



## **Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Bulletin**

### **Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Bulletin No. 22 - End of Year 2025: Important Updates - December 19, 2025**

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#### **30d Michigan School Meals December Payment**

The Michigan Department of Education will be sending out two State Aid Management System (SAMS) payments in December for Michigan School Meals (30d). One will arrive on December 22, 2025, and the other will arrive a few days later. The second payment will include Fiscal Year 2026 payments only. Once these two payments are received, the remainder of the School Year 2025-2026 SAMS payments are expected to arrive as scheduled, on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. For any questions, please contact our Fiscal team at [MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov).

#### **Meals for Ramadan in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)**

On December 8, 2025, the Michigan Department of Education was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to offer a waiver to allow sponsors to serve non-congregate meals to children who celebrate Ramadan. During Ramadan, students fast or refrain from eating during typical daylight hours, including when school breakfast and/or lunch is served. The National School Lunch Act (NSLA), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) regulations require schools to operate a congregate lunch service between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, and breakfast to be served at the beginning of the school day. This waiver gives sponsors the flexibility to meet the needs of the

students observing Ramadan. Sponsors that serve meals to students who observe Ramadan experience a significant drop in meal service participation and would benefit from having alternative meal service options. As a result, these sponsors can request waivers for alternative means of meal service to promote this population's access to nutritious school meals during Ramadan. These waivers include:

- **Non-Congregate Meal Service (NSLP and SBP):** Under the NSLA, 42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), and the Child Nutrition Act, 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(A), NSLP and SBP meals must be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site.
- **Meal Service Times (NSLP and SBP):** Under program regulations at 7 CFR 210.10(l) and 7 CFR 220.8(l), meals served in the NSLP and SBP must follow meal service time requirements.
- **Offer Versus Serve (NSLP)** Under the NSLA, 42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(3), and program regulations at 7 CFR 210.10(e), program operators of senior high schools (as defined by the State education agency) must participate in offer versus serve at lunch.

Please note that there is **not** a waiver available for parent and guardian meal pick-up. Under program regulations at 7 CFR 210.10(a), 7 CFR 220.2 (Breakfast), and 7 CFR 220.8(a), meals must be given directly to eligible children. To participate in the non-congregate meals, **children must be in attendance at school on the day non-congregate meals are offered**. Only one breakfast and one lunch can be provided at the same time. A week's worth of meals cannot be provided at one pick up.

These waivers are effective February 17, 2026, through March 19, 2026.

For approval to use these waivers, please complete the [online form](#). Sponsors who complete this form will be contacted by a Michigan Department of Education, Office of Nutrition Services, School Nutrition Program staff member within 1-3 business days.

Completing the [online form](#) does not require you to serve meals for the whole month of Ramadan. It is allowed to only serve a few days during the month. If Spring Break is included during Ramadan, you may not serve non-congregate meals on those days.

Things to consider:

- In January, start promoting the option to families in your school. Make information available in multiple languages, as needed.

- Inform administration, teachers, and staff of the opportunity, in case they get questions.
- Create a survey to gauge interest in participating.
- Create a pre-order system for meals but be sure to have extra meals available each day.
- Develop point of service counting method so that duplicate meals are not distributed to any participant.
- Consider food safety and refrigeration.
- Include instructions for safe food handling at home.
- Those who follow the Muslim faith categorize foods as Halal or non-Halal. No pork or alcohol is allowed and no animal-derived products. Animals are slaughtered in a specific way to be Halal. Families may differ in how strictly they follow the dietary laws. Enzymes in cheese may be eaten by one family and not another. Talk with your community to know what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.
- [Culturally Inclusive Recipes Toolkit for School Nutrition Programs](#) can help start the conversation in developing menus.

### **Self-Monitoring is Due by February 1, 2026**

The following self-monitoring forms are due **February 1, 2026**.

- [School Nutrition Programs Sponsor Level Self-Monitoring Form](#)
- [School Nutrition Programs School-Level Self-Monitoring Form](#) (National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Programs)
- [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program School Self-Monitoring Form](#)

For more information, please visit the [Self-Monitoring website](#) and [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 4 - Monitoring Requirements for School Nutrition Programs](#).

### **Section 164k – Compliance with School Meal Programs, Incentives for Pupil Count Days, District Surveys, Evidence-Based Curriculum List**

ONS has received many questions about language in Public Act 15 Section 164k that requires the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to confirm any violation or noncompliance as it relates to the legislated requirements. If the Department

receives a report and confirms that a violation occurred, MDE is required by law to withhold 5% of relevant funding for as long as the district or ISD is out of compliance. Memo [2025-110 Section 164k – Compliance with School Meal Programs, Incentives for Pupil Count Days, District Surveys, Evidence-Based Curriculum List](#) provides clarification for the language in Public Act 15 Section 164k.

### **Whole Milk Bill Passes**

The [Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025](#) has passed Congress and is waiting the President's signature. Please do not change the milk that you serve until guidance is provided by USDA.

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the Office of Nutrition Services, School Nutrition Programs, at [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov).

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### **Contact Us**

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov)

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online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. **fax:**

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. **email:**

[Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

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