



# Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) News and Updates

July 9, 2021

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## Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Press Release – Income Eligibility Guidelines

MDE announced the household income eligibility guidelines established by the United States Department of Agriculture for Free and Reduced-Price Meals and Free Milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. Visit [MDE Press Release](#).

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## Available NexSys Training Dates in July & August

### NexSys – Getting Started

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is transitioning from MEGS+ to NexSys for applications and grants. MDE will be providing Zoom trainings for NexSys on the dates and times listed below. These sessions will give the user a brief overview of the basics of MILogin for Third Party account setup, an understanding of the new platform, navigation tips, and guidance on completing applications in NexSys.

These sessions will not include the accounting and cash components of NexSys. Complete accounting and cash trainings will be offered closer to September 1 when the CMS transition to NexSys takes place.

- Wednesday, July 14, 2021 @ 9:00 AM (EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/92889472278?pwd=UkliR1EwTjJFcfpYUHFJTkpauUEkzUT09>

- Tuesday, July 20, 2021 @ 1:00 PM (EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/93830419875?pwd=c28xVnBRSmJ0UXJFZEtOOFlh3R2pWUT09>

- Thursday, July 29, 2021 @ 9:00 AM (EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/94571966161?pwd=L2w5S1pWM0tCVHNNanJzNm9rSVZKdz09>

- Monday, August 2, 2021 @ 9:00 AM (EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/91775928930?pwd=V0hTTjJBd0lwWDJpSkVkvFNwMDQ1UT09>

- Friday, August 13, 2021 @ 10:00 AM(EST)

<https://zoom.us/j/96733965331?pwd=dEh4ekRBRko3YWVIL3dSS3hreDhoQT09>

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## Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Just a reminder that the Monitor Site Review must be completed during the first 4 weeks of operation. For sites that participated in Extended SFSP, July 1<sup>st</sup> started Traditional SFSP, and the Monitor Site Review will need to be completed again for any site operating at that time. For sites that did not participate in Extended SFSP, the Monitor Site Review will need to be completed within the first 4 weeks of operation.

[Monitor Site Review](#)

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## Farm to Summer

It's time! July 12<sup>th</sup>-July 16<sup>th</sup> is Farm to Summer Week. Please join us in participating everyday!

Monday: Michigan's Annual Summer Cucumber Crunch

Tuesday: Michigan's Agriculture in the Classroom Resources and Programs

Wednesday: Turnip the Beet High Quality Meal Awards

Thursday: DoD Fresh Produce for Summer Program

Friday: Michigan Fitness Foundation Farm to Family Activity Booklets

Get ready to celebrate being Farm Fresh in Michigan. Emails will be sent daily or visit the [SFSP Resources Page](#) and look for the Farm to Summer link.

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## **New! Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12)**

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is pleased to announce the release of a new training guide for school nutrition professionals titled "Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12)."

Developed as a complement to Memo SP 40-2019 "[Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs](#)," this publication includes menu planning ideas, crediting tips for both homemade and commercially-prepared smoothies, and sample menus to show schools how smoothies can be offered as part of a reimbursable school breakfast or lunch.

School Meals operators will also find a new standardized Peach and Yogurt Smoothie recipe and success stories that show how schools around the country have offered smoothies at breakfast and lunch.

This publication can be viewed and downloaded from <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offering-smoothies-part-reimbursable-school-meals>. It will be made available in Spanish and in print at a later date.

State agencies are encouraged to share this announcement with their School Food Authorities (SFAs) and others who may be interested. This resource is part of Team Nutrition's Back-to-School Support Kit to assist schools as they reopen for School Year 2021-2022. View this [online kit](#) of resources.

Questions about this announcement may be sent to [TeamNutrition@USDA.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@USDA.gov).

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## **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver for School Year 2021-2022**

In an effort to help with planning for School Year 2021-2022, MDE decided to divide the Meal Pattern Flexibility waiver requests into two parts. The form for Part 1 of the [Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver Form for School Year 2021-2022](#) is now available. Use this form to request flexibilities in the National School Lunch Program (including SSO) for Target 2 sodium, 1% flavored milk, and/or 100% whole grain-rich for the 2021-2022 school year.

Reasons for allowing 1% flavored milk and serving less than all items as whole grain-rich will be required. Reasons should be targeted and justified with a demonstrated need based on plans to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19, or because of student acceptability. The form will be approved on a case-by-case basis for each sponsor.

