



Building a Bridge to the Future



ZM MESSENGER



School Board Recognition Week

The Minnesota School Boards Association has set February 22-26 as School Board Recognition Week in Minnesota as a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our society.

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools is joining all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Zumbrota and Mazeppa and its children. Current school board members are Jason Lohmann, Jean Roth, Amanda Peters, James Wendt, Angie Bredehoft, and Stephanie Miller.

Learning Model Change is Coming

February 8 the Zumbrota-Mazeppa School Board acted on a plan to bring our 7-12 students back to in person learning. We have been very grateful and fortunate that through the work of our staff and parents we have been able to maintain daily attendance for our Pre-K-6 students. As we hear stories from across the country of the learning loss, impact on mental health, and the impact on families for young students who have not had the opportunity to be in "in person" school; we are even more grateful for those who stepped up to make learning for our kids possible this year. Thank you to our school heroes, teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrative assistants, cooks, bus drivers, administrators, and parents who did the right thing for our kids, when doing the right thing was not easy. Health and safety for our kids and family is a core value for us. Over the past year, numerous people in our community have had to wrestle with this core instinct. They have placed others over self and family for the better good of our community. This does not go unnoticed; another generation of people have stepped up when called to make this



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WHAT'S COMING UP?

- 2/26—TEACHER PLANNING DAY/NO STUDENTS
- 3/8—SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION & GR. 7-12 SCHEDULED CONFERENCES
- 3/10—EARLY RELEASE
- 3/16, 18—PREK-12 CONFERENCES

happen for our kids....community over self. Thank you!

Now however is the time to take the next step and bring our grade 7-12 students back to the classrooms. The time for this is now for a few key reasons: The vaccine appears to be working for our elderly population that we were protecting by not spreading the virus through our young community members and the vaccine is now being given to our teaching staff. New guidance from the CDC, MDE, and MDH allow for students to come back. What held true in August or November may not be the guidance today. We have consulted with MDE and MDH and were given permission to proceed with our plan. Virus mitigation strategies like masking, hand washing, contact tracing, and quarantining will continue. MDE and MDH now allow more flexibility on distancing which provide a means for in person learning.

We are seeing county numbers drop across age groups, but especially in the 71 plus age group that have been given priority for the vaccination and who were previously most at risk for severe illness. The past two weeks, through the effort of Goodhue County Public Health we have been able to vaccinate one third of our staff. We anticipate vaccinating many more staff members the next few weeks. These vaccines put our staff who will be working at the 7-12 level in a safer working environment.

Here is our plan and timeline:

Feb. 26th- Pre-K-12 Planning Day- No school for students

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The ZM School board met for their monthly work session on Monday, February 8. Items for discussion included:

1. Policy Review. The following policies were available for board review and adoption at the February 22 meeting:
 - #441 Salary Checks and Deductions
 - #442 Employee Athletic and Event Passes
 - #443 Policy Regarding MSHSL State Tournaments
 - #444 General Professional Personnel
 - #445 Absence from Classroom
 - #446 Licensure
 - #447 Teacher Accountability Policy
 - #448 Probation and Evaluation Teaching Staff
 - #450 Tenure, Separation, Retirement Teaching Staff
 - #452 Substitute Teachers
 - #454 General Non-Teaching
 - #456 Job Descriptions
 - #458 Probation and Evaluation Non-Teaching Staff
 - #460 Retirement, Resignation, Termination Non-Teaching Staff
 - #648 Students at Risk

2. 2021-22 School Calendar: The calendar committee requested a change on the calendar putting the end of the third quarter on March 24 and a teacher workday on March 25, 2022. This will be brought to the February 22 meeting for approval. Mr. Harvey will also check on the February 11 flex day currently scheduled on the calendar. Traditionally that day is a flex day to accommodate the state dance team competition so Mr. Harvey will check if the competition will be held then.
3. Covid 19 Update and Learning Model Discussion: Mr. Harvey reviewed the vaccine rollout and said it was much better now that the counties were administering vaccines in addition to the state. There was discussion on the plan and goals for getting all staff vaccinated and then getting the students back in school. A meeting was held with the MN Department of Health and MN Department of Education to review the state's Safe Learning Plan and the school was given permission to proceed with in person learning. The timeline is as follows:
 - February 26 - PreK-12 planning day. No school for students
 - March 1 - Grade 7-9 students return to the building
 - March 15 - Grade 10-12 students return to the building

Continued on page 3



Members of the FCCLA-Leo Club had a fun afternoon making Valentines for Zumbrota Care Center residents.

Great way to bright up everyone's lives!



Superintendent Message, continued from page 1

March 1st-Grade 7-9 students return to the building
March 15th-Grade 10-12 students return to the building
Students attend four days a week. Wednesday will remain an online day for all Grade 7-12 students.

