related to 6 Cent Certification. It does cover a lot of frequently asked questions such as how to handle schools with multiple serving lines. Be sure to read the document as I am sure you will find it useful and informative. The most frequently asked question we get is how do I plan/serve a menu where 7th or 8th graders may be served at the same time and place as 9-12 students. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get any significant guidance on how to handle this situation other than USDA wants the respective age/grade groups served the correct portions. I wish I could be of more help. A quick note, I literally just received from USDA - You'll notice that the response to #14 is inconsistent with guidance USDA has issued before on sandwich recipes. Previously, USDA stated that you can use a sandwich recipe for sandwich varieties in the menu worksheet. USDA apologizes and will clarify the final answer as soon as possible. We do expect another revision in a few weeks.
- 3) 6 Cent Certification Nutrient Analysis Software – For those districts choosing Option 1 for their 6 Cent Certification, USDA has posted software that has been approved for use with Option 1. The link to this page is <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/menu-planning/software-approved-usda-administrative-reviews/list-approved-software%0B-administrative>.
- 4) Cycle Menus – Wow!! A great big thanks to my colleagues from the great state of Ohio. They have shared a great collection of seasonal cycle menus with all states in USDA's Midwest Regional Office (MWRO). While Ohio has done a great job of making sure these are compliant menus, you will still need to accurately submit menus consistent with your operation. Here is the email I received a few minutes ago - The Ohio Department of Education's

(ODE) Menus that Move is a set of seasonal cycle menus to help schools serve tasty meals that fit within the USDA's new meal guidelines. Each seasonal cycle menu contains five weekly menus that have been entered into the USDA Menu Certification Worksheet and meet both the required meal components and nutrient analysis. Check out Menus that Move on the ODE website by clicking [here](#). The Fall Cycle Menus are posted and later this week we will add the Winter. So feel free to use this generous and helpful resource.

- 5) Overt Identification – This subject is one that has been an important part of school meal programs for a long time but USDA has issued a new policy memo. It is attached (SP 45-2012) for you to read. It includes language on avoiding overt identification in relation to directly certified students.
- 6) USDA 6 Cent Certification Email – Here is an email I just received from our MWRO of USDA. Another clarification on how the tool works, in particular in crediting vegetables: We received a question about how vegetables are calculated in the worksheet when part of an entrée (i.e. vegetable stir-fry), and if the calories are double counted in the simplified nutrient assessment. Here is some information on how this situation is handled. Please share with your colleagues. If a school chooses to credit vegetables contained in a main dish/entrée in the All Meals tab (e.g. 1/8 cup tomatoes), the simplified nutrient assessment **will** capture calories for those veggies as part of the total cups of vegetables offered over the week and the subgroup estimates for calories. We do realize that some double-counting may occur with main dishes that contain large amounts of fruits or vegetables, such as the stir-fry. This has already been factored into the tool and taken into account with the fruit and vegetable calorie estimates. In addition, SFAs can choose to report calorie and saturated fat information for the main dish and exclude the contribution from the vegetables and fruit it contains. This is acceptable if such information is known (perhaps a nutrient analysis was run on a recipe without the fruit/veg ingredients, etc.). Otherwise, report the calorie and saturated fat information in the entire entrée. If there are significant concerns there is always the option to enter text in the SFA notes section.
- 7) Milk Substitutes – We frequently get questions regarding milk substitutes. In looking into this issue, we were able to find four manufacturers of milk substitutes that meet the requirements to be able to be used as a substitute for non-disabled children. The attached document includes information on milk substitution and links to the four manufacturers. Our inclusion of these manufacturers is not an endorsement of the products, it is for informational purposes only.
- 8) Income Eligibility Guidelines – Attached is a copy of the News Release sent out by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to media outlets regarding the income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced priced meals. By having MDE send out this release, it eliminates the requirement of school districts having to send this information out to their media contacts. With

that said, if you have a local newspaper or other media outlet that may be able to use this information to your districts benefit, please feel free to pass it along.

- 9) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program - The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant award recipients are posted on the FFVP webpage at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-43092_50144-200565--,00.html.

The cut this year was 82% free and reduced. An elementary school had to have at least 82% of its enrollment as free and reduced price meals to receive the grant award. This percentage is considerably higher than prior years so some schools that have received these grant funds in the past may not receive them this year.

- 10) New Eligibility Manual – I have also attached the new Eligibility Manual for School Meals (SP 46-2012). If you don't print this out, at least save the document in a safe place on your computer. One of the great parts of saving it on your computer and then using it electronically is that you can use the word "find" function to help track down an answer related to your question. For example, if you want to know how homeless students should be counted, you can type in the "find" function "homeless" and every time that word shows up it will be found so you can easily obtain the information you are looking for. This manual can answer a lot of your questions. I STILL use it when I get calls from the field. Great resource.

- 11) Next Planned Training – We were unable to find a suitable location for the September training so we are tentatively changing those dates to October 10-12, exact agendas and locations to be announced. If you want to attend the School Meals Requirements Training or 6 Cent Certification, you may want to block these dates.

- 12) And the Winner Is – The first submission of the 6 Cent Certification tool happened last week. Tony Bartlett from Francis Reh Public School Academy was the first to submit the work he did on 6 Cent Certification. We have over 200 districts that have started the process (and still need to submit) but that leaves almost another 800 that need to get started. While there is no specific deadline at this point, you are required to be in compliance with the new meal pattern effective July 1, 2012, so you might as well complete this process as soon as possible to make sure you receive the additional 6 cents in reimbursement effective October 1, 2012. We have additional staff to help with this process if needed. Any questions related directly to the 6 Cent rule can be emailed to 6centrule@michigan.gov or contact our office at 517-373-3347 or click on this link to take you to our 6 Cent Certification Materials webpage: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-43092_50144-281153--,00.html.

