

School Nutrition News From



October 4, 2019

10 Cents A Meal Grant Update

Governor Whitmer has signed this year's State budget but in the process has vetoed several programs. Unfortunately, one of those programs is our 10 Cents A Meal grant. This means that for now, the 10-Cents-a-Meal program is on **hold** – no grants are currently available for this work.

Over the past three years we have helped connect food service directors to farms for purchasing local fruits, vegetables, and legumes to serve in school meals. While we are extremely disappointed, we remain hopeful that in supplemental budgets and/or future years, the program can be reinstated.

We ask that you continue to improve student's daily nutrition and your daily meal quality through the support of local growers and their products. We also encourage you to reach out to your local state legislators and share your success stories with them.

MEGS+ Application Due Date

The Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP): School Nutrition Programs (SNP) 2020 Application is now available. To access the MEGS+ website for completing the SNP 2020 renewal/application, visit [MEGS+ Website](#).ⁱ

The MEGS+ CNP: SNP 2020 Application must be submitted by October 9, 2019.

Please note an application must be submitted and approved in order to submit claims for SY 2019 – 2020.

USDA Foods Program

School food authorities (SFAs) must complete the *Request for USDA Foods Delivery* portion of the SNP application within MEGS+ to participate in the USDA Foods Program for **School Year 2020-2021**. When completing the SNP application within the View/Edit screen, the *Request for USDA Foods Delivery* form will be found under Program Forms. The deadline to choose to participate in the USDA Foods Program is October 15, 2019. **The SFA consortium decision is then irrevocable for School Year 2020-2021**. The USDA Foods Consortia Services and Department of Defense (DoD) Services by Consortia are two documents that might assist you with making your consortium choice. For a copy of these documents, contact the School Nutrition Programs office by phone 517-241-5374 or email mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov. As a friendly reminder, your SFA already selected its consortium choice for School Year 2019-2020 within the School Year 2018-2019 MEGS+ SNP application and food ordering for the upcoming school year has already begun. If you have questions, please contact Jaime Malnar at MalnarJ1@michigan.gov or 517-241-5348.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Gateway is Now Live

Local staff using child nutrition systems can now log into [MDE Nutrition Gateway](#)ⁱⁱ as a single point of entry into any MDE system for which they have approved access. Submitting applications, claims for reimbursement, documentation for reviews, or pulling data for meals served can now easily be located with one log in! Please change your bookmarks and enjoy this new gateway system designed to assist you in all things “child nutrition.” There are two documents for your guidance when using the new Gateway:

- The [MDE Nutrition Gateway Dashboard and Portal Basics](#)ⁱⁱⁱ gives specific instructions on how to log in and use the Dashboard.
- The [MDE Nutrition Gateway User Manual](#)^{iv} gives a brief description of the Gateway and what you can do in each section of the gateway.

Food Service Administrative Memo No. 5

For information on Professional Standards training flexibility in Learning Objective Code 3450 – Employee Health, Safety, and Wellness, visit [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 5](#).^v

Household Information Report

We have the Household Information Report translated in Arabic, Spanish, and Bengali. If you need a copy of the translated Household Information Report, please contact our office by email to mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

Farm to School Census

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Office of Community Food Systems is excited to announce that the third Farm to School Census was recently launched. The Farm to School Census is the only national survey that examines school districts’ farm to school activities, such as local food purchasing behaviors, the number and use of school gardens, and the frequency of agricultural education. According to the [2015 Farm to School Census](#),^{vi} schools reported purchasing almost \$800 million in local food from farmers, ranchers, fishers, food processors, and manufacturers. The interest in farm to school is rapidly growing across the country and it is time to capture that growth in the 2019 Farm to School Census! See the attached Farm to School Census information including FAQs. For a copy of the Census Preparation Worksheet, visit [Farm to School Census Preparation Worksheet](#).^{vii}

Also, a big THANK YOU to the **first** 33 Michigan school districts who completed the Census! We appreciate your prompt response. By responding, you are helping to improve local food purchasing initiatives for your state! The list of districts who responded first is attached.

Immigrant Charge Rule

The federal government recently put forth a change to the [public charge](#)^{viii} regulation which can affect an individual’s immigration status. The Office of Health and Nutrition Services (OHNS) is concerned with how this may affect the health and safety of students in Michigan and want to relay a couple of concerns.

