



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 12, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: School Meals in School Year 2020-2021 – MEMO #COVID-19-126

On Friday, October 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended nationwide waivers for specific requirements to help schools continue to provide meals to children during the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. These USDA waivers allow for meals to be provided to any child age 18 and under, up to seven days a week, regardless of how learning is planned (remote, hybrid, or in-person) under the extended summer food service program (E-SFSP). The waivers include:

- Area eligibility that allows for free meals to be provided under E-SFSP and/or the child and adult care food program (CACFP) as long as the local sponsor has an approved application with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).
- Non-congregate meals that allow for meals to be served to students on or off campus.
- Parent/guardian pick-up for meals served off site.
- Parent/guardian pick-up of meals for all children at once, rather than at each child's school.
- Multiple meal pick-up that allows for up to seven (7) days of meals to be served at one time.

With an approved E-SFSP application, every school district sponsor of the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program (public, private, or charter) can provide free meals to all children in their local community without additional stress over program funding, length of program implementation, or loss of future entitlement funding. These program flexibilities are now available through June 30, 2021.

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Any school district that has not yet completed the application for the E-SFSP for breakfast/lunch and/or CACFP for supper/snack is encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Applications submitted after October 15, 2020 will be retroactive to the beginning of the month in which the application is approved. Claims for meals will not be available until applications are approved. If a school district chooses to stay in the NSLP/SBP programs, meals may not be provided for free to all students without the district having an approved community eligibility provision (CEP) application.

School districts will receive priority over local community partners in the event that a single location is the chosen meal distribution point for both sponsors. School districts are strongly encouraged to open at least one site for community pick-up of meals. If school districts are not able to do so, they must have a written agreement with a local community sponsor to provide an open site for community meal distribution.

It is also important to note that during the 2020-2021 school year, no meals will be allowed under the unanticipated school closure provision of the summer food service program in the manner they were from March to June of this year.

Staff from MDE have partnered with the School Nutrition Association of Michigan and No Kid Hungry to develop guidance documents to assist district food service staff with planning and executing meals in these unprecedented times. The documents can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508146--,00.html.

MDE's Office of Health and Nutrition Services continues to hold town hall meetings and send important bulletins with up-to-date information and resources. To receive bulletins and town hall notices, please contact Linda Bushong at BushongL@michigan.gov.

Questions regarding meal provision can be directed to Diane Golzynski at GolzynskiD@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors