

Town Hall

8-26-2020

Office of Health and Nutrition Services



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Please give
us your
questions

We have opened the chat box due to the amount of information to share today. Likely we will not get to all questions today but will update our Q & A document.

Town Halls

- PowerPoints are posted at:
 - [Office of Health and Nutrition Services Town Hall Meetings](#) webpage
- Q & A will be updated weekly and posted at:
 - [MDE COVID-19 Health and Nutrition Services Resources](#) webpage
- Next: September 16 & 30

Home Fridge Advantage

- Now through December 18th
- One family will be chosen each week the Lions have a home game. In addition to a refrigerator, the family will receive \$500 worth of groceries to stock it and \$500 cash.
- The recipient will also complete a “forward pass” and select a school or food pantry to receive a \$2000 grant for equipment needed to provide nutritious milk to those who need it most.
- Nominations are being accepted here:
<https://www.milkmeansmore.org/home-fridge/>.

No Kid Hungry School Nutrition Grant 2021 Now Available!



Examples how funds could be used:

- Meal service supplies and equipment
- Increased labor costs
- New costs associated with COVID-19 preparedness
- Program outreach
- New meal delivery systems

Join NKH webinar on Monday August 31st:

- Grant amount minimums
- Application instructions
- Eligibility priorities
- Get your questions answered

Full grant proposal and link to webinar will be sent out through the next School Nutrition Bulletin

Contact: Mindy Grant grantmg@michigan.gov with questions

Betterwithbreakfast.com



Breakfast Information Hub

- Breakfast After the Bell Models
- Outreach Materials
- Latest Research
- Influencing Stake Holders
- Grant Information

P-EBT Update: Cards Being Sent to Districts and Non-Public Schools

- 1. Cards will be mailed for individual students to the last reported public school district main address or the last reported non-public school address.
- 2. Districts/Schools should identify a designated person(s) to obtain and distribute the envelopes.
- 3. Notify the parent/guardian of the student listed on the envelope that the package is available and provide instruction for pickup.
- 4. In the event a recipient of the envelope cannot be found, or another type of life-changing event happened that the district/school is aware of, please return the envelope back to the sender by marking the envelope with "Return to Sender" and placing it back in the United States Postal Service mail.
- 5. Keep a list of the cards received, the cards distributed, and any cards returned to sender for tracking purposes.
- [P-EBT Card Distribution Log](#)

P-EBT
SurveyMonkey

- Coming Soon!

SFSP Waivers
have been
extended
through Sept.
30 or first day
of school
(MUST start NSLP
when school starts)

- COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #44 -- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Summer Food Service Program – EXTENSION 3
- COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #45 -- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Summer Food Service Program – EXTENSION 6
- COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #46 -- Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers – EXTENSION
- COVID–19: Child Nutrition Response #47 -- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION 3

SFSP Claims

- SFSP Sponsors now see their claim for reimbursement as one combined dollar amount instead of broken out into separate operating and administrative reimbursement amounts.

SFSP Administrative Reviews

- Sponsors must upload documentation into GEMS/MARS
- Be sure delivery tickets provide detailed component information for each meal served
- Pictures should include the entire meal including milk
- Due to the increased number of administrative reviews, official communication regarding the review; including findings and close out letters, may be delayed into November.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Michigan has received approximately \$4.5 million for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

We will be awarding 271 buildings serving 92,000 students through this program

Michigan has received waivers to serve FFVP in non-congregate settings and for allowing parent pick up

Full information will be sent to all awarded districts

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

- CEP elections need to be made by Aug 31st or first day of school
- SNP is reviewing data that was submitted into GEMS/MARS
- End of Year eligibility data
- Questions about CEP eligibility - email mickelsonn@michigan.gov
- Requests for Household Information Report – email MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov

Direct Certification Calendar

- The direct certification refresh calendar has been updated
- Direct certification refresh dates are now located on separate tab
- CEPI Master Calendar link:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/cepi/CEPI_Calendar_492773_7.xlsx

School Year (SY) 20-21 Planning Q&A

- New Q&A documents are available on the School Nutrition Program website
- Found on the National School Lunch Program Resources page
- Some examples:
 - Claiming students in the building they are enrolled
 - Offer households the ability to decline meals when offering in bulk (up to five meals at a time)
 - And many more...