A second form (Part 2) will be available later in the summer for additional options listed in [USDA Waiver #90](#).

The School Nutrition Program Part 1 form to complete is found at [MDE Meal Pattern Waiver Request Form for School Year 2021-2022](#)

Please keep your students' health and well-being in mind and seek to meet the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible.

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## **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

The Meal Pattern Flexibility [waiver request form](#) for CACFP is now available. Complete this form to request the following items:

- Waive the requirement to serve one whole grain rich item per day.
- Waive the requirement to begin using ounce equivalents to measure grain servings by October 1, 2021.
- Waive the requirement of only serving fat free flavored milk (allows 1% flavored milk for participants ages 6 and up).

CACFP Sponsors will need to provide targeted, justified reasons for their request(s). Reasons are to demonstrate specific need based on the Sponsor's plans to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. Requests will be approved on a case-by-case basis for each sponsor.

Please keep your participants' health and well-being in mind and seek to meet the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible. All CACFP meal pattern requirements remain in effect unless a waiver is approved.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program form is found at [CACFP Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver Request](#).

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Town Hall Meetings**

**Topic:** Town Hall Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84785913816?pwd=K0JaRHpZVk5NQ3lZRnRLdi9Ra2VMdz09>

Password: gNUTu3

Or Telephone:

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

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## **Town Hall Meetings**

**Topic:** Town Hall Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, August 18, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83214050220?pwd=U0g0NXM3NmQxQzQwbEFiRWwvNTFiQT09>

Password: AwTs0L

Or Telephone:

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

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

**Register Now! Everything You Need to Know about GS1 GDSN! Accessing Nutrient, Allergen, and Ingredient information for USDA Foods in Schools**

**Date:** Thursday, August 5, 2021

**Time:** 2:00 PM Eastern Time

**Description:** FNS plans to release a new initiative that will allow States and school districts to access up-to-date, vendor-specific nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information for direct delivered USDA Foods. The GS1 GDSN project will inform the

ordering decisions of FNS stakeholders and will help them manage meal planning to meet USDA nutrition standards and provide safe meals for students with food allergies and other special dietary needs. Register for this webinar to learn more about how this information will be made available and when USDA Foods vendors will be required to submit nutrition, allergen, and ingredient information. This webinar is intended for States and school districts that serve direct delivered USDA Foods for child nutrition programs.

**WebEx link:** <https://usda-fns.webex.com/usda-fns/onstage/g.php?MTID=e20d21918e624ab454ba2f4d2f183ee51>

**Event Number:** 199 850 4565

**Event Password:** P5aE4qwbjH3

**Audio Conference:** To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the event, or call the number below and enter the access code.

US Toll: +1-415-527-5035

[Show all global call-in numbers](#)

Access code: 199 850 4565

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## **New USDA Resources to Promote Reduction of Food Loss and Waste**

On June 29, 2021- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced new resources to inform consumers on how to reduce food waste during the July Fourth holiday and beyond.

According to USDA research, the average family of four wastes nearly \$1,500 worth of food each year. And the food that goes in the trash winds up in a landfill where it created methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

In a [one-minute video](#), USDA's Food Loss and Waster Liaison Dr. Jean Buzby demonstrates different ways to prevent food waste. The video messages and visuals are also available as a [soundbites & b-roll package](#) to allow customized storytelling about preventing food waste. In addition, an infographic is available in two formats, [Easy Steps to Prevent Food Waste](#) (PDF, 97.8 KB) and [Easy Steps to Prevent Food Waste](#) (PNG, 76.0 KB) presenting streamlined steps to reducing food waste at home.

On July Fourth and all summer long, USDA encourages consumers to use four simple steps to reduce food waste at home.

- **Plan ahead** – Before you go to the grocery store or order online, make a list so you don't buy more than you need.

- **Serve smart** – portion control is good for your waistline, and good for reducing plate waste.
- **Love your leftovers** – Pack leftovers in small portions in shallow containers, mark the contents and date, and refrigerate or freeze immediately.
- **Compost, don't trash** – Food in landfills produces harmful methane. You can recycle your food scraps in a home compost bin or at a local compost center.

Learn more about food loss and waste prevention at [www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste](http://www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

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## Reminders and Due Dates

### **YOU WILL BE LOCKED OUT IF YOU DO NOT DO THIS!**

#### **Linking MILogin and MEIS**

We want to remind everyone about the messages coming through MEGS+ requesting users to create a MILogin for Third Party account and link that account to their current MEIS account.

