



Office of Nutrition Services
Student Meal Debt Forgiveness Grant (31k) Information
Grant Application Round 2

School Year 2023-2024

Exciting news! We have funding remaining for the 31k grant! For the 2023-2024 School Year (SY) only, \$2.5 million in state school aid fund money has been allocated (Section 31k) for reimbursement grant payments to public school districts, Intermediate School Districts (ISDs), and public-school academies who forgive all outstanding current student meal debt. A second and final round of applications is now open.

Here are additional details about this grant opportunity:

Participation: Optional grant application

Student Meal Debt Applicable: This grant funding is only eligible for negative balances for current/active/enrolled students. Bad debt for inactive students is not eligible. Negative balances paid off from donations or angel funds are also not eligible for this grant. Balances written off for Michigan School Meals for current/active/enrolled students are eligible for reimbursement.

What Must be Written off: Include all negative balances for current/active/enrolled students on the books as of June 30, 2023.

Recording of Journal Entries/Accounting Transactions: Journal entries may be completed anytime 6/30/2023-present.

Recommended Journal Entries/Accounting Transactions:

Journal Entry #1	Debit-General Fund 11– Miscellaneous Expenditures (negative balance expense) Credit-General Fund 11 – Cash
Journal Entry #2	Debit-Food Service Fund 25 – Cash Credit-Food Service Fund 25 – Accounts Receivable

Note: If different entries are used, provide account names or the entries will require follow up for more information.

Funding Source: General Fund 11

Note: Student Meal Negative Balances paid off from private donations or angel funds are not eligible for this Forgiveness Grant.

Documentation Needed: Complete the optional grant application in the Grant Electronic Monitoring System / Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS), along with submitting the following:

1) Total of student meal debt for current/active/enrolled students as of June 30, 2023

2) Write off Transactions

3) Point of Service (POS) Report documenting the total of current student meal debt
This should be an account balance summary report, and not a detailed report of meal debt by student. **Please do not include student names or other individual identifying information.**

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
- Note: All five of the above bullet points must be included in the Meal Charge Policy as written above to be eligible.

Second Round Application Deadline: February 28, 2024

Application Link: <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/User/SSOLanding.aspx?qcode=i7tf9sgt>

Other Notes:

Previous 31k grant awardees from SY2020-2021 are eligible to apply in round 2 of SY2023/2024

31k grant awardees from round 1 of SY2023/2024 are not eligible in round 2

Questions:

Please contact the Fiscal and Administrative Services Fiscal Monitoring Team at:

Email: MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov or Phone: 517-241-5380

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