- All families should be supported and encouraged to complete Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications, as school meal program benefits cannot be used to determine if someone will be a public charge. We encourage you to communicate with your families that eating meals will not count against them. We recommend that you reach out to immigrant communities and reassure them that it is okay for the students to eat at school.
- The complexity of the rule is going to cause a lot of confusion, which may result in families/individuals opting not to participate in programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. This is going to negatively impact kids both directly and indirectly. A decrease in SNAP and Medicaid participation will negatively impact Direct Certification rates, and long term may decrease the number of schools that can successfully operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

For further details how this may impact Michigan families we encourage you to read the September 10, 2019, [statement](#)^x from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director, Robert Gordon.

Any questions regarding the Immigrant Charge Rule may be directed to mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

USDA Guidance

The USDA has recently released guidance on the following topics:

Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs

At least 1/8 cup of fresh, frozen, or dried coconut can be served to credit toward the fruit component of the CNP.

Hominy can be credited as a vegetable or grain component. ¼ cup of canned or cooked whole hominy credits as ¼ cup vegetable. ½ cup of cooked or 1 ounce of dry hominy grits credits as 1 ounce equivalent whole grain.

Contributions from corn masa, masa harina, nixtamalized corn flour, and nixtamalized cornmeal can be calculated in the same manner as all other creditable grain items and ingredients. Corn that is not “whole” or “enriched” or is not nixtamalized does not credit as a grain in the CNPs. For more information, visit [SP 34-2019, CACFP 15-2019, SFSP 15-2019 Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs](#).^x

Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

The implementation of using “ounce equivalents” to credit towards grains in the CACFP is being postponed until October 1, 2021. There is no change in practice for school sponsors – continue using “ounce equivalents” for grains. For more information, visit [Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#).^{xi}

School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit

The flexibility described in SP 16-2019, School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit, was set to expire September 30, 2019, and has been extended

through November 21, 2019. For further details, please visit [SP 16-2019 School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit](#).^{xii}

Updated School Meal Guidance

The Food and Nutrition Service is issuing several memos providing updated guidance for operators in the Child Nutrition Programs. These do not include additional requirements but are intended to help operators implement regulatory changes and provide clarification on existing policies and regulations.

[SP 37-2019, CACFP 16-2019 - Q&As on the Final Rule CNP: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements](#)^{xiii}

[SP 38-2019 - Meal Requirements under the NSLP and SBP: Q&As for Program Operators](#)^{xiv}

[SP 39-2019 - Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs](#)^{xv}

[SP 40-2019, CACFP 17-2019, SFSP 17-2019 - Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs](#)^{xvi}

[SP 41-2019 - Salad Bars in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#)^{xvii}

Upcoming Events/Deadlines

Michigan Apple Crunch

The Michigan Apple Crunch is quickly approaching - **make sure your event is counted!** It's easy to participate - just register at <http://bit.ly/MIAppleCrunch2019>. In return, you'll receive information about where to find local apples and how to promote your event. Schools, early child care programs, and other organizations will celebrate Michigan's abundance of fresh, local produce by collectively crunching into Michigan apples or apple slices for this fun, one-day event. We are hoping to reach 1.6 million crunches across the Great Lakes region - your registration will help us get there! The official date is October 10, 2019, but you can celebrate anytime in October. Share your plans, photos from your event, and follow along on Facebook [@miapplecrunch](#) and [@michiganfarmtoinstitution](#).

To support your Michigan Apple Crunch:

- Check out [Cultivate Michigan](#)^{xviii} resources to help you [source](#)^{xix} Michigan apples from distributors and food hubs for your institutions and [promote](#)^{xx} them in your cafeterias.
- Visit the [Michigan Apple Committee](#)^{xxi} website that has searchable tools to help you find Michigan apples at farm markets and stores as well as activities for kids and resources for teachers.
- Go to [Michigan Farm to School](#)^{xxii} for a range of resources and tools to help with your ongoing farm to school work at schools and early child care and education sites.

Take a Virtual Farm Tour of a Local Michigan Dairy Farm!

United Dairy Industry of Michigan invites classrooms on a **live** Virtual Farm Tour to a Michigan Dairy Farm. Without leaving the comfort of the classroom, students will get a peek at barns, cows and more as they see firsthand how dairy farmers care for their cows, the land, and produce delicious milk and other foods to enjoy! During the tour, your class will have an opportunity to ask questions that the farmer will answer live. Each tour will target grade-level Academic Standards.

The next tour is:

- October 9, 2019 for grades 3rd – 5th

Registration is free and easy. Visit [Virtual Farm Tour](#).^{xxiii}

SNAM Annual Conference and Exhibit Show

The SNAM Annual Conference and Exhibit Show will be held October 24-27, 2019, at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. For more information, visit [SNAM Annual Conference and Exhibit Show Registration](#).^{xxiv} Please consider attending as this is a great way to get up-to-date information on program regulations, best practices, and products available.

