



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 26, 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: Critical Funding Ramifications of Collecting Family Income Data – MEMO
#COVID-19-130

With the provision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nationwide waivers to help schools provide free meals to children during this school year, and to minimize the risk of losing important federal and state dollars for your district, it is **critical** that local districts fully understand the continued need to gather family income data and properly report the School Nutrition Eligibility (SNE) designation in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS) and to communicate this need widely within the local district.

Certification of the fall general collection is due to the Center for Education Performance and Information (CEPI) by November 11, 2020.

The waivers extended by the USDA 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). While this is a positive step to provide flexibility to feed children, districts must continue to:

- pull the MSDS direct certification reports and extend eligibility to ensure students/households receive benefits for which they are eligible
- collect and process free and reduced-price meal applications for eligible households in non-Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) buildings
- collect and process household information reports in CEP buildings

Why do we need supplemental nutrition eligibility data if all meals are free? It is important to note that over 11 percent of all Michigan students are identified as economically disadvantaged through these applications and the SNE designation. These data are used in the determination of numerous federal and state funding

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allocations, including but not limited to state Section 31a at-risk funding for all LEAs, both traditional public school districts and public school academies; federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B funding for all LEAs; and federal Title I Part A funding for public school academies only. In addition, these data are used to help determine whether LEAs qualify for the community eligibility provision (CEP) option for districts to get free meals for their entire populations. **Districts that are unable to fully collect these income data will lose funding and/or CEP status.**

MDE recognizes and understands the challenges that districts face collecting these important family income data during a pandemic and applauds your efforts at this difficult moment.

Please refer to the [Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility Component Overview Handout](#) for more detailed information. Questions regarding meal provision or supplemental nutrition eligibility collection can be directed to Dr. Diane Golzynski at GolzynskiD@michigan.gov.

Questions regarding the submission of data in MSDS can be directed to CEPI Customer Support at cepi@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors