



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

February 25, 2021

Restart Smart Michigan Trainings

With generous support from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, CATCH Global Foundation is excited to provide 200 schools in Michigan with training, pre-recorded health lessons, and a free membership to SHAPE Michigan. Any Michigan school with a free and reduced-priced lunch rate of at least 50% and at least one or more grades of K-8 is eligible to participate. If your school qualifies, simply go to the Restart Smart [training calendar](#), register for one or more trainings and enter the code Michigan at checkout. Please share with your health and PE teachers, also.

For more information check out the CATCH [website](#).

New! CDC COVID-19 Resources for School Nutrition

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges across the United States. Access to healthy, nutritious food options are important to health and well-being. Together, the USDA National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program serve nearly 30 million children daily, or 7 billion meals annually, with a large percentage served at low or no cost, to low-income students. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, school nutrition programs have developed innovative ways to

ensure in-person, virtual, and hybrid learners continue to have access to safe and nutritious meals.

Last week, CDC released two new resources to support school nutrition professionals preparing and serving school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite you to use these documents as tools to help continue operations in ways that reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread while addressing community food access. Find these resources and more on the new [COVID-19 School Nutrition Resource](#) page.

- [Safely Distributing School Meals during COVID-19](#): New resource that details the unique set of model-specific mitigation practices for several COVID-19 adapted school meal distribution models, including Drive-through, Walk-up, Home Delivery, Mobile Route Delivery, Bus Route Delivery, Meals in the Classroom, and Meals in the Cafeteria.
- [Checklist for School Nutrition Professionals Serving Meals Eaten at School](#): Provides a printable overview of key mitigation strategies for staff who are preparing and serving meals that will be eaten at school.

Thank you for all you are doing to promote the public's health during this time. We encourage you to share these resources among your own networks and colleagues as well.

COVID-19 Guidance

U.S. Department of Agriculture Programs and U.S. Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 Programs: [Fact Sheet Clarification](#)

On January 4, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (USED), Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, released a fact sheet titled *State-Administered Programs Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Nationwide Waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Summer Food Service Program and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option through June 2021*.

*** To access all COVID-19 Updates, visit the [MDE website](#).**

MEGS+ User Update

The Michigan Department of Education would like to once again remind users to create a MILogin for Third Party account and link that account to their current MEIS account. These steps must be completed prior to attempting to login to NexSys. Failure to complete these steps prior to accessing NexSys can cause users to not have the appropriate access to NexSys or their organization information.

We are encouraging users to complete these tasks now even if they do not plan on working in NexSys for the next several months. By doing so, users will have active access to NexSys to familiarize themselves with the home screen Dashboard, User Profile and save time and added stress when users are finally required to access and work in NexSys.

Instructions for creating a MILogin for Third Party account are attached at the bottom of this message. This document can also be found on the NexSys website: Michigan.gov/MDE-NexSys. More information on MILogin is below. The NexSys website has other information for users to reference to begin to familiarize themselves with the new system.

As a reminder, Fiscal Year 2022 applications in NexSys will go live as they are developed in line with the MDE Service Area application release timelines. All current MEGS+ applications will continue to be managed in MEGS+. As well, all CMS functions will continue to be processed in CMS until June 2021.

For further information on NexSys users can reference the NexSys [website](#).

Questions and concerns can also be directed to MDE-NexSys-Applications@Michigan.gov

What is MILogin?

MILogin for Third Party is the state of Michigan Identity Management solution that allows users to access numerous state services and systems online, across multiple departments, using a single user ID and password. This means that not only can users access MDE systems, they may also have access to other state of Michigan systems using one login and password. All systems to which users have access to through MILogin Third Party will show up as links after login (no more multiple bookmarks).

MEIS to MILogin Account Link

- It is required that each user create a MILogin Third Party account, if not already created, in order to log into NexSys
- We are encouraging each user to create their account now, in anticipation of the system's launch
- Further communication will follow as the launch of NexSys approaches to complete the remaining steps
- After a MILogin account is created it must be connected to each user's MEIS account
- This will allow for a seamless transition of system access