I know there is a lot of work being done to be in compliance with the new meal pattern and the 6 Cent Certification process. It can all be confusing and frustrating

as we figure out all of the different aspects of this year's changes. All of your efforts are appreciated. After this is all over, we will be helping to meet the nutritional needs of our students so it is a worthy cause. Hope the beginning of your school has been or will be successful!!

Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS

Supervisor
School Nutrition Programs
Michigan Department of Education
517-373-3892
517-373-4022 Fax

Supporting achievement for EVERY student through a Proficiency-Based system of education.

**Michigan Department of Education
Office of School Support Services
School Nutrition Programs**

Milk Substitutes for Nondisabled Children

These requirements apply to accommodations for children without disabilities who cannot drink milk. School Food Authorities have the option to make this accommodation and offer an allowable fluid milk substitute for children without disabilities.

School Food Authorities choosing to offer a milk substitute as part of reimbursable meals for nondisabled children must provide products that meet the following USDA nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes.

Nutrients per Cup (8 fluid ounces)

Calcium: 276 milligrams (mg)

Protein: 8 grams (g)

Vitamin A: 500 international units (IU)

Vitamin D: 100 IU

Magnesium: 24 mg

Phosphorus: 222 mg

Potassium: 349 mg

Riboflavin: 0.44 mg

Vitamin B-12: 1.1 micrograms (mcg)

Nondairy substitutes that do not meet these nutrition standards cannot be served as a part of a reimbursable meal.

Under Offer versus Serve (OVS), a meal without milk can be reimbursable.

If OVS is not available, a reimbursable meal for a student with a medical or special dietary need (non-disability) must include milk or an acceptable milk substitute provided by the school. If the school does not offer an acceptable milk substitute for students without disabilities, the students **MUST** take milk for the meal to be reimbursable.

To date, the following milk substitute products have been identified that meet the USDA nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes. Website links have been included to assist with locating where the products are sold in the state of Michigan.

USDA Nutrient Requirements per 8 oz	Calcium	Protein	Vitamin A	Vitamin D	Magnesium	Phosphorus	Potassium	Riboflavin	Vitamin B12
	276 mg	8 g	500 IU	100 IU	24 mg	222 mg	349 mg	0.44 mg	1.1 mcg
8 th Continent Original Soymilk http://www.8thcontinent.com/product-finder/	300 mg	8 g	500 IU	100 IU	24 mg	250 mg	360 mg	0.51 mg	1.2 mcg
Kikkomon Pearl Smart Creamy Vanilla http://www.kikkomanusa.com/product_locator/	341 mg	9 g	578 IU	118 IU	80 mg	401 mg	410 mg	0.75 mg	1.58 mcg
Kikkomon Pearl Smart Chocolate http://www.kikkomanusa.com/product_locator/	388 mg	8 g	613 IU	110 IU	96 mg	456 mg	550 mg	0.77 mg	1.54 mcg
Pacific Natural Ultra Soy: Plain and Vanilla http://www.pacificfoods.com/where-to-buy	284 mg	10 g	500 IU	100 IU	52 mg	254 mg	381 mg	0.5 mg	1.47 mcg
Sunrich Naturals Soymilk Original and Vanilla http://www.sunrich.com/products.html	300 mg	8 g	500 IU	100 IU	40 mg	228 mg	360 mg	0.45 mg	1.1 mcg



News Release

Contact: Martin Ackley, Director of Communications, (517) 241-4395

Income Guidelines for National Free and Reduced Priced Meals For Schools and the Child and Adult Care Food Program are Announced

August 16, 2012

The Michigan Department of Education has announced the household income guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture for free and reduced price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

Families should contact their school, school district, child care center, or family day care home sponsor to find out whether it participates in these programs.

Schools, child care centers, and family day care home sponsors will provide a form for applying for free or reduced price meals. Only one application is required per household. Most participating centers and all participating family child care homes provide meals to all enrolled participants without any separate charge.

Children or foster children who are recipients of Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or who are enrolled in Head Start, Even Start, an At-Risk afterschool center, or an emergency shelter automatically qualify for free meals. Households with incomes less than or equal to the following guidelines qualify for free or reduced price meals or free milk.

Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk		
Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly
1	\$14,521	\$1,211
2	\$19,669	\$1,640
3	\$24,817	\$2,069
4	\$29,965	\$2,498
5	\$35,113	\$2,927
6	\$40,261	\$3,356
7	\$45,409	\$3,785
8	\$50,557	\$4,214

Scale for Reduced Price Meals	
Annual	Monthly
\$20,665	\$1,723
\$27,991	\$2,333
\$35,317	\$2,944
\$42,643	\$3,554
\$49,969	\$4,165
\$57,295	\$4,775
\$64,621	\$5,386
\$71,947	\$5,996

For each additional family member add:

	\$5,148	\$429
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	\$7,326	\$611
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An application to a school, child care center, or family day care home sponsor can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income or documentation of current participation in Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced price meals may be verified at any time. An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied.

Participating schools, child care centers, and family day care home sponsors accept applications for free or reduced price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment.

If a doctor has determined that a child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school or child care meal, the school or child care facility will make any substitution prescribed by a doctor at no charge. The doctor's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department of the school or child care facility.

In accordance with Federal law and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, institutions are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired 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.

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