Potable Water Update

- Potable Water is ***not required*** to be sent home with meals (parent pick-up, take home meals).
- Potable Water is ***required*** for meals served in the classroom.
 - Waiting for additional guidance from MDARD
 - Encourage students to have refillable water bottles

And Justice for All Posters

- It is not feasible or cost effective to expect an And Justice for All poster to be in every classroom or hallway where meals may be served during this pandemic.
- Instead, schools are expected to display posters in prominent locations throughout the building such as:
 - Bulletin board at the main entrance
 - School office
 - Other location(s) frequently visited by parents and children
- If you wish, you may make copies of the posters to put in every classroom.

Meal Pattern

- Reverting to the 2012 Meal Pattern
 - Flavored milk must be fat free
 - Serve only 100% whole grain rich items
 - Meet Target 2 weekly sodium levels
- Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver
 - Same form as for K-8 meal pattern
 - If you already completed the waiver, fill it out again and say 'yes' to question #14.
 - Does not need to be completed before school starts, but needs to be completed in the first semester.

CEP and program integrity

- Each district must have an “integrity plan” for how you will maintain program integrity to assure program limits are not exceeded.
- For in-person learners, a count sheet may be used IF you also have a method of assuring the parents of those children are not also picking up meals for the days the children are in person.
- For off-site learners, you must have a method of assuring the parents are picking up only the number of meals the children are eligible for. We recommend rosters but you may develop a method that best meets your needs IF you can assure program integrity.

CACFP At Risk Afterschool Program- Enrichment Component

During COVID-19 how may we offer the enrichment activity if we are operating in a non-congregate setting for social distancing and safety?

At-risk afterschool care centers providing non-congregate meals under Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate feeding in the Child Nutrition Program – Extension #2 must comply with the requirement to provide an education or enrichment activity (7 CFR 226.17a(b)(1)). However, under the non-congregate and parent pick-up waivers, these activities may be conducted virtually or in other non-congregate ways.

Program operators may consider offering online homework assistance, activity packets, electronic games and books, or other e-learning activities for the children to partake in at home. For example, Team Nutrition offers a variety of online games, books, and nutrition education activities for children at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/digital-nutrition-resources-kids>.

Although children are not required to participate in or complete the activity in order to receive an afterschool meal or snack, the afterschool care center must offer the activity.

Children under age 5

- Unfortunately, with the change to the National School Lunch Program, districts will no longer be able to request reimbursement for meals served to children under the age of 5 who are not enrolled in the district's kindergarten or pre-primary programs such as GSRP or Head Start.

Family Style Meal Service

The following guidance was released on August 11, 2020 from LARA:

Meals provided by the childcare should be delivered to classrooms in centers with disposable utensils, if possible.

If you do family style meal service, modify your practice, and have students eat together, but not serve themselves.

Please visit: https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_63294_5529---,00.html

For further guidance, you may need to contact your agencies' Head Start or GSRP Consultant.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021- CACFP Application Certification

- The MEGS+ certification for CACFP is now open
- Certification due date- September 30, 2020
- Per regulations- MDE has 30 days to review and respond to applications
- If the application certification is not complete, correct, and approved by MDE on or before Monday, November 30, 2020, it will result in the loss of claim beginning with the October claim
- MEGS+ may be accessed through the Michigan Education Information System (MEIS)
www.michigan.gov/meis

CACFP Online Training is HERE!!

- Meal Pattern Trainings available!
- MDE CACFP - Trainings
- Select Brighton Trainings
- Create Username and password
- Access code: 1234
- Chrome browser with no VPN best performance

Common Meal Pricing Question

What do we charge students if we have the K-8 nutrition waiver and we have tiered pricing?

For meal service onsite (in person learning):

- Use the districts normal meal pricing per building
- Follow the correct meal pattern based on the age/grade group of each building

For meal service at the same time for all grade levels through parent pick up or via meal delivery, with students receiving the same meal (K-8 meal pattern approved exemption), we recommend charging the average price between all standard price points. Or charging the Middle School price to all students.

