

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) November 2025 Newsletter

Important Reminders and Tips

At-Risk Afterschool Program (ARAS)

With the growing need to help feed local communities, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) understands the desire to start programs like ARAS. However, please keep in mind the specific requirements for ARAS.

ARAS offers a safe, supervised place for children to go after school, including providing healthy food and activities. The ARAS site must be in the area of a public school where at least 50% or more of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

ARAS sites must be organized to provide care for children after school or on weekends, holidays, or school vacations during the regular school year. Anytime ARAS is offered, it must include organized, regularly scheduled education or enrichment activities in a structured and supervised environment.

Meals must be consumed on-site. Meals must be marked at point of service and daily attendance must be taken. An electronic point of service system, where students enter their ID number, is acceptable. The CACFP meal pattern must be followed, and staff must be trained on CACFP prior to starting the program.

Please reach out to your analyst or email MDE-CACFP@michigan.gov, and we will connect you with someone who can assist you.

Resource: [USDA Child & Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Meals Guide](#)

***NEW* Recordkeeping Training Requirements**

MDE's CACFP now requires all CACFP institutions to take the appropriate recordkeeping training at least once every three years. The recordkeeping training can be found on the CACFP website and at the links below:

[CACFP: Recordkeeping for Sponsoring Organizations](#)

[CACFP: Recordkeeping for Independent Centers](#)

Save your certificate with your annual training records. Your analyst will review your completed training certificate during your administrative review.

Additional Trainings Available

Stay up to date on educating yourself on all things CACFP-related. The CACFP

website is full of useful training opportunities that you can take at your own pace and at a time that's convenient for you!

[Thinking Thursdays](#): Topics include family style meal service, whole grains, meal pattern basics, and more!

[Online Modules](#): In addition to the new recordkeeping training requirement mentioned above, there are additional modules such as product labels, special dietary needs, preschool meal patterns, and many more. You can also receive [MiRegistry](#) credit for completing these online modules.

[Tuesday at 2](#): MDE's school nutrition team has presented on a few CACFP-specific topics, which you can view at the Tuesday at 2 link, such as the CACFP year-end report and feeding preschoolers.

Additional News Inside MDE CACFP

From our Farm to Program Department

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. The Farm to Program team remains committed to supporting local purchasing across the state of Michigan. Contact MDE-FarmtoProgram@Michigan.gov for help with finding a supplier, nutrition education tools, or if you have procurement questions.

From our Fiscal Department

Updates are happening in the fiscal area relating to CACFP. On the CACFP [website](#), you will find new documents, including new budget worksheets and a paid meal revenue worksheet.

And as a reminder, any CACFP sponsoring organization required to complete the year-end report (YER) will be notified in December and the report will be due in January.

Ongoing Social Media Campaign: What's for Lunch?

MDE is running a social media campaign that highlights the great lunches being served throughout our state. It highlights lunches being served in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. Get involved by showing off the great lunches being served. Please share your pictures and story by filling out the form at the link below. Pictures will be shared on [MDE's Facebook Page](#).

[What's For Lunch?](#)

Celebrate Fall Produce with Variety

Check out the Have a Plant® campaign from the Foundation for Fresh Produce. Their website is packed with creative ideas, ready-to-use resources, and plenty of flavor to help you celebrate fall harvest vegetables and seasonal produce all year long!

Ready to taste what's fresh? [I'M READY!](#)

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3. **email:** Intake@USDA.gov

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