Considerations:

7-12 Staff must be offered at least one vaccination before March 1st- many will be through two vaccinations by the time the Grade 10-12 students come back. We must continue to see county data improve in case rate trends like the last few weeks.

Students in sports will be allowed to switch to online learning and switch back to in person at the conclusion of their season if they choose.

Shortened Quarantine for in person students is not possible as

six feet of distance is required for these students in days 8-14 of post quarantine.

Quarantine rates may go up, not necessarily case rates. The tradeoff is giving 100% of our students another four days of in person learning every two weeks.

If we have an increase in cases, we must be ready to shift groups to online as needed. Parents and students will still have the option of Distance Learning.

Please stay posted as delays in vaccinations and data on local Covid 19 numbers could shift these dates.

Thank you again for your work this year.

Mike Harvey, Zumbrota-Mazepa Superintendent of Schools

C.A.R.E. CLINIC

The Dental Clinic is open 4 days a week!

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday

Where: 906 College Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066 Door #1

Call for an appointment: 651-388-1022 or go to the website www.careclinicrw.com or email info@careclinicrw.com

Affordable Services are offered at an 80% discount!

- * Cleanings for all ages
- * Fillings
- * Sealants
- * Cavity risk assessment
- * Oral health education
- * X-rays and referrals

The Clinic accepts qualifying uninsured patients and Minnesota Health Care Program enrollees (Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare, including South Country Health Alliance).

Did you know the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a child goes to the dentist by age 1 or within 6 months of when their first tooth erupts?"



CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!!
651-388-1022

- Students attend four days a week. Wednesday will remain an online day for all grade 7-12 students

Considerations for this plan to proceed include:

- All 7-12 staff must be offered at least one vaccination before March 1.
- County data must continue to improve in case rate trends like the previous few weeks
- Students in sports will be allowed to switch to online learning and switch back to in person at the conclusion of their season if they choose.
- Shortened quarantine for in person students is not possible as six feet of distance is required for these students in days 8-14 of post quarantine.
- Quarantine rates may go up, but not necessarily case rates.
- If we have an increase in cases, we must be ready to shift groups to online, as needed.
- Updated distancing language in MDE's Safe Learning plan: six feet of distance no longer a requirement or a must for classrooms. *MDE Guidance for In Person/Hybrid is as follows: systemically review and evaluate classroom capacity with the goal of creating as much space between people as possible, recognizing that it is not always feasible to have six feet of social distancing during primary*

instructional time in the classroom. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends placing student desks at least three feet apart and ideally six feet apart when feasible. Consider reducing class sizes or using alternative spaces with greater capacity to allow for more physical space between people.

The school board adopted the model as presented.

The extended deadline for leaves granted by the Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act resolution was tabled until the February 22 meeting. It is possible the federal government may pass something that would supersede this resolution. Mr. Harvey stated that 32 staff members have used this Families First Leaves act so far this year. He also noted that there is a Memorandum of Understanding with Education Minnesota that has been in effect for this school year.

Construction Update: Adam Frankenburg from Nexus gave an update on the budget for the construction projects along with the construction timeline. He stated the Cougar Care and Primary budget was up a little, but everything else seems to be on target. Demolition in the high school will begin February 15 and elementary work is scheduled to begin in May. Russ Schumacher gave a presentation on the elementary school construction plan, along with an update on the primary school. The meeting concluded with a tour of the



Winter fun in the elementary!



THE POLAR PLUNGE IS BACK!!

- * **When:** Monday, March 15
- * **Where:** Mobile Plunge in the ZM Parking Lot—the only school in southern Minnesota to have this opportunity
- * **How do you sponsor someone?** Follow these easy steps:
 - Go to <https://www.plungemn.org/events/zumbrota-mazeppa-cool-school/>
 - Click the "Register" button on the top left
 - Create a "new" or log in under an existing account
 - Select our Cool School Plunge at Zumbrota/Mazeppa on March 15
- * **What are the \$\$ for?** Money raised goes to support Special Olympics and all the activities and athletes they support—like our own Gopher Bowling Team!!

JOIN US TO HELP FUND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATHLETES OF ALL ABILITIES!!



Monday, March 8
Gr. 7-12 Scheduled Conferences
4:00-8:00 pm
Tuesday, March 16
&
Thursday, March 18
Gr PreK-6 Conferences
4:00-8:00 pm

Make a difference in your child's life—attend conferences!!



ZM Schools is offering free breakfast and lunch for **children ages 0-18** through a state waiver program. This program is similar to the Grab 'n Go meal program that ran this past summer. The waiver for the free meal program will only be in effect until December 31, 2020 or earlier if funds are exhausted. Meals are free to any child age

0-18. ZM requests that the distance learners (NOT the hybrid students) also use this form for ordering meals. (Students currently in school, including hybrid students, are already covered under the free meal program explained in the article above).

