

This informational chart outlines the differences and similarities operating the National School Lunch/Breakfast Programs (NSLP/SBP) with or without the Michigan School Meals Program. Sponsors opting into the Michigan School Meals Program may have all Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools, no CEP schools or a combination of CEP and non-CEP schools.

	NSLP/SBP without the Michigan School Meals Program	NSLP/SBP with the Michigan School Meals Program (non-Community Eligibility Schools)	NSLP/SBP with the Michigan School Meals Program (Community Eligibility Schools)
Allowable Meals *1 Breakfast and 1 Lunch per day	Breakfast and Lunch Lunch is required Breakfast is optional only for those schools with 20% or less free and reduced-price student eligibility	Breakfast and Lunch are both required	Breakfast and Lunch are both required
School District/Sponsor Eligibility and Coordinated Application	Approved Michigan public or private/non-public school district, public school academies, Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) and Residential Child Care Institution that participate in NSLP and SBP. Online schools and students not attending participating NSLP/SBP schools do not qualify for meals.	Approved Michigan public school districts, public school academies and Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) that participate in the NSLP and SBP. Online schools and students not attending participating NSLP/SBP schools do not qualify for meals.	Approved Michigan public school districts, public school academies and Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) that participate in the NSLP and SBP. Online schools and students not attending participating NSLP/SBP schools do not qualify for meals.
Application for Summer EBT and Education Benefits with the Michigan School Meals Program (Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications)	Application collection is required for all non-CEP buildings as part of normal operations. Must follow disclosure requirements, complete verification and direct certification. May use a student's eligibility status from the prior school year for the first 30 days of the new school year (i.e., carryover).	Application collection is required for all non-CEP buildings as part of normal operations. Must follow disclosure requirements, complete verification and direct certification. May use a student's eligibility status from the prior school year for the first 30 days of the new school year (i.e., carryover).	Not Applicable Must follow disclosure requirements and complete direct certification.

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Education Benefits Forms	Education Benefits Form collection is required for all CEP buildings.	Not Applicable	Education Benefits Form collection is required for all CEP buildings.
Federal Reimbursement Rates and Process	Sponsors will receive federal reimbursement based on the number of free, reduced-price, and paid meals claimed or using the CEP Claiming percentages. <u>School Meals Program Administrative Memo No. 1</u>	Sponsors will receive federal reimbursement based on the number of free, reduced-price and paid meals claimed. <u>School Meals Program Administrative Memo No. 1</u>	Sponsors will receive federal reimbursement based on the CEP claiming percentages. <u>School Meals Program Administrative Memo No. 1</u>
Michigan School Meals (30d state funding) Program Reimbursement	Not Applicable	In addition to the Federal Reimbursement, sponsors will receive state reimbursement for the number of reduced-price and paid meals claimed (the difference between the federal reduced-price and paid rates and free rates).	In addition, sponsors will receive state reimbursement for the number of paid meals claimed based on the CEP paid claiming percentage (the difference between the federal paid and free rates).
Meal Claiming	Claim meals by student eligibility (free, reduced-price, paid) or by total meals if CEP by meal type by building in the MiND claim system.	Claim meals by student eligibility (free, reduced-price, paid) by meal type by building in the MiND claim system.	Claim meals by total meals served by meal type by building in the MiND claim system.

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Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool	<p>Sponsors that do not opt in will be required to complete the PLE Tool.</p> <p>N/A for CEP districtwide</p>	<p>Sponsors that opt into Michigan School Meals (30d state funding) are considered non-pricing and are exempt from PLE pricing requirements.</p>	<p>Sponsors that opt into Michigan School Meals (30d state funding) are considered non-pricing and are exempt from PLE pricing requirements.</p>
Writing off Negative Balances	<p>Not applicable for current/active/enrolled students.</p>	<p>Forgiving or writing off student meal negative balances is one of the requirements for participating and receiving funding in Michigan School Meals (30d). This applies to all negative balances for current/active/enrolled students, as well as inactive students that are on the books as of June 30th, 2023.</p> <p>The write off journal entries can take place this summer. Documentation will be collected in the 2024 Coordinated Application. Additional details about this requirement are posted on our new Michigan School Meals website.</p>	<p>Forgiving or writing off student meal negative balances is one of the requirements for participating and receiving funding in Michigan School Meals (30d). This applies to all negative balances for current/active/enrolled students, as well as inactive students that are on the books as of June 30th, 2023.</p> <p>The write off journal entries can take place this summer. Documentation will be collected in the 2024 Coordinated Application. Additional details about this requirement are posted on our new Michigan School Meals website.</p>

