



Purchasing Notes Fall 2024

Division of
Purchasing and Food Distribution







MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



OFFICE OF
CHILD NUTRITION
MS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

New Items

The product management committee has been busy finding new items, testing items, and approving items for the order guide. We are excited about the variety of products that are being added. The following items are now available on the order guide.

<p>New Line Item 2129 Jerky, Beef, Flavored</p> <p>There is one approved brand for this line item: Currently Shipping: Jack Links Original Beef Jerky</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Code 10000007717 • Crediting: 0.75 oz meat/meat alternate per each 0.85 oz package. 	
<p>New Line Item 1063 Sausage Links, Pork and Beef 2 oz.</p> <p>There is one approved brand for this line item: Currently Shipping: Country Pleasin' Original 2 oz Split Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Code: 661042-02080 • Crediting: 1 oz meat/meat alternate per each 2 oz link. 	
<p>New Line Item 1066 Sausage Patty, Poultry Fully Cooked</p> <p>There are two approved brands for this line item. You will receive either of the following items: Currently Shipping: Jimmy Dean Reduced Fat Country Sage Turkey Sausage Patties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Code 14106 • Crediting: 0.75 oz meat/meat alternate per each 1.5 oz patty. <p>Additional Approved Brand: Butter Ball Fully Cooked All-Natural Turkey Sausage Patties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Code: 2265598208 • Crediting: 1 oz meat/meat alternate per each 1.5 oz patty. 	
<p>New Line Item 1630 Onion Ring WG Breaded</p> <p>There is one approved brand for this line item: Currently Shipping: Tasty Brand Oven Ready WG Breaded Onion Rings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Code 33507 • Crediting: 1 oz grain and ¼ cup other vegetable per each 2.79 oz serving. 	

New Line Item 2127 Walking Taco Fritos

There is one approved brand for this line item:
Currently Shipping: Walking Fritos Corn Chip.

- Product Code 0028400693943.
- Crediting: 2 oz grain per each 1.5 oz bag.



New Line Item 1431 Snack Cracker

There is one approved brand for this line item:
Currently Shipping: Crunch and Crave Crackers-Original

- Product Code 2049194
- Crediting: 1 oz grain per each 1 oz bag



New Line Item 1249 Churro, Raspberry Flavored, WG I/W 100ct.

There is one approved brand for this line item:
Currently Shipping: J and J Snack Foods 51% Whole Grain Raspberry Filled I/W Hola Churro 100 ct.

- Product Code 41148
- Crediting: 1 oz grain per each 1.9 oz churro.



Reactivated Item

We have one item being reactivated on the order guide. This product took a short break, but is now available for ordering.

Reactivated Line Item 1023 Chicken Mandarin : Yang's 5th Taste Mandarin Orange Chicken Jr.

- Product Code 8-52724-15555-5.
- Crediting: 2 oz meat/meat alternate per each 3.6 oz serving.



Progress Towards Meeting New Nutrient Standards

The USDA recently published their final rule titled, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Included in the final rule were new sugar regulations that will be phased into effect over the next few years. Next school year (2025-2026), product-based sugar limit will be required for yogurt, milk, and cereal. Breakfast cereals may have no more than 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce. Yogurt may have no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams of added sugars per ounce). Flavored milk may have no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces or, for flavored milk sold as a competitive food for middle and high schools, 15 grams of added sugars per 12 fluid ounces.

The purchasing team and product management committee are aware of how the changes will impact products available on the order guide. The PMC is evaluating products and approving items that will be in compliance with the new standards. If you see advertisements for products that you would like us to review, we have a product submission form and email address that you can utilize to inform us of available products. The form is located on our MDE OCN website in the online programs section or can be found through the following link: [Contact Information \(mde.k12.ms.us\)](https://mde.k12.ms.us). You may also email us new product information to the email npsf@mdek12.org.

We have been able to find a new yogurt product that will meet the new nutrient standards and has been approved by PMC. The yogurt has been added to line 1325 as an approved brand. We will continue to update you as we find products that comply with the new standards. See information below about the new approved brand that was added to line 1325 that will meet the new sugar limits for yogurt.

New approved brand for line item 1325: **Yoplait Parfait Pro Reduced Sugar Low Fat Vanilla Yogurt**

- Product Code 20824000
- Crediting: 1 oz meat/meat alternate per each 4 oz serving
- Includes only 9 grams of added sugar per 6 ounces of yogurt.



Label Library

We have received many request to make a label library available for directors. File sharing can be a security risk, so we have been working with the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS) at MDE to assist us with creation of a label sharing system. OTSS has provided us with a solution called the Child Nutrition Navigator. You can access the Navigator from the MDE OCN webpage by clicking on the tab located in the resources section. Before accessing the site, you will be required to create an account using your district email address and credentials. Follow these steps for creating a login and accessing the site.

Label Library Access Steps

Step 1: Check if you registered on our MDE cloud IT service.

Click this site link (<https://mdek12.sharepoint.com/sites/guestuserportal>) and see if you are able to access the guest portal. If you are able to access the portal, it means that you are registered on our cloud IT infrastructure. If you are registered, go to step 3. If you are not registered, go to step 2.

Step 2: If you are not registered on our MDE cloud IT service, click the following link and complete the registration using your work email and email password. You will have to click "Save" to submit.

