



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

November 5, 2020

Family Income Data Communication Resources

On October 26, 2020, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) published #COVID-19-130 that outlined the critical funding ramifications of collecting family income data. Certification of the fall 2020 general collection is due to the Center for Education Performance and Information (CEPI) by November 11, 2020. Districts that are unable to fully collect these income data may very well lose some of their funding and/or community eligibility provision (CEP) status.

[Family Income Data](#)

* To access all COVID-19 Updates, go to the MDE website at www.michigan.gov/mde.

Michigan Department of Education, Office of Health and Nutrition Services Employment Opportunities

The Department of Education has posted a Departmental Analyst 12 position (3103-20-069 LH), Office of Health and Nutrition Services, on the State of Michigan posting site. This permanent full-time position is located in Lansing and is open to internal employees and outside applicants. To apply and/or view the position description, click on the link below.

[Departmental Analyst 12 Position](#)

30-day Carryover of Benefits

- The eligibility carryover period is paused during SFSP operations
 - Eligibility carryover allows children to maintain their prior schoolyear eligibility status for up to 30 NSLP operating days into the subsequent school year
 - “Operating day” is defined as a day that reimbursable meals are offered to eligible students under NSLP or SBP
 - If you are running SFSP, this school year will NOT count toward the 30-day eligibility carryover period
 - This includes those that started NSLP but retroactively claimed as SFSP
 - What carryover benefit should we use?
 - If a student had an eligibility determination in SY 20-21, that is the benefit that should carryover
 - If a student did not have a new eligibility established in SY 20-21, the SY 19-20 eligibility should carryover
 - If districts missed the SFSP deadline and subsequently will claim meals under NSLP/SBP for this school year, then any days in which you claim NSLP/SBP meals count toward the 30-day eligibility period
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Verification in School Year 20-21

- The USDA has confirmed that school districts do need to conduct verification this school year, but has extended the verification deadline to February 28, 2021
- Whether you are currently participating in SFSP or NSLP, **all** schools and districts that collected free and reduced-price applications are required to conduct verification

- The USDA determined that verification is still necessary and required because school meal applications are used to establish eligibility for P-EBT.
- The Verification sample should be based on approved current school year applications as of October 1, 2020
 - Districts have the discretion to complete verification ahead of the February 28th deadline
 - Verification templates and instructions are available on the [MDE verification webpage](#)

Direct Certification

The table below includes all of the remaining direct certification refresh dates for SY 20-21. In addition to the direct certification refresh dates, all of the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) report collection windows and deadlines are posted to the [CEPI calendar](#).

Date	Description
11/6/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
11/16/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
12/3/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
12/17/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
1/14/2020	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
1/28/2021	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
2/11/2021	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
3/1/2021	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
3/19/2021	MSDS Direct Certification Refresh (Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)

- 4/12/2021 MSDS Direct Certification Refresh
(Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
- 4/22/2021 MSDS Direct Certification Refresh
(Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
- 5/13/2021 MSDS Direct Certification Refresh
(Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
- 5/27/2021 MSDS Direct Certification Refresh
(Includes SRM, Nonpublic Early Roster records submitted by cutoff date)
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Upcoming Events

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81674184033?pwd=WEp4MGVMam44SEplSUxxU2Y2UnBpQT09>

Password: y9EbD8

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89953203445?pwd=dIF2Q0FETDdWdHBMQ3g3enFIVldqZz09>

Password: Xy4Yje

Or Telephone:
Dial: USA 404 443 6397
USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87977525907?pwd=Njk1MGlrTXFpclVCT1V2ZnU4aTJIQT09>

Password: vxrHH1

Or Telephone:
Dial: USA 404 443 6397
USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 806533

School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) Virtual Annual Conference & Exhibit Show - November 10 until December 31, 2020

Registration is now open. Please visit [HERE](#) to register today.

Chef Jeff will be kicking us off on November 10 at 2 pm with a live keynote.

The remainder educational sessions will be pre-recorded and available from November 10 until December 31 so that you and your team can watch as many as you would like at a time most convenient to you! Sessions will involve the following topics:

1. Mental Health, self-care, employee health, leading in stressful times, having fun, treating people nicely
2. Local foods, food distribution, meal quality, meal service options and related equipment
3. MDE track: all things school meal regulations
4. Financial: best use of commodity dollars, increasing participation, KPIs, meal debt

There will also be a virtual food show presented by From the Show Floor, where you will have the opportunity to view episodes from your favorite vendors, anytime during

our conference event. Please visit the [registration page](#) for a full list of participating industry partners.

More information to come on a detailed agenda.

Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operations for SY 2020-21 during the Pandemic

This [USDA Memo SP 03-2021](#) includes questions and answers intended to provide clarification on the operation of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) during implementation of alternative Child Nutrition Program operations throughout school year (SY) 2020-2021 due to the continued pandemic public health emergency.

The Secretary has broad authority for the administration of the FFVP, as permitted under section 19 of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) [42 U.S.C. 1769a]. FNS recognizes that local Program operators are practicing social distancing, and working to limit the amount of time children spend congregating at meal and snack service sites. Therefore, based on the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus, and pursuant to existing statutory authority, FNS is exercising its enforcement discretion to allow the following flexibilities in the operation of the FFVP. Please note, these flexibilities are effective for school year 2020-2021, and remain in effect until June 30, 2021.

USDA Employment Opportunity

The Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is hiring Nutritionists in the Regional Offices. These positions have been posted to USAJOBS. These positions are open to the public. There are vacancies in the Schools and Food Distribution Branch, the WIC Branch, as well as other FNS Regional Offices. Please be sure to check the position qualifications and closing dates for more details.

Title: Nutritionist

Vacancy Number: DE-10949649-21-GS

Opening Period: 10/27/2020 to 11/10/2020

Area of Consideration: All U.S. Citizens

Pay Scale & Grade: GS-12

Promotion Potential: GS-12

Salary Range: \$82,696 to \$115,251 per year

Locations: Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; Robbinsville, NJ

[USA Jobs](#)

Reminders and Due Dates

Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness School Year 2020-2021 Grant Application Now Available

The 31k Grant Application is now live at [31k Grant Application](#).

For the 2020-2021 school year only, we have \$1 million in new state school aid fund money appropriated (Section 31k) for reimbursement payments to public school districts, charter schools, and public-school academies who forgive all outstanding current student-meal negative balances.

Reimbursement payments can be awarded to eligible districts that apply. The application is now live and has a firm deadline to apply no later than December 1, 2020.

Submissions will be evaluated and reimbursement payments for selected districts will be made within 60 days of the final deadline. The funds may be prorated if there is not enough to cover all eligible submissions.

To be eligible districts must:

- Write off outstanding current/active/enrolled student meal negative balances with a transfer from the General Fund
 - Student Meal Negative Balances paid off from private donations or angel funds are not eligible for Forgiveness Reimbursement
 - Bad debt written off for inactive students in prior school years is not eligible for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness Reimbursement
- Adopt a meal charge policy that prevents public identification and all forms of lunch shaming as outlined in State Aid Section 31k (see below).

The application will require submission of the following:

1. The transactions used to write off current negative balances from the Food Service Fund with a transfer from the General Fund as of September 30, 2020.
2. Total amount of forgiven negative balances for current/active/enrolled students as of September 30, 2020, by eligibility status.
3. A copy of the student roster by eligibility of negative balances for current/active/enrolled students as of September 30, 2020.
4. Meal charge policy that prevents lunch shaming with the specifics outlined in State Aid Section 31k as follows:
 - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to wear a wristband or handstamp
 - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to perform chores or other work to pay for school meals
 - prohibits the requiring of students to dispose of a meal after it has been served because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative balance
 - prohibits the direct communication with a student about a negative balance unless your district has unsuccessfully attempted to contact the student's parent or legal guardian first through telephone, mail, and electronic mail
 - prohibits discussing a negative balance with a student in the presence of other students

Questions regarding this grant application can be sent to the Fiscal and Administrative Services Monitoring Team at MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov or 517-241-5380.

Questions and Answers:

Question: How far back can we go for negative balance write offs? Just the 2019-2020 school year?

Answer: To be eligible the negative balances must be outstanding from current students, and it must be written off from the General Fund as of September 30, 2020. Negative balances from inactive students (bad debt) are not eligible.

Question: Can I just wipe/forgive the negative balances from the Food Service Fund without a transfer from the General Fund?

Answer: No. It is not allowable to absorb negative balances in the Food Service Fund. They must be paid for from a non-federal funding source like the General Fund (excluding donations or Angel Funds).

Question: Does the meal charge policy have to be Board approved?

Answer: No, this is not a requirement. However, it is a best practice.

Question: How will I be notified if my district is chosen to receive the Forgiveness funding?

Answer: You will receive a notification from GEMS/MARS once the awardees have been chosen.

Question: What if I am not selected for a grant payment? Can we reverse the write off entries in the Food Service Fund?

Answer: No, once the negative balances are written off the Food Service Fund they cannot be reversed. The district can choose to try to collect on those negative balances within the General Fund, however.

Question: Can negative balances included ala carte purchases?