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Unpaid Meal Charges	<p>Sponsors must have a meal charge policy in place and must communicate the policy to students, families and all stakeholders. Follow MDE's Bad Debt requirements found in Admin Memo #4 SY2017-2018.</p> <p>More information and the Meal Charge Policy Training can be found here: Resource Management (michigan.gov)</p>	<p>The Food Service Fund cannot absorb unpaid meal charges and all negative balances must be written off as stated above.</p> <p>Once opted into Michigan School Meals, unpaid meal charges will no longer accrue. Student a la carte and adult meals cannot be charged or offered for free. Sponsors are not required to have a meal charge policy under the Michigan School Meals Program. Note: The optional 31k Negative Balance Forgiveness Grants require a meal charge policy with specific lunch shaming prevention strategies.</p>	<p>The Food Service Fund cannot absorb unpaid meal charges and all negative balances must be written off as stated above.</p> <p>Once opted into Michigan School Meals, unpaid meal charges will no longer accrue. Student a la carte and adult meals cannot be charged or offered for free. Sponsors are not required to have a meal charge policy under the Michigan School Meals Program. Note: The optional 31k Negative Balance Forgiveness Grants require a meal charge policy with specific lunch shaming prevention strategies.</p>
Revenue from Non-program Foods	<p>School food authorities are required to determine if the revenue from nonprogram foods (a la carte, second meals, adult meals, catering, etc.) generates at least the same proportion of revenue as they contribute to the SFA's food cost. Non-program Food Revenue Requirements (SP 20-2016)</p>		
Net Cash Resources and Excess Fund Balances	<p>If the Non-profit Food Service Account (Food Service Fund) has net cash resources exceeding more than three months average expenditures at year end, a Spend Down Plan of Action of how the excess funds are being invested back into the school meal programs must be submitted to MDE for approval. Net Cash Resources and Excess Fund Balance Information</p>		

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Meal Patterns	<p>Sponsors must follow SBP and NSLP meal patterns and must plan all menus to meet the grade group requirements for the grade groups served at each site.</p> <p>Offer vs serve is required for lunch at the high school level, optional at lower levels and at breakfast.</p> <p>The pre-K meal pattern must be followed for pre-K students when they eat meals separately from older students.</p>		
Special Dietary Needs	<p>Sponsors are required to accommodate special dietary needs when due to a disability or medical need and supported with a medical statement. Such accommodations may fall outside of the meal pattern requirements and those meals may still be claimed for reimbursement.</p> <p>Sponsors may choose to make accommodations for dietary preferences, but all accommodations must meet meal pattern requirements in order for the meal to be claimed for reimbursement.</p> <p>All sponsors must inform households of their ability to provide reasonable meal accommodations for students with disabilities.</p>	<p>In addition, participating entities are encouraged to offer meals that meet students' dietary restrictions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of gluten-free meals, vegetarian meals, vegan meals • Upon request, kosher meals, halal meals • Meals meeting any allergy restrictions as confirmed by a doctor's note. 	<p>In addition, participating entities are encouraged to offer meals that meet students' dietary restrictions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of gluten-free meals, vegetarian meals, vegan meals • Upon request, kosher meals, halal meals • Meals meeting any allergy restrictions as confirmed by a doctor's note. <p>In addition, sponsors using tally sheets in place of an electronic point of service are encouraged to develop methods to alert staff of students with special dietary needs in the serving line.</p>

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Smart Snacks, Competitive Foods & School Fundraisers	Schools may sell a la carte items that meet the federal Smart Snacks requirements. Items need to be priced according to federal nonprogram food revenue requirements. Extra milk or a second meals are considered a la carte and must be priced accordingly. The Michigan fundraiser exemption is still in place. Fundraisers may take place up to 2 days per week per building that do not meet Smart Snack standards.		
Meal Service Location	Meals must be served to students enrolled in a participating school and consumed on-site. To increase student access to meals, meals may be served in the cafeteria, classroom, or elsewhere (i.e. district run food trucks, Grab n Go carts) on the school campus.		
Meal Service Times	Meals must be served during a specific time frame and ensure no overlap of meal service. Breakfast must be served before 10 am and lunch between 10 am-2 pm, unless an approved waiver is on file with MDE.		
On-site Monitoring	The on-site monitoring forms must be completed by February 1st of each school year for sponsors with more than one site. One SFA Level form must be completed along with one Site Monitoring form for every school operating NSLP (lunch). One Site Monitoring form must be completed for 50% of the schools operating SBP (breakfast). Monitoring must take place on-site.		
Food Safety	Sponsors must request two food safety inspections from their local health department each year and implement a food safety plan at each meal site and/or central kitchen.		
Local Wellness Policy & Triennial Assessments	Sponsors must have a local school wellness policy in place and the policy must undergo an assessment every 3 years, at a minimum.		

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<p>Food Service Management Companies (FSMC) and Vended School Meals Contracts (VSMC)</p>	<p>Sponsors may contract with a FSMC or VSMC for no longer than one year, with options for a yearly renewal not to exceed four additional years.</p>	<p>Sponsors may contract with a FSMC or VSMC for no longer than one year, with options for a yearly renewal not to exceed four additional years.</p> <p>Sponsors should work with their legal counsel and MDE's Food Service Contract Analysts to determine if opting into Michigan School Meals would create a material change in the scope of terms of their contract.</p> <p>If participation does create a material change, sponsors will need to release a request for proposal for a new FSMC or VSMC contract.</p>	<p>Sponsors may contract with a FSMC or VSMC for no longer than one year, with options for a yearly renewal not to exceed four additional years.</p> <p>Sponsors should work with their legal counsel and MDE's Food Service Contract Analysts to determine if opting into Michigan School Meals would create a material change in the scope of terms of their contract.</p> <p>If participation does create a material change, sponsors will need to release a request for proposal for a new FSMC or VSMC contract.</p>

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<p>Afterschool Snack Program *Michigan School Meals does not include afterschool snacks, but schools can still offer the afterschool snack program, if eligible.</p>	<p>Sponsors may apply at any time throughout the school year and can operate either by being area-eligible or non-area eligible.</p> <p>Area-eligible sites serve snacks at no charge to all children and are reimbursed at the Federal free rate.</p> <p>Non-area eligible sites serve snacks to all children based on the child's approved eligibility (free, reduced or paid) and snacks are reimbursed at the Federal free, reduced, and paid rates.</p>	<p>Sponsors may apply at any time throughout the school year and can operate either by being area-eligible or non-area eligible.</p> <p>Area-eligible sites serve snacks at no charge to all children and are reimbursed at the Federal free rate.</p> <p>Non-area eligible sites serve snacks to all children based on the child's approved eligibility (free, reduced or paid) and snacks are reimbursed at the Federal free, reduced, and paid rates.</p>	<p>Sponsors may apply at any time throughout the school year and can operate either by being area-eligible or non-area eligible.</p> <p>CEP schools that are area-eligible claim all snacks at the Federal free rate.</p> <p>CEP schools that are not area-eligible claim snacks under their established CEP claiming percentages.</p>
<p>Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)</p>	<p>Eligible elementary schools apply to operate FFVP in June and are awarded grant funding to spend throughout the school year on fresh fruits and vegetables. Elementary schools must have a student enrollment made up of at least 50% of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.</p>	<p>Eligible elementary schools apply to operate FFVP in June and are awarded grant funding to spend throughout the school year on fresh fruits and vegetables. Elementary schools must have a student enrollment made up of at least 50% of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.</p>	<p>CEP elementary schools may qualify for FFVP by multiplying the individual school's ISP by 1.6.</p> <p>A CEP elementary school's individual ISP must be at least 31.25% to qualify for FFVP.</p>

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Equipment Assistance Grant (EAG)	The purpose of the grant is to provide School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) with funds to purchase, renovate, install, and/or replace food service equipment of a value of \$1,000 or more. The grant is intended to help schools serve healthier meals, improve food safety and help maintain or expand the food service program. Visit the Equipment Assistance Grant (EAG) (michigan.gov) web page for more information.		
School Breakfast Program Expansion Grant (SBPEG)	The goal of the grant is to establish, maintain, or expand the school breakfast program at severe need schools. A severe need school is a school that served at least 40% of their lunches to free and reduced priced students. The 2024 SBE Grant is available to complete in NexSys and due September 6, 2023. Visit the SBP Expansion Grant webpage for more information.		
10 Cents a Meal for Michigan’s Kids and Farms	<p>The program year for 10 Cents a Meal runs September – August. We do expect the new application to be available in mid-September.</p> <p>The legislation requires periodic surveys to participate in the program. Reimbursements won’t be processed without completed surveys.</p>		
Supply Chain Assistance Funds	Supply Chain Assistance funds are to be spent on National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program meals or Afterschool Snack Program. It is only for unprocessed or minimally processed foods. A fourth round of SCA funds is expected fall of 2023.		
Civil Rights	School nutrition staff must complete annual training and follow all civil rights regulations to ensure all eligible persons receive program benefits in a non-discriminatory manner consistent with FNS Instruction 113-1 .		

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<p>Additional Considerations</p>	<p>Benefits of opting into the Michigan School Meals Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Eligibility Provision schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promotes equity and reduces stigma of school meals ○ Eliminates unpaid meal debt once implementing CEP ○ Reduces administrative burden ○ Increase in the number of students who eat breakfast and lunch each day ○ Simplifies meal counting and claiming processes ○ Easier implementation of alternative serving models (e.g., breakfast in the classroom, kiosks, etc.) ○ Simplifies the administrative review ○ Opportunities for funding to improve program operations, purchase local food and provide wages/stipends for local foods • Non-Community Eligibility Provision schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promotes equity and reduces stigma of school meals ○ Eliminates unpaid meal debt once implementing the program ○ Increase in the number of students who eat breakfast and lunch each day ○ Opportunities for funding to improve program operations, purchase local food and provide wages/stipends for local foods <p>Potential operational needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate time to eat and number of lunch periods • Assess equipment and infrastructure • Staffing • Communication to families • Technology (i.e., point of sale systems, online meal application) <p>Visit the MDE Michigan School Meals Program website for more information</p>		
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