<https://myaccess.microsoft.com/@mdek12.org#/access-packages/8d630bfa-ca34-4ecc-830c-52c8a43f0a0d>

Step 3: Fill out the access request form: ([New item](#) | [Request Access \(sharepoint.com\)](#))

Please mention your school district name, work email address, and reason for access (Child Nutrition Director wishing to view the Label Library). Once approved, you will be receiving an email with the permission to access the files.

Step 4: Access the navigator to view the files:

<https://mdek12.sharepoint.com/sites/ChildNutritionNavigator/OCN%20Labels%20All%20Distributors/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Once you are in the Navigator, you will be able to view all labels for the order guide items by selecting the tab "OCN Labels All Distributors". The labels are organized into categories by which they credit. For example, if you were trying to find fruit juice, you would utilize the following path OCN Labels All Distributors> Fruits> Fruit Juice> select the line item for which you need a label. In some cases, a label may be in two locations.

For example, you may find a cheese product in the meat/meat alternate section because the item credits as a meat alternate or you may find cheese in the dairy section. For some fruits and vegetables, USDA product information sheets are being utilized instead of specific brand name nutrient labels. This label library is a work in progress as this is the first time this resource has ever been available to directors.

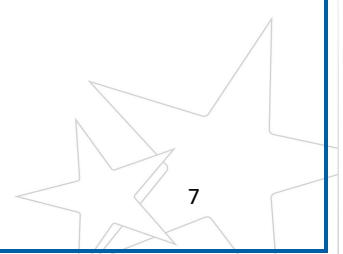
The label library is a tool to help provide information about the ingredients available on the order guide. It is imperative that you do not solely look at labels provided in the label library when determining accommodations for allergens and special diets. Sometimes replacement products are delivered to schools or manufacturers change their labels prior to us receiving updated labels to utilize in our library. While it is our goal to store current labels, the best practice is to always look at the physical labels on the boxes you are receiving at every delivery. **Allergen precautions and any other special diet requests should be made based on the actual products utilized in your kitchen.** If you have any questions, trouble locating products, or find errors, please contact

Bpennington@mdek123.org for assistance. The label library will continue to be a work in progress as we develop methods for keeping it updated and consistent with the order guide.

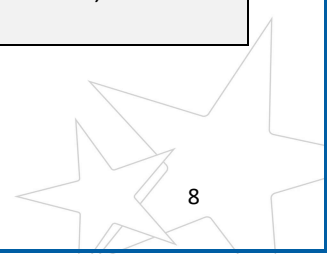


Staff Directory

Name and Title	Contact Information	Main Responsibilities
Charles Crawford Deputy Director of Child Nutrition	601-576-4991 ccrawford@mdek12.org	General Purchasing Program
Ashlea Jackson Program Specialist III	601-576-4978 asjackson@mdek12.org	USDA Foods
Betsy Pennington Lead Nutritionist	601-576-4987 bpennington@mdek12.org	Nutrition and Product Label



Product Management Committee Members and Terms		
Group	Representation	Term
Superintendents	Billy Ellzey Pascagoula-Gautier School District	July 1, 2024– June 30, 2027
Supt. Proxy	Sara Busby Pascagoula-Gautier School District 228-938-6525 sbusby@pgsd.ms	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
Region 1	Alexandra Hallmark Desoto County Schools 662-449-7267 Alex.hallmark@dcsms.org	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Region 2	Kenny Coker Itawamba County School District 662-862-2159 kcoker@itwambacountyschools.com	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
Region 3	Gail Hodo Humphreys County School District 662-247-6072 ggriffin@masd.k12.ms.us	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Region 4	VACANT	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025
Region 5	Christell Hicks Clinton Public School District 601-924-4002 ext. 126 chicks@clintonpublicschools.com	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026
Region 6	Sabrina Jones Laurel School District 601-649-6391 sajones@laurelschools.org	July 1, 2023– June 30, 2026
Region 7	Ashley Harris Jackson County 228-826-2133 ashley.harris@jcsd.ms	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
Private Schools	Martha Montiforte Nativity B.V.M. 228-432-2269 shmpqn@hotmail.com	July 1, 2023– June 30, 2026
Head Start Programs	Mary Maiten Reed Washington County Opportunities 662-332-1521 mlmontiforte@yahoo.com	July 1, 2022– June 30, 2025



**Food Distribution Advisory Committee
Members and Terms**

Area	Representative	Term
Region 1	Mark Carpenter Tunica County Schools 662-363-2811 carpenterma@tunicak12.org	September 11, 2022- December 31, 2025
Region 2	Valeria Weivoda Lee County School District 662-680-5770 Valeria.weivoda@leecountyschools.us	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 3	JoAnn Martin Hollandale School District 662-827-2276 jmartin@hollandalesd.org	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 4	Ginny Hill Starkville Consolidated Schools 662-615-0028 ghill@starkvillesd.com	January 1, 2023- December 31, 2025
Region 5	Benita McKey Brookhaven School District 601-833-2886 Benita.mckey@brookhavenschools.org	September 11, 2022- December 31, 2024
Region 6	Elisabeth Hollinghead Greene County Schools 601-394-2364 erhollinhead@greene.k12.ms.us	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 7	Karen Albrecht Hancock County Schools 228-255-0376 kalbrecht@hancockschools.net	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027