



Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) News from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

June 30, 2025

Fast-Approaching Deadline: Elect Community Eligibility Provision for Your District Before June 30, 2025

Any school district wanting to elect Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year must opt-in via the Coordinated Application in NexSys by June 30, 2025. The Michigan Department of Education does not have a waiver for the upcoming school year to delay the CEP election.

Contact the Office of Nutrition Services School Nutrition Programs at MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov for more information and specific instructions on opting in to CEP.

New Social Media Campaign: What's For Lunch?

MDE has started a new social media campaign that highlights the great lunches being served throughout our state. It highlights lunches being served in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. Get involved by showing off the great lunches being served. Please share your pictures and story by filling out the form at the link below. Pictures will be shared on [MDE's Facebook Page](#).

[What's For Lunch?](#)

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms Updates and Reminders

The 10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms 2025-2026 Application is Available in NexSys!

10 Cents a Meal for Michigan's Kids and Farms (10 Cents a Meal) is a state funded, matching grant. Sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast program (NSLP/SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are eligible to apply.

10 Cents a Meal reimburses 50% of the cost of buying and serving Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and dry beans in meals and educational activities for children. Grantees can also use up to 25% of their grant award to receive 100% reimbursement for transportation and labor expenses such as delivery fees, mileage costs, and part time labor expenses that support the goals of the program.

This is an opportunity for ALL child nutrition program sponsors state-wide to improve the nutrition of children while supporting local growers. **Completed applications are due in NexSys by Wednesday, September 17, 2025.**

How Does the Program Work?

If awarded, you are required to:

- Purchase, prepare and menu Michigan-grown minimally processed fruits, vegetables, and dry beans
- Promote and market Michigan-grown products
- Plan educational activities that achieve program goals
- Submit food purchases by month, including the name of the source farm, the farm county, and purchase amount
- Complete reporting surveys

How Do I Apply?

The 2025-2026 application is available in NexSys and must be initiated and submitted by a level 5 NexSys user. The maximum possible award is 10 cents times every meal served in child nutrition programs the prior year.

There is a [2025-2026 Application Scoring Rubric](#) available. The rubric contains guidance on what details to include on the **Program Information page**. All applicants should refer to the rubric as they complete the application. Fifty percent of an applicant's score will consist of the Program Information page responses and any bonus points for submitting the application early.

Fifty percent of the application score for returning applicants will be based on their ability to spend their requested award for the 2024-2025 program year and complete

the required reporting surveys. New grantees will be given a boost in past performance points.

Training Sessions & Resources

Registration is available for the remaining 2025-2026 program year training sessions. These sessions cover how 10 Cents a Meal works, how to source local produce, what is needed to participate, and hands-on application assistance. When the virtual session is available, the Farm to Program team will send out notification. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.

- Mason/Ingham – August 7, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Macomb - August 14, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Flint – August 18, 2025, 2-4pm (EST) [Register](#)
- Virtual training – TBD

A virtual walkthrough of the application process and the scoring rubric are available on the [How to Apply](#) page.

Looking for the required annual program training? Please visit the [Training](#) page.

Questions?

To learn more about 10 Cents a Meal, you can visit the [10 Cents a Meal](#) section of the Michigan Department of Education website. As well as the [10 Cents a Meal](#) website, managed by the communication and outreach partner for 10 Cents a Meal, Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities.

For questions about the 10 Cents a Meal program and application, please contact the Farm to Program team at MDE-FarmtoProgram@Michigan.gov.

Sign Up for New Director Class

Core Competencies for New Directors class registration is open for School Year (SY) 25-26. Have you been a food service director for two years or less? Then this is the class for you. Join us monthly, beginning August 2025 through May 2026, to gain basic School Meals program information, network with other new food service directors, and connect with MDE staff. Register today!

Meal Pattern Changes Begin July 1, 2025

There are four nutrition standard changes to the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs that began on July 1, 2025. Review your menu offerings to make sure they are following the new standards listed below.

1. Added sugars: Limits on the following foods:

- Breakfast cereals: no more than 6 grams of added sugar per dry ounce
- Yogurt: no more than 12 grams of added sugar per 6 ounces
- Flavored milk: no more than 10 grams of added sugar per 8 fluid ounces, or 15 grams of added sugar per 12 fluid ounces for flavored milk sold as a competitive beverage for middle and high schools

United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#) guide has reference charts on page 9 for these foods and the added sugar limits

2. NSLP Afterschool Snack Service Program: Updates to the snack pattern follow what is already in place for school lunch. This includes:

- No more than half of the weekly fruit or vegetable offerings at snacks may be in the form of juice
- At least 80 percent of the grains offered during the week for snacks must be whole grain-rich
- Grain-based desserts, except for sweet crackers such as animal and graham crackers, do not contribute toward the grains requirement

3. Meal Changes: Schools must accept medical statements from registered dietitians requesting meal changes on behalf of students with disabilities in the school meal programs. For more information, see [Requirement to Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians for Schools and Child and Adult Care Institutions and Facilities](#).

