



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Bulletin

Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Bulletin No. 13 - FY 2026 Budget Announcement - October 8, 2025

Michigan School Meals for Public Schools

The Office of Nutrition Services (ONS) is excited to share that Governor Whitmer signed the State School Aid budget on October 7, 2025. It included funding to continue free breakfasts and lunches for public school students in School Year 2025-2026 through the Michigan School Meals program. This funding is effective October 1, 2025.

If your district has been charging reduced-price and paid eligible students for meals since October 1, you will need to have documentation on file for the following:

- that meal payments were credited to student accounts or refunded to families. The credits can be used for future a la carte purchases.
- any negative balances and/or bad debt has been addressed appropriately. This is necessary for participation in the Michigan School Meals program. If you have specific questions related to your program status or funding sources for meals between October 1, 2025, and October 7, 2025, please email MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov for support.

For the rest of the 2025-2026 school year, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools must only use [Education Benefits Forms](#) for determining student income

eligibility. [Education and Nutrition Benefits Applications](#) should only be used for non-CEP (traditional claim) schools.

Michigan School Meals in Non-Public Schools

The Fiscal Year 2026 State School Aid budget expanded the Michigan School Meals program to include approved non-public schools that were claiming breakfast and lunch for federal reimbursement prior to October 1, 2025. Non-public schools eligible to participate in School Year 2025-2026 will receive more information from ONS very soon. All other non-public schools interested in future participation will have specific guidance and communication made available at a later time.

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan Kids and Farms

Unfortunately, the 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan Kids and Farms funding for Fiscal Year 2026 (31j) was not included in the State School Aid budget. We encourage previous grantees to continue to track their expenses while avenues for continuing program funding are explored.

State School Aid Budget Section 164k

ONS wants to acknowledge and clarify legislation in the FY 2026 State School Aid Budget Section 164k.

- This legislation only applies to situations where the department receives a report; It does not apply to Administrative Reviews.
- This does not require Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools to start using Education and Nutrition Benefits Applications. CEP schools should continue to use the Education Benefits Form.
- This only applies to districts with non-CEP (traditional claim) schools.
- Federal regulations prohibit a requirement for families to complete the federal application. However, the ONS recommends districts encourage families to complete the Education and Nutrition Benefits Application as much as possible.

Questions regarding this section of the budget may be directed to MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov.

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

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