Answer: No, ala carte items are not allowed to be charged to student accounts without money to cover the purchase. Because of this, they cannot be included in the negative balances forgiven. A districts meal charge policy should prohibit ala carte purchases from being allowed when a students does not have a positive balance or cash to cover the purchase.

2021 MEGS+ CNP: SNP Application

If your school is going to switch to Extended SFSP beginning in August or September 2020, you must still complete the 2021 MEGS+ SNP application. It is very important that MDE approves both the 2020 SFSP and the 2021 SNP applications.

Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP): School Nutrition Programs (SNP) 2021 Application is now available.

The MEGS+ website for completing the SNP 2021 Application is at [MEGS+](#).

Training Corner

Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

During this time of necessary social distancing, it is very important for the field to have access to all the virtual trainings available to them, to help them continue to do their jobs. If you are offering an online/virtual training, please fill out and submit this questionnaire: [I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#). Be sure to fill out ALL of the information including NA if the question does not apply. Trainings cannot be added to the calendar without the complete information.

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#), a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be for our Child Nutrition Programs!

If you have questions, contact MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov.

[How to Access the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#)

School Nutrition Programs Training - Update

During this time of necessary social distancing, MDE has canceled scheduled in-person trainings for the time being. Instead, MDE will begin offering virtual training on various topics. Please check back periodically at the [MDE Training Website page](#) to see what is planned.

Chef Ann Foundation - Free Course Details

The following is from the Chef Ann Foundation: To support school food workers during this difficult time, the Chef Ann Foundation is offering free [School Food Institute](#) (SFI) courses. The SFI is an online professional development platform focused on healthy school food. SFI uses an interactive design with videos and resources, and meets USDA Professional Standards. Each course typically costs \$99 - \$149.

School food staff members may enroll in **up to 3** free SFI courses of their choosing. Learn more about SFI and view courses by visiting [SFI Course Catalog](#)

This offer is first-come, first-serve, so if interested, we encourage you to enroll as soon as possible. Course access lasts for 6 months from the date of enrollment. Courses are available with Spanish subtitles.

Note: Currently, we are almost at capacity for processing scholarships. We are now asking people to sign up for the [waitlist](#). As our capacity increases, we will open up more scholarship opportunities.

How to Enroll

- Select your desired course(s) from the [Course Catalog page](#).
- Add the course/s to the cart.
- To check out, click on the cart icon at the top right corner and select "Checkout." At checkout, enter coupon code **RemotePD20** to receive your free registration. Each student must enroll with their own email address (this creates a unique student account). If the code is no longer valid, that means that all seats have been claimed. PLEASE sign up for our [scholarship waitlist](#)

- we open new free seats regularly, and would love to support you when we can.

- After checkout, you'll receive an email shortly with links & how to access SFI.

Contact info@schoolfoodinstitute.org with questions.

Questions of the Week

Question: The school district keeps closing buildings for in-person instruction because of COVID-19 cases. Do I have to serve meals to those students?

Answer: Yes, meals need to be available to all students. Do the best you can with sudden school closures. Use the school district's communication channels (robo-calls, email, social media) to get the word out when meals are available.

Question: How do I get the \$250 special COVID support staff grant?

Answer: If you served kids from a 'brick and mortar building' between March 13 and April 6, 2020, your school district will identify you as eligible. Complete the paperwork by December 4. Click [here](#) for more information.

Question: What meals can I serve 10 cent produce in?

Answer: Any USDA child nutrition program including breakfast, lunch, snack, or supper. These foods would be served or distributed as part of the meal.

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#) provides Child Nutrition Program (CNP) agencies a singular system to access annual CNP applications (MEGSplus), monthly claims (MIND) and periodic administrative reviews (GEMS/MARS) through an integrated dashboard and portal.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the School Nutrition News and Updates and SNP Bulletins, visit [School Nutrition News and Updates Subscription](#).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Links Used in this Document:

[https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/michigan/jobs/2902476/departamental-analyst-12-procurement?department\[0\]=Education&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/michigan/jobs/2902476/departamental-analyst-12-procurement?department[0]=Education&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs)

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/ffvp-operations-sy-2020-21-during-covid-19>

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144-518545--,00.html

<https://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,4546,7-113-72089---,00.html>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i7c9tdfn>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Family_Income_Data_706716_7.pdf

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>

https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_74806_103207-541670--,00.html

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/582822400>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508154--,00.html

<https://www.schoolfoodinstitute.org/>

<https://www.schoolfoodinstitute.org/course-catalog/>

<https://www.schoolfoodinstitute.org/scholarship-waitlist/>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229

https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf