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

September 30, 2025

## CNP Coordinated Application Deadline

To claim meals for reimbursement in National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or Summer Food Service Program, sponsors must have an approved Child Nutrition Coordinated Application.

If you need an October 2025 claim, the due date is **Tuesday, September 30.**

### Important Things to Know:

- Initiating the 2026 Application
  - Please make sure that you are correctly initiating your 2025 application by selecting the option that includes “**COORDAPP-2025... (Application Approved).**” Then click “Proceed.”
  - If you choose the option, “DO NOT COPY FORWARD” then none of the data from your previous application will pull forward into your new application and you will start with a blank application. This would cause a lot more work for your organization!
- Resources to help sponsors with completing the application:

- There are program specific user guides and application page specific resources available [HERE](#).
- Resources to help sponsors with access to the application:
  - Information on how Level 5 users can add people to their organization and application in NexSys can be found [HERE](#).

If you have any questions about your application, please contact your program analyst or send an email to [MDE-NutritionCoordination@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-NutritionCoordination@Michigan.gov).

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## **Afterschool Snack Program Juice Clarification**

Starting this school year, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Afterschool Snack Program requires that no more than half of the servings of fruit and/or vegetables can be in the form of juice. The Afterschool Snack Program meal pattern requires two of the five meal components to be served for a snack. If juice is offered one day, then fruit or vegetable must be offered on a different day in another form. For example, if juice is offered two days a week, then on two other days the fruit or vegetable must be offered in a different form such as fresh, frozen, canned or dried. The [Afterschool Meal Requirements chart](#) has been updated to reflect this and other changes.

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

### **2024-2025 Program Year Reminders**

The 2024-2025 program year for 10 Cents a Meal ended on September 30, 2025. All eligible products purchased September 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, must be submitted by October 14, 2025, and will be paid in November 2025.

For schools, this portion of program revenue should not be recognized in School Year (SY) 2025 as it will not be received within 60 days of districts' year-end and instead should be recorded as SY 2026 revenue. Section 31j revenue should be recorded as Major Class 312, Suffix 0110, and the Grant Code for expenditures is 373. A [2024-2025 Program Year Payment and Fiscal Information](#) document is available for reference.

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## 2025-2026 Application

The 2025-2026 program year application for 10 Cents a Meal was due in NexSys on September 17, 2025, and is now closed. The Farm to Program team will provide an update on the application review process as soon as possible.

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### 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 and 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, please contact the Farm to Program team at [MDE-FarmtoProgram@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-FarmtoProgram@Michigan.gov).

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## Lake Michigan School Food System Spark and Innovation Collaborative Awards Update

Do you know a way to bring local, nutritious food to more schools across the region?

Michigan State University (MSU) Center for Regional Food Systems, the evaluation partner for the 10 Cents a Meal program, is a part of the [Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub](#), which supports people working to improve school meals across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The initiative offers funding, training, and other assistance to partnerships that include farmers, food producers, suppliers, distributors, schools, and organizations.

Applications for two new funding opportunities will open October 15, 2025: the Spark Awards and the Innovation Collaborative Awards.

- **Spark Awards** funds projects that need a short-term infusion of funds for school food system and product improvements, such as capacity-building, planning, and product-testing projects (\$30K - \$100K per year).
- **Innovation Collaborative Awards** funds projects that promote systems-level change of the school food system, such as scaling up of programs, forming regional partnerships, or developing or integrating new programs or products (\$250K - \$500K over 2.5 years).

Visit the [Support for Michigan Applicants Page](#) to connect with Michigan's state leads, develop project ideas, form and manage partnerships, connect with resources, answer questions about your application, and strengthen your grant-writing by reviewing and/or editing your application! Learn more at [InnovateSchoolFood.org](#), and contact the State Lead for Michigan, [Julie Lehman](#), with any questions.

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## Apple Crunch for National Farm to School Month

Help celebrate National Farm to School Month in October by participating in this year's apple crunch on Thursday, October 16, 2025, or anytime in October 2025!

The Michigan Apple Crunch is an annual event hosted by MSU Extension and the Michigan Farm to Institution Network to promote National Farm to School Month and celebrate the iconic Michigan apple. Thousands of participants from K-12 schools, Early Care and Education sites, and other institutions and organizations across the state and Great Lakes Region register to crunch into a local Michigan apple on Crunch Day. Apples provide a great way to get local schools and institutions excited about supporting local farmers and they are a nutritious snack that is available in Michigan eleven months of the year.

To show your support for Michigan farmers and Farm to School programs, be sure to register and participate in this year's Michigan Apple Crunch! You can register [HERE](#).

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## Verification Begins October 1

Verification is the process sponsors conduct annually to confirm selected students' eligibility for free and reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). *Verification is not required for children who have been certified for meals under Direct Certification or for school buildings operating the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).*

### Verification in School Year 2025-2026

- The verification sample should be based on approved current school year Education and Nutrition Benefits applications as of October 1, 2025.
- Verification is not required for school buildings operating the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
- Whether you are currently participating in Michigan School Meals program or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), **all traditional claim schools** and districts that collected free and reduced-price applications are required to conduct verification.
- Verification is still necessary for schools operating Michigan School Meals program and required because school meal applications are used to establish eligibility for Summer EBT and meal counting and claiming.

A [verification](#) webpage with forms and instructions has been developed to support program sponsors through the process.