4. Substitution of Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast

- Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast one day per school week may offer any vegetable, including a starchy vegetable
- Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast on two or more days per week are required to offer vegetables from at least two different vegetable subgroups
- See the [Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit Flexibility in the School Breakfast Program: Q&As for Program Operators website](#) for additional information

The final rule titled, "Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans" had three phases that rules go into effect. The second phase is for School Year 2025-2026 which starts on July 1, 2025. The final phase is for School Year 2027-2028. Those changes will be:

- Weekly limit of less than 10% of calories from added sugars for both lunch and breakfast programs.

- Reduction of 15% from current sodium limits for lunch.
 - Grades K-5: less than or equal to 935 milligrams (mg)
 - Grades 6-8: less than or equal to 1,035 milligrams (mg)
 - Grades 9-12: less than or equal to 1,080 milligrams (mg)
- Reduction of 10% from current sodium limits for breakfast.
 - Grades K-5: less than or equal to 485 milligrams (mg)
 - Grades 6-8: less than or equal to 535 milligrams (mg)
 - Grades 9-12: less than or equal to 570 milligrams (mg)

Additional information: [Updates to the School Nutrition Standards](#)

Questions: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

SUN Bucks Michigan Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Application is Available

The SUN Bucks Michigan Summer EBT application is available through August 31, 2025. Michigan Summer EBT is a program to help families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer, receiving \$120 for each eligible child. Households with eligible children who attend a Community Eligibility Provision school must complete an application through [MI Bridges](#).

School administration and staff can send an email to MDE-SEBT@Michigan.gov for more information. All families should be directed to contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at MDHHS-SEBT@Michigan.gov.

School Meal Overview Workshop Available

Registration for the first School Meals Overview Workshop for the new school year is open. This hands-on, activity-based workshop covers menu development, recipes and labels, production records, meal component tool, application processing, counting and claiming, direct certification and verification. The workshop will provide active sessions where food service personnel can interact with MDE staff to resolve any issues that would result in findings during an Administrative Review.

The workshop consists of two days – Day One will cover nutrition related information and Day Two will cover administrative information. There is no cost for the workshop and participants are welcome to come one or both days.

Dates: Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17, 2025

Location: United Dairy Industry of Michigan Office, 2163 Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Registration: [Day 1 - Greater Lansing - October 16, 2025](#) and [Day 2 - October 17, 2025](#)

Tuesday at 2 for School Year 2025-2026

Thirty-minute weekly trainings, called Tuesday at 2, will be back in the new school year. This year, registration is required so you will get a calendar appointment. Listed below are the first few. A complete list is on the [Tuesday at 2 website](#).

- August 26, 2025, Direct Certification – [Register here](#)
 - September 2, 2025, Civil Rights - [Register here](#)
 - September 9, 2025, Point of Service Meal Counting - [Register here](#)
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Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP) Updates

SFSP Waivers

During periods of extreme heat or poor air quality, sponsors have the option to continue serving meals using the Excessive Heat Waiver and/or the Air Quality Waiver if needed. Please note, both the Heat Waiver and the Air Quality Waiver may only be used on days when the National Weather Service has issued a heat or air quality advisory in the area the site is located. These waivers are NOT intended to be filled out proactively or "just in case."

[Heat Waiver](#): SFSP sponsors who serve meals at outdoor locations without a temperature-controlled alternative option may apply for an excessive heat waiver to operate as a non-congregate site on days when the National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory.

[Air Quality Waiver](#): SFSP sponsors who serve meals at outdoor locations without an indoor alternative may apply for an air quality waiver to operate as a non-congregate site on days when the National Weather Service has issued an air quality alert.

Field Trip Notification

Sponsors must submit a [Field Trip Request Form](#) at least 24 hours prior to a scheduled field trip. Additionally, sponsors must use the [Field Trip Meal Count Form](#) to count meals off site. The menu and questions on the first page must be completed along with the Field Trip Meal Count Form.

Temporary Site Change Notification

Sponsors must submit a [Temporary SFSP Site Change Form](#) for temporary changes in dates of operations, meal service times, or days of operation.

All forms are available on the MDE SFSP website under [Instructions and Forms](#).

