



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) News and Updates

August 5, 2021

Flushing Plumbing

Are drinking fountains going to be used again in your schools? Please share [this guidance](#) from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) with your maintenance team on flushing plumbing that hasn't been used in a while. USDA also has helpful information on [Back to School Water Safety](#).

RESOURCE Michigan Outreach Toolkit: School Meals Applications/Household Information Report

No Kid Hungry Michigan created an English and Spanish [Michigan School Meals Application/Household Information Report Toolkit](#) to support school districts in communicating with families about the importance of completing school meals applications or household information reports (in CEP schools) this school year. This customizable toolkit includes:

1. A "Start Here!" question guide to help districts determine why forms need to be collected.
2. A checklist of strategies for maximizing participation in FRP apps or household information reports in CEP schools and districts.

3. Customizable English & Spanish language postcards, Facebook and Twitter graphics, and template FAQ flyers for outreach to families

There will also be a webinar hosted by No Kid Hungry Michigan on Wednesday August 11th at 3:00 to review the toolkit and answer any questions concerning meal application/HIR collection for the 21-22 school year. [Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver for School Year 2021-2022 – Part 2

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. [Part 1 of the Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver Form for School Year 2021-2022](#) has been available since June 2021. 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.

[Part 2 of the Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver Request form](#) is now available. Part 2 covers age/grade groups, vegetable sub-groups, offering a variety of milk and whole grain-rich for preschool. Justification of requests need to be specific and based on alternative meal service models and social distancing in the new school year.

These forms are based on [USDA Waiver #90](#).

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

Paid Lunch Equity Tool School Year 2021-2022 Communication

The School Year (SY) 2021-2022 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool is now available.

What are the requirements for SY 2021-2022?

School Food Authorities (SFAs) only operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for SY 2021-2022 do not have to meet the PLE requirements including completing the PLE Tool per Covid-19: [Child Nutrition Response Waiver #97](#) - Nationwide Waiver to Provide Flexibility for School Meal Programs Administrative Reviews of School Food Authorities Operating Only the Seamless Summer Option in School Year (SY) 2021-2022.

SFAs that will be operating normal NSLP in SY 2021-2022 must complete the PLE Tool and follow the PLE requirements.

- [SP11 CACFP10 SFSP06-2021](#) has allowed a PLE Exemption from raising prices in SY 2021-2022 for all SFAs with a documented positive or zero fund balance in their Non-profit School Food Service Account (NSFSA) as of December 31, 2020.
 - SFAs with a positive fund balance must still complete the PLE Tool. Paid meal prices may still be raised based on a SFA's discretion.
 - SFAs with a positive fund balance must document the PLE Tool completion and their fund balance as of December 31, 2020, if they choose to not raise meal prices. Documentation should consist of an updated Detailed General Ledger for the Food Service Fund (Fund 25) as of December 31, 2020, that clearly indicates the fund balance information.
- SFAs with a negative fund balance as of December 31, 2020, must complete the PLE Tool and follow at least the minimum required price increase indicated in their completed PLE Tool.
- Pricing/sales data from October 2019 can be used to complete the PLE Tool if a SFA does not have pricing/sales data from October 2020.

Here is the link to the [SY 2021-2022 PLE Tool](#).

Questions regarding PLE Tool requirements can be sent to the Fiscal Monitoring Team at MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov.

Questions and Answers:

Q: My SFA will be operating NSLP SSO for SY 2021-2022. Do I need to complete the PLE Tool?

A: No, per [Child Nutrition Response Waiver #97](#)

Q: My SFA has a positive fund balance and I plan to take the exemption; do I need to complete the PLE Tool?

A: Yes, for SFAs operating in normal NSLP in SY 2021-2022. The PLE Tool is an annual requirement, and each tool is dependent on the previous tool to carry on the applicable requirement price.

Q: Can I still raise prices if I have a positive fund balance?

A: Yes. Even if you have a positive fund balance as of December 31, 2020, you may still decide to raise prices to avoid a larger price increase in future years. Raising prices also helps maintain a positive fund balance. It is up to the discretion of the SFA.

Q: My SFA has a negative fund balance, do I need to complete the PLE Tool?

A: Yes, for SFAs operating in normal NSLP in SY 2021-2022. The PLE Tool is an annual requirement, and each tool is dependent on the previous tool to carry on the applicable requirement price. SFA's with a negative fund balance must also raise prices by at least the minimum required in their completed PLE Tool.

Q: I do not know how to complete the PLE Tool. Where do I go for help?

A: Please contact our Fiscal Monitoring Team at MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov or 517-241-5380. Our Financial Analysts can help!

Q: Where do I find the new PLE Tool?

A: Here is the link to the [SY 2021-2022 PLE Tool](#).

Available NexSys Training Dates in 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.

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

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

Adult Pricing Worksheet for School Year 2021-2022 For Sponsors operating Traditional NSLP SY 2021- 2022

The Fiscal Monitoring Team is pleased to announce that the MDE Adult Pricing Worksheet is available for Sponsors **that are operating Traditional NSLP/SBP** for SY 2021-2022. MDE is currently waiting on guidance from the USDA regarding adult meal pricing for Sponsors that will be operating the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Sponsors should complete the Michigan Department of Education

Adult Pricing Worksheet every summer prior to the first day of the new school year to ensure adult prices are set to achieve compliance for the Revenue from Non-program Foods pricing requirements ([SP20-2016](#)) in advance.

The updated Adult Pricing Worksheet can be found at [MDE Adult Pricing Worksheet SY 2021-2022](#)

Please contact the Fiscal Monitoring Team at 517-241-5380 or MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov with any questions on the worksheet and/or requirements.

Upcoming Events

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

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84733307064?pwd=Tk9jNXdOUTBDWVBjQ1ZuTGFwRDVyUT09>

Password: 014491

Or Telephone:

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

Grant Opportunities

10- Cents a Meal Grant Application

The School Year 10-Cents a Meal grant application is **now open through August 16th** for all school and non-school sponsors who participate in child nutrition programs. Eligible meals include school meals (SNP) and Seamless Summer (SSO) meals of breakfast, lunch, afterschool snacks, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meals of breakfast, lunch, snacks, suppers and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meals of breakfast, lunch, and snacks. **Access the application and find full instructions to complete it here - [10 Cent Application Instructions \(michigan.gov\)](#)**

The 10-Cents a Meal grant is a competitive match-grant opportunity to be reimbursed for purchasing and serving local produce in your child nutrition programs. All meal patterns include a fruit, vegetable, or legume – use this opportunity to make it a Michigan one! Awarded grant amounts are based on past local purchasing and range from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Funds are paid out in 10-cent increments for every meal served with a piece of local produce.

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

SY 2021-2022 NSLP, SBP, SMP Reimbursement Rates

This Notice announces the annual adjustments to the national average payments, the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks, and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; to the maximum reimbursement

rates, the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and to the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children.

[National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs, National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates \(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022\) | USDA-FNS](#)

New CACFP Resources from Team Nutrition

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is pleased to announce the release of new resources for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) operators. All materials are available in English and in Spanish, for download and printing. Printed versions of these materials will be made available at a later date.

- [Serving Adult Participants in the USDA CACFP](#)
- [Serving Meats and Meat Alternates at Lunch and Supper in the USDA CACFP](#)
- [Offering Water in the USDA CACFP](#)

Click on the link to see Team Nutrition's collection of [CACFP training tools](#).

Questions about this announcement may be sent to TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.

Request for Information: Buy American

On August 4th, FNS published the Request for Information: Buy American in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program to gather feedback from stakeholders on:

- How the Buy American provision and guidance are currently implemented,
- Changes FNS should make to current regulations, and
- Guidance and feedback on how FNS can better support local operators as they strive to purchase domestic foods and food products.

Please use [this link](#) to submit your responses. Responses are due by November 2, 2021.

Master the Professional Standards Training Tracking Tool (PSTTT)!

Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021

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

Meet the Webinar Speakers:

Kaushalya Heendeniya, Nutritionist, USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Ebony James, Nutritionist, USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Rebecca Maclsaac, Nutritionist, USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Target Audience: All School Nutrition Professionals (School Staff, State Agency Staff), FNS National Office Staff, and Regional Office Staff

Team Nutrition is excited to present the latest enhancements to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Since the PSTTT was first released in November 2017, Team Nutrition has continuously worked to incorporate feedback to streamline the user experience. This webinar will showcase the latest enhancements, such as:

- Updated Welcome dashboard where you can access your own certificates and training history
- Optional employee identification numbers that can be added to employee profiles
- Training duration logged in increments of 5 minutes
- Additional manager/director role features:
 - Deactivating employees
 - Managing schools within their district
 - Including employees with no logged training in Summary Report
 - Editing district information
 - Creating new district
 - Requesting enhanced access if responsible for managing multiple districts, including districts in different states
 - Uploading multiple new training titles and their training information at one time to be included on the PSTTT training list

Join us for a live demonstration of the PSTTT, as well as an overview of the Professional Standards resources. Participants will learn about the benefits of using the PSTTT and these new features which allow directors, managers and staff to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year!

