



NEWS RELEASE

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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MDE To Request Federal Waiver for Child Nutrition Programs

LANSING, MICH. – The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced today it will request a federal waiver of statutory and regulatory requirements in the Child Nutrition Programs, in accordance with federal guidance.

The Michigan Department of Education is requesting the waiver on behalf of all Child Nutrition Program sponsors determined to be in good standing in the state of Michigan.

“The need for nutritious meals does not take a break during a public health emergency such as COVID-19,” said State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “In fact, the need for healthy meals heightens due to factors beyond the control of Michigan families. Allowance of additional sites will ensure that children who receive meals from these programs have access to the nutrition that is needed.”

MDE is seeking to request a statewide waiver to allow all participating Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsoring organizations, as well as current National School Lunch Program (NSLP) sponsors, the option to serve and receive reimbursement for open meal sites that do not meet the 50 percent or more free or reduced priced eligibility requirement during times of unanticipated school closures.

Child Nutrition Program sponsors do not need to request exceptions from the Michigan Department of Education.

For questions about Michigan’s Child Nutrition Programs, contact the Director of the Office of Health and Nutrition Services, Diane Golzynski, at 517-241-5374 or mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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