Direct Certification Reminder

The Direct Certification Report is available for all school districts the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). All participating schools in the National School Lunch Program **must** access the Direct Certification report at least three times per school year:

- at or around the beginning of the school year
- three months after the initial effort
- six months after the initial effort

It is the sponsoring School Food Authority's responsibility to make sure all students are receiving the correct benefits. This includes accessing the Direct Certification report.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools are required to run direct certification at least once a school year. However, it is best practice to run it more frequently to identify students for [Supplemental Nutrition Eligibility](#) in MSDS collections, to support students experiencing foster care, and calculating Identified Student Percentage for future CEP applications.

[Frequently Asked Questions for Direct Certification Requirements for Public and Non-public Schools Participating in the School Nutrition Programs in School Year 2025 - 2026](#) has additional information about direct certification basics, MSDS collections, nonpublic schools, and direct certification refresh dates.

New MIND 2.0 Dashboard and Features

If you have logged in to the Michigan Nutrition Data System (MIND 2.0) recently, you will notice a new look. The dashboard has been updated with relevant informational cards for the different programs or systems you participate in.

To access the claim sub-systems, simply click on "MIND Legacy" in the left menu bar. The user management and access request function has also been overhauled and is available from the left menu. Same functions, new location.

Resources and Training

Our team has created some training materials to assist you through the transition. See the following links for more information.

- [MIND Dashboard - Help Page](#)
- [MIND Request Access - Help Page](#)
- [MIND User Management - Help Page](#)
- [MIND Year End Report - Help Page](#)

System Access Help

If you have any trouble accessing this or any other system, contact us at MDE-ONS-Access@Michigan.gov. In the meantime:

- If you are unsure of what system you need access to, you can find a summary of each of the systems and what they do [HERE](#).
- If you need step by step instructions for getting access to a system, you can find instructions [HERE](#).
- You can find ALL of the system help documents [HERE](#).

Coming Soon! SFSP and Summer Camp Special Milk (SCSM) Claims in MIND 2.0

The Michigan Department of Education is excited to announce that the SFSP and the SCSM claims will now be available in the new and improved MIND 2.0 system. To access claim sub-systems that have not yet been added to the new MIND 2.0 system, click on “MIND Legacy” in the left menu bar.

When are changes expected?

Beginning with the June 2025 claim (available in July 2025), both the SFSP and SCSM claims will be available on this new platform.

Resources and Training

Our team has created some training materials specific to these programs to assist you through the transition. See the following links for more information. These resources are intended to be used side-by-side as you enter your claim should you need assistance. On any page, clicking the **Help** button will take you to the help for that page.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Resources:

- [SFSP Claims Listing Page](#)
- [SFSP Sponsor Summary Page](#)
- [SFSP Traditional Site Edit Page](#)
- [SFSP Camp Site Edit Page](#)
- [SFSP Claim Certification Page](#)
- [SFSP Payment Summary Report Page](#)

Summer Camp Special Milk (SCSM) Resources:

- [SCSM Claims Listing Page](#)
- [SCSM Sponsor Summary Page](#)
- [SCSM Site Edit Page](#)
- [SCSM Claim Certification Page](#)

- [SCSM Payment Summary Page](#)

If you have any questions about these changes, please let us know. Send an email to MDE-NutritionCoordination@Michigan.gov. If you have any trouble accessing this or any other systems, contact us at MDE-ONS-Access@Michigan.gov.

Request for USDA Foods Delivery

School Food Authorities (SFAs) must complete the **Request for USDA Foods Delivery** portion of their Child Nutrition Coordinated Application within NEXSYS each year to receive USDA Commodity Foods. The application contains a section where SFAs will select the USDA Foods purchasing consortium they wish to join to receive their USDA Foods. The deadline to complete this portion of the application is **October 15, 2025**. Instructions on how to complete this page of the application can be found here, under USDA Foods NEXSYS Instructions: [USDA Foods](#)

Once SFAs have certified their application, the USDA Foods delivery decision is then unable to be changed for the 2026-2027 school year. As a reminder, USDA Foods are ordered and procured a year in advance, so your USDA Foods Consortium choice is also made a year prior. If you need assistance making a selection, all USDA Foods and Consortia info can be found at our website here: [USDA Foods Consortia](#).

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

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

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

Summer Food Service Program

www.Michigan.gov/SFSP

Email: MDE-SFSP@Michigan.gov

Email: MDE-FSMC-

Vended@Michigan.gov

Child and Adult Care Food Program

www.Michigan.gov/CACFP

Email: MDE-CACFP@Michigan.gov

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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; or
2. **fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
Program.Intake@usda.gov

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