



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Bulletin

Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Bulletin No. 25 - Whole Milk for Healthy Kids - January 15, 2026

The [Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025](#) was signed by the president on January 14, 2026, and is **effective immediately**.

This new law **only** applies to the National School Lunch Program. The following pasteurized milk options (flavored or unflavored, nonorganic or organic) meet the school lunch meal pattern requirements for fluid milk and **may** be offered to students:

- Whole, reduced-fat (2%), low-fat (1%) and fat-free (skim) milk
- Lactose-free and lactose-reduced milk
- Cultured milk, such as cultured buttermilk, cultured kefir milk, and cultured acidophilus milk
- Acidified milk, such as acidified kefir milk and acidified acidophilus milk
- Ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk

Does whole milk have to be offered? No. Whole milk and reduced-fat (2%) are new options that are now available to be offered at **lunchtime only**. No change to your current milk offerings is required.

What changed with nondairy beverages? [Nondairy beverages](#) that are nutritionally equivalent to fluid milk and meet the USDA nutritional standards for

fluid milk substitutes may also be offered. The changes to the law for nondairy beverages are related to the paperwork required.

What paperwork is required for offering nondairy beverages? If the sponsor chooses to offer a nondairy beverage to all students, a student who requires a fluid milk substitute for a non-disability reason no longer is required to submit a written statement requesting it. Again, this change is only allowable for lunch and is optional. If a sponsor chooses not to offer nondairy beverages to all students, then the process for requesting a fluid milk substitute via a written statement still must occur.

What has changed for requests for fluid milk substitutes for disability accommodations? Effective immediately, a parent or legal guardian may provide a written statement to request a fluid milk substitute at school lunch only. It does not have to be a written form from a State-licensed health care professional or registered dietitian. Again, this only applies to school lunch. For the School Breakfast Program and Afterschool Snack Program, a written statement must still be signed by a state-licensed health care professional or a registered dietitian.

What milk can I serve at breakfast? The requirements for School Breakfast did not change. Only low-fat (1%) and fat-free (skim) milk, flavored or unflavored, may be offered.

How many milk choices need to be offered? At least two different options of fluid milk must be available daily at breakfast and lunch.

How do I calculate the dietary specification for saturated fat at lunch? The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 modifies the requirement to exclude fluid milk only from the weekly limit for saturated fat. Do not include saturated fat from fluid milk when calculating the weekly average of saturated fat for lunch.

How are other dietary specifications calculated? Calories, sodium, and added sugar from milk are still included in calculations for those dietary specifications.

Did the limit on added sugar in flavored milk change? No. Since July 1, 2025, flavored milk must contain no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces.

Can preschoolers now have flavored milk? No. Preschool students or children 5 years and under are not allowed to be served flavored milk. That did not change.

Can Special Milk Program and NSLP Afterschool Snack Program now serve whole milk? No. Special Milk and Afterschool Snack Programs were not included in this legislation. Their requirements remain the same.

For more information on the implementation requirements for the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025, you can refer to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) memo [SP 01-2026](#).

Additional questions? Please contact MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov.

Contact Us

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