Targeted Training for School Nutrition Professionals

The staff of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) School Nutrition Programs unit is pleased to announce a hands-on, activity-based workshop for school nutrition professionals. This workshop is targeted to food service and administrative support staff and will provide active sessions where participants can interact with MDE staff. Each site location/workshop consists of two days. Day One will cover nutrition and menu planning related information and Day Two will cover program administrative information. Please register for each day you plan to attend.

Following are the dates and locations for the upcoming Targeted Training for School Nutrition Professionals:

November 5 and 6, 2019
Networks Northwest Conference Center
1209 South Garfield Avenue, Suite E,
Traverse City, Michigan 49686

November 12 and 13, 2019
Saginaw ISD Transitions Professional Development Center
3860 Fashion Square Blvd.,
Saginaw, Michigan 48603

December 4 and 5, 2019
Jackson Area Career Center
6800 Browns Lake Road,
Jackson, Michigan 49201

For further information and registration information visit [Targeted Training Registration Memo](#).^{xxv}

Questions of the Week

Question: What is the Farm to School Census 2019?

Answer: The USDA's third Farm to School Census is coming our way! The Farm to School Census captures information about the level to which farm to school efforts across the nation. The Census will survey all public, charter, and private School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the National School Lunch Program. The USDA is working with ABT Associates who will contact SFAs directly regarding the Census. Each SFA was sent an email with a unique link to the individual survey form in September 2019.

Question: Why participate in the Farm to School Census?

Answer: The Farm to School Census measures the scope, reach, challenges, and overall impact of farm to school efforts across the nation. It's the only national survey that examines SFAs' activities in regard to local food purchasing, school gardens, and agricultural education. The Farm to School Census demonstrates the innovative efforts of NSLP programs to provide healthy food and nutrition education to children, while supporting American agriculture and strengthening local communities, by reinforcing local control in production and purchasing. USDA uses Census data to inform decisions regarding the Farm to School Grant Programs, training and technical assistance strategies, and resource development.

Question: Where can I get more information about the Farm to School Census?

Answer: After reading and reviewing the attached Farm to School Census information including FAQs and the [Farm to School Census Preparation Worksheet](#),^{xxvi} you may also contact Jaime Malnar, School District Consultant, at 517-335-3792 or malnarj1@michigan.gov.

ⁱhttps://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/megsplus/

ⁱⁱ<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login?ReturnUrl=%2Fgateway>

ⁱⁱⁱhttps://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE_Nutrition_Gateway_Basics_666360_7.pdf

^{iv}https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE_Nutrition_Gateway_-_User_Guide_666359_7.pdf

^vhttps://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE_Nutrition_Gateway_-_User_Guide_666359_7.pdf

^{vi}<https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>

^{vii}https://s3.amazonaws.com/abtsurvey.com/24635-9204/Census_Preparation_Worksheet.pdf

^{viii}<https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/public-charge>

^{ix}https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2019/09/10/file_attachments/1282389/MDHHS%20Director%20Gordon%20Public%20Charge%20Letter.pdf

^x<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/crediting-coconut-hominy-corn-masa-and-masa-harina-child-nutrition-programs>

^{xi}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/fr-092519>

^{xii}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-breakfast-program-substitution-vegetables-fruit>

^{xiii}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/questions-and-answers-final-rule-child-nutrition-programs-flexibilities-milk-whole-grains>

^{xiv}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?keywords=sp38-2019>

^{xv}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?keywords=sp39-2019>

^{xvi}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?keywords=smoothies+offered+in+the+child+nutrition>

^{xvii}<https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?keywords=sp41-2019>

^{xviii}<https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/>

^{xix}https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/sites/default/files/u480/Superguide_Updated%20August%202018.pdf

^{xx}<https://www.cultivatemichigan.org/featured-foods/foods/apples>

^{xxi}<http://www.michiganapples.com/>

^{xxii}https://www.canr.msu.edu/farm_to_school/

^{xxiii}<https://www.milkmeansmore.org/virtual-farm-tour/>

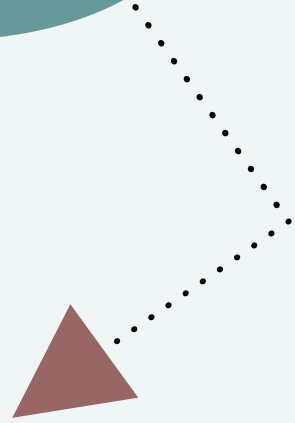
^{xxiv}<https://michigansna.org/meetinginfo.php?id=520&ts=1566834230>

^{xxv}https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Targeted_Training_Registration_Memo_666636_7.pdf

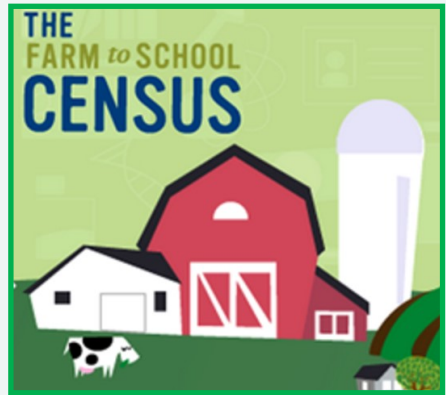
^{xxvi}https://s3.amazonaws.com/abtsurvey.com/24635-9204/Census_Preparation_Worksheet.pdf



A BIG thank you to the first Michigan School Districts to respond to the USDA Farm To School Census!!



- Armada Area Schools
- Autrain-Onota Public Schools
- Battle Creek Public Schools
- Bloomington Public School District
- Detroit Innovation Academy
- Dundee Community Schools
- Global Preparatory Academy
- Gobles Public School District
- Hackett Catholic Prep
- Harper Woods, The School District Of The City Of
- Homer Community School District
- Jenison Public Schools
- Kelloggsville Public Schools
- Kent City Community Schools
- Kingsley Area Schools
- Lawton Community School District
- Manistee Area Public Schools
- Mayville Community School District
- Montague Area Public Schools
- Montrose Community Schools
- Northport Public School District
- Pellston Public Schools
- Pickford Public Schools
- Pittsford Area Schools
- Public Schools Of Petoskey
- Reed City Area Public Schools
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan
- Sparta Area Schools
- St. Francis De Sales School
- Stephenson Area Public Schools
- Tri County Area Schools
- Uby Community Schools
- Waldron Area Schools



THE

FARM *to* SCHOOL CENSUS

WHY?

To help measure the scope reach, and impact of local purchasing efforts

WHEN?

September-October 2019

WHO?

All public and private School Food Authorities operating the National School Lunch Program

HOW?

SFA's will receive a unique link to their individual survey

WHERE?

Find more information about the census at www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

It's time to complete the USDA Farm to School Census!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Office of Community Food Systems is excited to announce that the third Farm to School Census will launch September 2019! The Farm to School Census is the only national survey that examines school districts' farm to school activities, such as local food purchasing behaviors, the number and use of school gardens, and the frequency of agricultural education.

According to the 2015 Farm to School Census, schools reported purchasing almost \$800 million in local food from farmers, ranchers, fishers, food processors, and manufacturers. The interest in farm to school is rapidly growing across the country and it is time to capture that growth in the 2019 Farm to School Census!



MICHIGAN
Department of **Education**



Previous Farm to School Census data can be found at:

www.farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

Visit the website to see how future data will be displayed.

MDE's expected response rate is: 100%



Why participate in the Farm to School Census?

The Farm to School Census measures the scope, reach, challenges, and overall impact of farm to school efforts across the nation. It's the only national survey that examines SFAs' activities in regard to local food purchasing, school gardens, and agricultural education.

The Farm to School Census demonstrates the innovative efforts of NSLP programs to provide healthy food and nutrition education to children, while supporting American agriculture and strengthening local communities, by reinforcing local control in production and purchasing.

USDA uses Census data to inform decisions regarding the Farm to School Grant Programs, training and technical assistance strategies, and resource development.

How should SFAs prepare for the Census?

The Census will assess the SFA's Farm to School activities during the 2018-2019 school year. Similar to previous versions, the 2019 Census will ask questions regarding:

- The SFA's definition of local;
- The amount of money spent on local purchases;
- The most common products purchased locally;
- The sources of local products;
- Benefits and challenges of participating in Farm to School;
- The number and use of school gardens within the SFA; and;
- The number of salad bars within the SFA.

To prepare for Census, please complete the Farm to School Census Preparation Worksheet. The USDA designed this worksheet to help SFAs to identify the number of schools participating in Farm to School activities, total expenditures for local products and activities, and staff time dedicated to Farm to School. The SFA director is expected to answer the Census one time for all schools or districts within it, making it particularly important that data is organized ahead of time. Even if an SFA did not conduct any Farm to School activities during the 2018-2019 school year, completion of the Census is still important.



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