Using the Middle School price point is appropriate for:

- Covering the K-8 meal pattern
- Helps offset additional costs of grab and go meals
- Helps offset other factors impacting product and labor costs during the pandemic
- Meeting Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) compliance; PLE regulations (7 CFR 210.14(e)) still apply. Otherwise future required price increases could be multiplied
- Using a meal price too low can result in Resource Management Review findings
- A lower price point could cause financial struggles for the Food Service Fund which could become a burden on the General Fund

Common Meal Charging Questions

Should we update our meal charge policy?

Meal charging policies should be reviewed and updated annually. We highly recommend updating your district's meal charge policy with consideration to the new service models that will be used during the pandemic.

Here are some factors to consider:

- Adjust the meal charging limits to match, for example, serving multiple meals at a time, once per week
- Financial hardships of families during the pandemic, encourage free and reduced applications for those in need
- Adopt policies that allow children to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused, minimize the identification of students with insufficient funds and maintain the financial integrity of the Non-profit School Food Service Account (NSFSA)
- Widely communicate the policy to everyone. At minimum, all households must be notified in writing at the start of each school year and to any households that transfer into the school district during the school year
- Specifics of the written meal charging policy is up to local control
- Adjust the frequency of low and negative balance notices to families

Common Meal Charging Questions Continued

If meals are pre-ordered and not picked up, can the family be charged?

This would be up to local control. Here are some factors to consider:

- This must be included in the meal charge policy
- Charging for meals not picked up must be well communicated to families
- Forecasting and menus should be flexible for adjustments in participation and to minimize waste
- Meals pre-ordered but not picked up cannot be claimed for reimbursement
- The a la carte price to charge for meals not picked up should be at least equal to the free reimbursement rate per meal type

Scenario: how do we feed the kids at these “safe spaces”?

Scenario A, Children are at a licensed childcare facility that participates in CACFP:

- All children served must be enrolled in the childcare center. All meals served to all children will follow the CACFP meal pattern and be claimed under CACFP.

Scenario B, Children are at a school building (“safe space”) where they are supervised but instruction is happening via remote means (virtual instruction) and children are not attending in-person classes:

- All children must be enrolled in the school district providing the safe space. All meals served to children will follow the K-8 meal pattern (with approved meal pattern waiver), provided by the school district, and will be claimed under NSLP/SBP.

Scenario C, Children are at a non-school building (“safe space”) which is also not a licensed childcare site where children are supervised and instruction is happening via remote means (possibly a local library, boys & girls club, Y, church, etc.):

- The school district has collaborated with this entity to provide this safe space for children. All meals to all children will follow the K-8 meal pattern (with approved meal pattern waiver), provided by the school district, and claimed under NSLP/SBP. The location will be in the Education Entity Master (EEM) as a non-school entity and listed as a site in the annual NSLP MEGS+ application.

Scenario D, Children are at a non-school building which is also not a licensed childcare site and the location has not collaborated with the school district for providing this space:

- All meals served to children are not claimed by any entity in the federal child nutrition programs.

Scenario: There is an outbreak of COVID in the adults (not students) that prevents planned instruction from happening. How do we provide meals?

- School districts >50% free/reduced would continue to provide meals that meet the NSLP meal pattern. This will officially be under the “Seamless Summer Option” and would follow the same plan you have now for NSLP virtual learners.
- School districts <50% free/reduced will need to partner with community sponsors.
- Community Sponsors may be able to step in if planned instruction doesn’t happen and the school district cannot provide meals for some reason. We can do this a few different ways:
 - Emergency procurement of the school to receive meals from the community sponsor and provide to the children. This would be considered the NSLP/SSO option.
 - Community sponsors provide meals under Unanticipated School Closures in areas where >50% of the children qualify for free/reduced meals.

In both cases, we will be providing additional information on how to select and claim meals under USC (for community sponsors) or SSO (for school sponsors) on a future town hall.

PLEASE ENTER
YOUR
QUESTIONS IN
THE CHAT BOX.

WHAT QUESTIONS
DO YOU HAVE?