For additional assistance with MILogin Third Party, please contact: 877-932-6424

For additional assistance with this transition, please contact: 517-241-5000

National School Breakfast Week 2021

It is with great pride that we get to inform you all of some terrific news! [The FRAC School Breakfast Scorecard](#) has recently come out and Michigan is in the Top 10 list of states to have the largest percent increase for free and reduced-price student participation in the School Breakfast Program. This increase compares free and reduced-price breakfast participation for School Year (SY) 2019-2020 compared to SY 2018-2019. There has been a lot of changes and even some advances in the way breakfast was being served in the SY 2019-2020 and we want to make sure to continue to serve more breakfasts to our Michigan students. Great job to all of you for making this happen, now let's keep the increase going! One of the ways breakfast can continue to be promoted is celebrating during National School Breakfast Week which is March 8-12, 2021. Your celebration doesn't have to be big and time consuming, even small gestures and announcements can go a long way within your school district. The School Nutrition Association has put together an amazing [tool kit](#) that will make doing a small or large promotion very simple. Please feel free to email Mindy Grant at grantm9@michigan.gov if you would like help in elevating breakfast (and recognition) within your school district. Please take a look at this short 5 minute video which is a very quick review of tools available through the School Nutrition Association: [National School Breakfast Week – short video with NSBW celebration tools and ideas](#)

31k Funding for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness School Year 2020-2021 – Second-Round Communication

Exciting news! We have additional funding left for the 31k grant! For School Year 2020/2021 only, we were awarded \$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.

After the first round of applications last fall, we have \$709,076.35 left in available 31k funding. We are opening a second and final round of applications soon.

Reimbursement payments can be awarded to eligible districts that apply. The second-round application will go live March 1st with a firm deadline to apply no later than April 30, 2021. *Please note: If you have received a reimbursement payment in the first round, you are ineligible to apply in this second round.*

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 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.
 - Previously written off negative balances are not eligible.
 - Bad debt written off for inactive students in prior school years is not eligible for this grant.
- 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 outstanding current student meal negative balances in the Food Service Fund with a transfer from the General Fund within the 2020/2021 school year.
2. Total amount of forgiven negative balances for current/active/enrolled students by eligibility status
3. A copy of the student roster by eligibility of negative balances for current/active/enrolled students
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.

The link to the [31k grant application](#) will go live on March 1, 2021.

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

Questions and Answers:

Q: How far back can we go for negative balance write offs?

A: To be eligible the negative balances must be outstanding from current students, and it must be written off from the general fund within the 2020/2021 school year. Negative balances from inactive students (bad debt) are not eligible and previously written off negative balances from prior school years are not eligible.

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

A: 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).

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

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

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

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

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

A: 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.

Q: If I was denied in the first round of applications, can I apply for the second round?

A: Yes, if they are for current outstanding balances within the 2020/2021 school year.

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) 2.0 Update

We are excited to announce that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was approved by USDA to administer P-EBT for School Year 2020-2021.

MDHHS has set up the [Pandemic-EBT \(P-EBT\)](#) webpage to help schools and parents navigate the program. Currently, they have [School Administrator FAQs](#) posted to the

webpage to help answer questions that you may have about P-EBT 2.0. Please continue to visit their webpage to review the latest information on P-EBT 2.0.

Questions regarding the MDHHS P-EBT may be directed to MDHHS-PEBT@michigan.gov

25-Year Service Award

It is time again to nominate Michigan school food service professionals who have served for 25 years or more. Visit [SurveyMonkey](#) and complete the nomination form by March 1, 2021, if one or more of your employees have been involved with the National School Lunch Program in Michigan (public and non-public schools) for 25 years or more. Award certificates for 25 years of service will be emailed to the School Food Authority in the spring of 2021. Please do not list employees who have received this recognition in the past.

Upcoming Events

Best Practices and Resources for Leading a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle

Topic: Join us this month for a heart-healthy discussion! The American Heart Association will be highlighting resources available that aid school nutrition programs in the promotion of healthy eating. Nutrition tips to help keep a strong heart and make healthy choices will also be shared.

Date: February 25, 2021

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

Speakers: Sally Wong, PhD, RD, CDN, FAHA Senior Science & Medicine Advisor American Heart Association National Center and Danielle Barrett, MDA, RD Education & Training Specialist Institute of Child Nutrition University of Mississippi School of Applied Sciences

[Register now.](#)

SNA Key Area: 1 - Nutrition

USDA Code: 1200 - Nutrition Education

Objective: Attendees will be able to identify healthy lifestyle practices and resources that contribute to a heart-healthy lifestyle.

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84858034028?pwd=WlhBZ2NDUGNiVlVJ5YndwQ2gyVVVYZz09>

Password: zDNdE0

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88530753598?pwd=SWZPY2NsY3QwU3A5Z3c2a3E3R2tWdz09>

Password: 7DyTyP

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

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](#)

CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Webinar on Crediting Store-Bought Combination Baby Foods in the CACFP

On March 18, 2021, USDA's Team Nutrition initiative will present [Crediting Store-Bought Combination Baby Foods in the CACFP](#). Registration for this free webinar is now available, using the following registration links:

- 2-2:30 pm Eastern Time **English Webinar**: [\[Register Now\]](#)
- 3-3:30 pm Eastern Time **Spanish Webinar**: [\[Register Now\]](#)

Registration links are also available from [CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays Webinar](#).

This upcoming webinar will show Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators how to identify store-bought combination baby foods that can be served as part of reimbursable meals or snacks to infants. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions to the presenters and to check their knowledge through interactive polling questions. FNS Regional Offices, State agencies, sponsoring organizations, and CACFP program operators are invited to participate.

Team Nutrition will provide certificates of participation to individuals who attend the entire thirty-minute webinar. The National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) is also offering webinar participants the opportunity to submit and track continuing education credits. Additional information on this opportunity is available from [NCA](#). The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Commission on Dietetic Registration has also approved this webinar for 0.5 hours of Continuing Professional Education Units (CPEUs).

State agencies are encouraged to share this announcement with their CACFP sponsoring organizations, independent centers, and school food authorities. For more information, please visit the [CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays](#) webpage. Questions about this webinar may be sent to TeamNutrition@usda.gov.

Questions of the Week

Question: We have a leftover P-EBT 1.0 cards that we have tried to send back using “Return to Sender” but they keep coming back to us. What should I do?

Answer: If you have exhausted all opportunities to get the cards to the students and/or return them to sender, then you may destroy the cards. Please follow your local policy/procedure for destroying confidential documents.

Question: I am not one of the primary contacts or the administrator responsible for P-EBT 2.0 reporting to MDHHS, but I would like to receive emails sent to those contacts. How can I receive those emails?

Answer: The following directions can be used to sign up for the PEBT 2.0 Contact Listserv. This link will take you to the general MDE sign up page, then click on the name of the listserv. Go to:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscribers/new?preferences=true>, Under School Nutrition - Click on P-EBT 2.0 Contact Listserv, then click on Submit

Question: We are being asked by parents as to when they can expect the new P-EBT cards to be delivered. What should I tell them?

Answer: MDHHS anticipates to begin delivering the P-EBT 2.0 benefits in late March. However, due to the complexity of the program this time, some students will have a delay in benefits and won't see them till later this spring.

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](#).

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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.tickettailor.com/events/catchglobalfoundation>

<https://letsgo.catch.org/>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/nutrition_resources.html

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/safely-distributing-meals.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/School-Nutrition-Checklist.pdf>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Fact_Sheet_Clarification_716402_7.pdf
<https://www.michigan.gov/mde>
https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/Crediting_Store-bought_baby_foods.pdf
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5236_103242---,00.html
https://usda-fns.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=usda-fns&service=6&rnd=0.7441800880522046&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fusda-fns.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b000000036986d72c35e071ebb69a0c17397f4ea532c17be7aed693a1e276dbbf2319172d%26siteurl%3Dusda-fns%26confViewID%3D186427946089602696%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAOyGMaLPeEmBSykCXEDxCdmoZ5TL-Opilzo3kb_7-UAOA2%26
https://usda-fns.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=usda-fns&service=6&rnd=0.5486201865639444&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fusda-fns.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b0000000359718e4b273b19b8edc7dc726b8371c84999b9ab57bf965ff8815c1dc5f8e8ad%26siteurl%3Dusda-fns%26confViewID%3D186430369700011120%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAOUMXdETdiZkzSO7Sv6mFmDxr7dDmlrLgIKHYqGDkr_ig2%26
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/halftime-cacfp-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series>
<https://www.cacfp.org/learning-center>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/halftime-cacfp-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series>
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_72817-544751--,00.html
<https://frac.org/research/resource-library/breakfastscorecard2021?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=2a2ed1cb-de51-4c28-8209-8fd570ab9306>
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NyYRqvk0PKSCvntz2zCi2Omurx2mEDfc2EG_4rh3A2OkoaWp3p4s4v6v3qrCwxqs.9TfNUTq1HOK4XMUi?startTime=1614009985000
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i8d9taaw>
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_5527_104768---,00.html
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/PEBT_FAQs_School_Admins_716751_7.pdf
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M62ZZCT>
https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GC4xih1SRUGMBZoDZUIAJg

<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/documents/mde/P-EBT_Contact_Person_713638_7.pdf
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/kALoj6HPHg65VpDDCq7AMI9E7NpUEHsEa2_d2s8yFhBJSXPnqMaZIBF4YxvbalWJzhNWqPL5EyZ_IJb.PyIfxqSLDYDcE3DC?startTime=1612467913000&_x_zm_rtaid=WaeuN17tRfKmxYTjeNxNRw.1613052510618.8aa7d454c8d52a669508cee2030e1c94&_x_zm_rhtaid=155
<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

ess_678629_7.pdf

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

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