This is a requirement and the first step in the transition to our new system, NexSys. If you haven't done this already, please do so as soon as possible. [Instructions](#) on how to complete this are available.

By getting this step done now, it will save time and added stress when users are finally required to access and work in NexSys.

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## Training Corner

## Core Competencies for New Directors

Registration for SY 21-22 Core Competencies for New Directors class is open. The class kicks off in August and will have virtual monthly meetings through the school year. This class replaces School Meals Overview Training (SMOT). Register [here](#).

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## 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 Michigan 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](mailto:MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov).

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

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** What do I do if my delivery is late and my meal distribution time is starting and I don't have enough of a meal component (milk, for example)?

**Answer:** Please report this incident to MDE using this [form](#). Serve complete meals as much as possible. Keep documentation for your records. With MDE approval, you are still able to claim the meals.

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## Contact Us

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto: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 Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates and Bulletins, visit [Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates Subscription](#).

## Support

### School Nutrition Programs

[www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition)  
Email: MDE-  
schoolnutrition@michigan.gov

### Summer Food Service Program

[www.michigan.gov/sfsp](http://www.michigan.gov/sfsp)  
Email: mde-sfsp@michigan.gov

### Child and Adult Care Food Program

[www.michigan.gov/cacfp](http://www.michigan.gov/cacfp)  
Email: mde-cnap-cacfp@michigan.gov

### Food Distribution

[www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp)  
Email: [mde-fmfd@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-fmfd@michigan.gov)

### Fiscal and Administrative Services

[www.michigan.gov/mde-fast](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-fast)  
Email: MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov

### Procurement and Contracts

[www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts)  
Email: mde-fsmc-  
vended@michigan.gov

### School Health and Safety

[www.michigan.gov/cshsp](http://www.michigan.gov/cshsp)

## 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: [How to File a Complaint](#), 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

USDA Civil Rights Complaint Links:

[https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain\\_combined\\_6\\_8\\_12.pdf](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf)

<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>

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Links Used in this Document:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIMDE/2021/07/01/file\\_attachments/1869018/Income%20Eligibilities%20for%20Free%20and%20Reduced%20Price%20Meals.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIMDE/2021/07/01/file_attachments/1869018/Income%20Eligibilities%20for%20Free%20and%20Reduced%20Price%20Meals.pdf)

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<https://zoom.us/j/93830419875?pwd=c28xVnBRSmJ0UXJFZEtOOFh3R2pWUT09>

<https://zoom.us/j/94571966161?pwd=L2w5S1pWM0tCVHNNanJzNm9rSVZKdz09>

<https://zoom.us/j/91775928930?pwd=V0hTTjJBd0lwWDJpSkVkvFNwMDQ1UT09>

<https://zoom.us/j/96733965331?pwd=dEh4ekRBRko3YWVIL3dSS3hreDhoQT09>

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2020\\_Monitor\\_Site\\_Review\\_No\\_Ethnic\\_Racial\\_714609\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2020_Monitor_Site_Review_No_Ethnic_Racial_714609_7.pdf)

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_34491\\_96106-511786--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_34491_96106-511786--,00.html)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h3D71Xc3rUKWaoku9HII0adBQgBF3EpMrfJJyRNd7ZFUNTdCWDIaVVM3SVFSMzc3TFEwV1c1Qk9BMS4u>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/smoothies-offered-child-nutrition-programs>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offering-smoothies-part-reimbursable-school-meals>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/back-school>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-response-90>

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h3D71Xc3rUKWaoku9HII0adBQgBF3EpMrfJJyRNd7ZFUNTdCWDIaVVM3SVFSMzc3TFEwV1c1Qk9BMS4u>

<https://usda->

[fns.webex.com/cmp3300/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/globalcallin.do?siteurl=usda-fns&serviceType=EC&eventID=1225284472&tollFree=0](https://fns.webex.com/cmp3300/webcomponents/widget/globalcallin/globalcallin.do?siteurl=usda-fns&serviceType=EC&eventID=1225284472&tollFree=0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPtj-ukCcYE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Yihn5f6\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Yihn5f6_4)

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/easy-steps-prevent-food-waste-infographic.pdf>

<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/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf)

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MIMDE\\_229](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229)