You don't want to miss this webinar. [Sign up now!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you are unable to attend the LIVE webinar, there will be a recording of the webinar announced and posted a few weeks after the webinar's completion.

Professional Standards Learning Objectives:

Key Area: 3000 (Administration)

Training Topic: 3400 (Human Resources); 3200 Program Management

Learning Objective: 3430 (Develop and track employee training plans), 3210 (Staff Management)

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

Training Corner

Meal Pattern and Component Tool Refresher

The staff of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) School Nutrition Programs unit is pleased to announce a hands-on, activity-based virtual workshop for school nutrition professionals. This workshop is targeted to food service staff and will provide active sessions where participants can interact with MDE staff.

The workshop consists of a half-day session and will cover nutrition related information for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). There is no cost for the workshop. Group activities will provide the opportunity to save information that can be used in your operation.

When: September 22, 2021 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

September 28, 2021 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Registration for the training is required. For further information and registration information, visit [Meal Pattern and Component Tool Refresher](#).

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.

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



Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Where can I go to get my questions answered for School Year 21-22?

Answer: Call your program analyst! They are ready to help. Please attend the County Call your analyst has scheduled in August. If you have a conflict for the one in your area, talk to your analyst to find a different one.

Question: Are sponsors required to provide meals to virtual school students?

Answer: Per USDA, only sites that are a brick and mortar building can be added as a site in the NSLP/SSO application. Thus virtual or cyber schools that do not have a brick and mortar building cannot be a site under NSLP/SSO. For school year 2021/2022 virtual or cyber school students can have access to meals from open SSO sites. It is a local decision if a district offers an open site.

Question: Are sponsors required to provide meals to virtual learners that are enrolled in a brick and mortar school building, but are learning remotely.

Answer: Yes, meals should be made available to all students enrolled in a brick and mortar, participating NSLP/SSO school. This could be done through a pre-order system or as an open curbside meal pick-up. This would also apply to students who may become remote learners during school year 2021/2022 due to temporary school closures.

Question: Can a sponsor home deliver meals to virtual learners enrolled in a virtual school?

Answer: No, if the student is enrolled in a virtual school, not an eligible brick and mortar building, meals could not be delivered to these students. These students would have access to meals from an open SSO site. Home delivery is allowable for enrolled students in an eligible school building.

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 Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates and Bulletins, visit [Child Nutrition Programs News and Updates Subscription](#).

Support

[School Nutrition Programs](#)

www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition
Email: MDE-
schoolnutrition@michigan.gov

[Summer Food Service Program](#)

www.michigan.gov/sfsp
Email: mde-sfsp@michigan.gov

[Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

www.michigan.gov/cacfp
Email: mde-cnarp-cacfp@michigan.gov

[Food Distribution](#)

www.michigan.gov/mde-fdp
Email: mde-fmfd@michigan.gov

[Fiscal and Administrative Services](#)

www.michigan.gov/mde-fast
Email: MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov

[Procurement and Contracts](#)

www.michigan.gov/mde-foodservicecontracts
Email: mde-fsmc-
vended@michigan.gov

[School Health and Safety](#)

www.michigan.gov/cshsp

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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.

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.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>

Links Used in this Document:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/back-school-water-safety>
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yhj_IsMNgbhoZABAXLhiF9KF9c8Etz9a
<https://strength.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuf-2rrgjHtNjqOSJaXsoL9m4F-Cftuyu>
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h3D71Xc3rUKWaoku9HII0adBQgBF3EpMrfJJyRNd7ZFUNTdCWDIaVVM3SVFSMzc3TFEwV1c1Qk9BMS4u>
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h3D71Xc3rUKWaoku9HII0adBQgBF3EpMrfJJyRNd7ZFUMDhDUFVRVQ0NUQkpTV1RYWjFWNIYxUkg0WC4u>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nonprofit-school-food-service-account-nonprogram-food-revenue-requirements>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE_Adult_Pricing_Worksheet_SY_2021-2022_731869_7.xlsx
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/10_CENT_APPLICATION_INSTRUCTIONS_731574_7.pdf
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-response-90>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-response-97>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/sp11-cacfp10-sfsp06-2021>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-response-97>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr/071621>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-adult-participants-cacfp>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/serving-meats-meat-alternates-lunch-supper-cacfp>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offering-water-cacfp>
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/training-tools-cacfp>
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/08/04/2021-16479/request-for-information-buy-american-in-the-national-school-lunch-program-and-school-breakfast>
<https://usda-fns.webex.com/usda-fns/onstage/g.php?MTID=e5afe6e404c1a9cded17512ced3242b0b>
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/External_Linking_MILogin_and_MEIS_7161

77_7.pdf

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Registration_Memo_731835_7.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://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229