The verification sample should be based on approved current school year applications as of October 1, 2025. The deadline for completing verification of eligibility for school meals is November 15, 2025.

## Improvement Plans

- In School Year 2025-2026, Improvement Plans are required for sponsors that had a significant number of non-responses and applications changed to paid based on the verification results in School Year 2024-2025. Those sponsors that are required to complete and submit an Improvement Plan are listed at [Schools Required to Submit an Improvement Plan for Certification and Verification for SY 2025-2026](#)

## Standard Sample

- In School Year 2025-2026, a Standard Sample is required for sponsors that had a significant number of non-responses to verification in School Year 2024-2025. Those sponsors that are required to conduct a Standard Sample are listed at [Schools Required to Use Standard Sample Size for SY 2025-2026](#)

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## Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 FFVP Expected Grant Award List is available on the [MDE FFVP website](#).

The FY 2026 runs from October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has not yet given FFVP funds for this period to the MDE Office of Nutrition Services (ONS). With this, FY 2026 grantees are encouraged to start serving fresh fruit and vegetable snacks in October. However, they cannot request or be reimbursed for any costs until USDA sends the funds to MDE, and MDE makes them available in NexSys.

Schools that were not awarded FFVP funds for FY 2026 cannot offer the program unless they cover the costs with their General Fund as these costs would be considered unallowable to the Non-profit Food Service Account (NFSA). Reference [Allowable Funding Sources for Program Meals and Non-program Foods](#) for additional guidance on program and non-program foods.

Questions may be directed to MDE's FFVP Consultant by email to [MDE-FFVP@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-FFVP@Michigan.gov) or by calling 517-335-1558.

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## 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](#)

Dates: Tuesday, January 20 and Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Location: Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford Township 48328

Registration: [Day 1 – Oakland Schools – January 20, 2026](#) and [Day 2 – January 21, 2026](#)

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## Ongoing Social Media Campaign: What's for Lunch?

MDE is running a 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](#). MDE appreciates all who have submitted photos. Please watch this video from the Georgia Department of Education on [How to Take GREAT School Meal Photos](#). We want to ensure the photos that you submit are appealing and representative of all the healthy and innovative lunches served across the state.

[What's For Lunch?](#)

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## 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](mailto: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](#).
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## Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

### Updated Dual-Enrollment Information

Do you have students that go to another building for part of the school day and miss meal times? The USDA is allowing more flexibility in serving these students. MDE has updated their guidance to reflect the change in the [Guide to Serve Meals to Dual Enrollment Students](#).

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## Training Corner

### MDE-School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) Annual Conference

The MDE-SNAM Annual Conference and Exhibit Show is November 6-9, 2025, at DoubleTree by Hilton in Battle Creek, MI. This is a great opportunity for professional development, networking, and fun. There are several Thursday pre-conference options available. Friday is focused on content from MDE for all

Child Nutrition Programs. On Saturday, SNAM provides breakout sessions and an exhibit show. [Learn more and register today!](#)

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## **Register for Tuesday at 2**

Join MDE staff for a 30-minute training most weeks on many different topics. This year registration is required for Tuesday at 2. You can register for the whole school year now at the [Tuesday at 2](#) website. September's sessions include:

- September 30, 2025 - Verification - [Register here](#)
  - October 7 – Financial Reporting – [Register here](#)
  - October 14 – Common Resource Management Review Findings – [Register here](#)
  - October 21 – Procurement Series: Internal Controls and Allowable Costs– [Register here](#)
  - October 28 – Summer EBT – [Register here](#)
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## **Guidance for Food Handlers and the Management of Halal Food**

Michigan State University Extension is hosting the training, “Guidance for the Food Handler and Management of Halal Food,” this fall. This training is for food handlers and educators with responsibilities related to nutrition and food. Participants will increase their knowledge and confidence in how to properly handle halal food for consumers requiring a halal diet and will be able to incorporate with relevant food safety knowledge.

### Registration:

- Monday, October 13, 2025; 2 - 3:30 p.m. ET
  - Tuesday, December 9, 2025; 3 - 4:30 p.m. ET
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## **Online Training Modules Updates**

Many [online training modules](#) have been updated for the new school year. They are a convenient way to train staff throughout the year. Some new topics have been added also and include the following:

- [Is it Whole Grain-Rich \(WGR\)?](#)
- [How to Use Exhibit A Grains Chart and Tool](#)

- [Procuring a Vended Meals Contract: The Bid Process for CACFP and SFSP Non-School Sponsors](#)
  - [Procuring a Vended Meals Contract: The Bid Process for School Sponsors](#)
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## Contact Us

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto: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](http://www.Michigan.gov/SchoolNutrition)

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov)

### [Summer Food Service Program](#)

[www.Michigan.gov/SFSP](http://www.Michigan.gov/SFSP)

Email: [MDE-SFSP@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SFSP@Michigan.gov)

### [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

[www.Michigan.gov/CACFP](http://www.Michigan.gov/CACFP)

Email: [MDE-CACFP@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-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](mailto:MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov)

### [Procurement and Contracts](#)

[www.Michigan.gov/MDE-FoodServiceContracts](http://www.Michigan.gov/MDE-FoodServiceContracts)

Email: [MDE-FSMC-Vended@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-FSMC-Vended@Michigan.gov)

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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](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

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