To order breakfast and lunch for the week, parents/guardians should complete and submit the form each **Monday by 8:00 a.m.** Meals will be available for pick up by an adult or child/student between 1:30-2:00 p.m. each Wednesday at Door 1 in Mazeppa or the Primary School Door in Zumbrota. It is important that the meals are picked up promptly between the required time frame. Questions? Call 507-732-1400.

Note that the parent/guardian needs to submit a new order form each Monday to ensure an accurate count for Wednesday pick up. **The form is available on the school website (www.zmschools.us) under the "What's Happening".**

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

A poster with a blue and white background. The text reads: "Did you bring your lunch? Add a veggie, fruit and milk for FREE!". Below this, it says "It's as easy as..." followed by three numbered icons: 1 (an apple), 2 (broccoli), and 3 (a carton of milk). The text continues: "Even if you bring your lunch to school, you can receive fresh fruit, veggies and a milk for free at any location served by Lunchtime Solutions!". At the bottom, it says: "Through the end of this school year, the USDA waiver to schools for free meals also allows students who bring their own lunch to supplement it with fresh and healthy choices. All you have to do is go through the lunch line and select a fruit, a veggie and a milk!". The LSI logo is at the bottom.

Dear Parent and Guardians,

We continue to see the number of Covid 19 cases decrease across the County and State. This is great news as we move to have our 7-12 students in school more often as allowed by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of health.

Our school staff have been very fortunate to be offered the vaccine through County Public Health. Most staff will be through the first dose of the vaccine this week and look to be fully vaccinated as we move to the beginning of April. This is great news; however, it does pose an issue when many staff are being vaccinated with a second dose at the same time each week. This will require us to adjust our school calendar as we move into March, below are the changes for March.

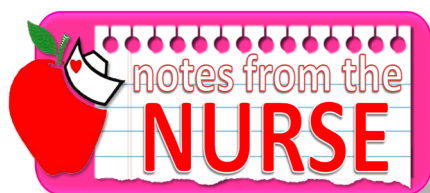


- Friday, February 26th- No School Pre-K-12 as teachers transition into in person learning
- Monday, March 1st- Grades 7-9 return to four days a week in person school
- Monday, March 15th -Grades 10-12 return to four days a week in person school
- Friday, March 5th, March 12th, and March 26th
- Grades K-6 will not be at school and will receive age-appropriate home activities or online activities as directed by their teachers.
- Grades 7-12 will have online learning days
- Wednesday, March 10th will not be an early out day for students. Students will go to school all day. Students will go to school Monday through Thursday the weeks of March 5th, 12th, and 26th.

Emergency worker care and school aged childcare will be available for elementary students on February 26th, March 5th, March 12th, and March 26th.

Thank you for your flexibility as we make these adjustments. The vaccinations are a big game changer in getting more of our students in school more often. Declining Covid 19 rates in our community, along with vaccinations are critical for the safe return of students and staff.

Mike Harvey, Superintendent



Zumbrota Mazeppa Schools currently have three nurses on staff. Two full time Licensed School Nurse (RN) and one full time Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). We have two nurses in Zumbrota; one who covers K-2 grades and one who covers 7-12 grades these nurses also cover Preschool and Christ Lutheran as needed and one nurse in Mazeppa who covers 3-6 grades. The Primary and Elementary nurses rotate schedules between sites so that they work in both buildings and stay familiar with all students.

The health offices have been very busy this year with managing normal childhood illnesses and injuries, chronic conditions as well as all the additional COVID-19 tracking and contact tracing. Please be sure to have current emergency contact information in the Parent Portal so we can get ahold of you if we have a concern with your student.

We are still seeing symptoms of COVID-19, strep throat and the stomach illnesses. Please continue to keep your children home if they are symptomatic and follow the COVID-19 Decision Tree for symptoms and close contacts to positive COVID-19 cases.

Immunizations:

Please check the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus to see if your child is current with school immunizations. Letters are being sent home with 6th grade students reminding them of immunizations are needed before 7th grade. Letters are being sent home to 11th grade students who need their Meningococcal booster, which is due at age 16 and is now a **MN state requirement for 12 grade students before attending school in fall of 2021**. 12th grade students in fall of 2021 will need this immunization before starting the school year.

Human Growth and Development:

We are not able to teach human growth and development in the classrooms this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We do not want students to miss out on this important information. We have created a PowerPoint presentation for the 5th and 6th grade students which can be reviewed with parents at home, along with a video link that will be sent home to parents. This information is designed to give accurate information of body development and change during the period of puberty.

School Board Meeting Minutes

The school board held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 22 beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Recognition was given to Addie Voxland, who was selected by the MSHSL as one of the ExCEL Award recipients for 2020-21 and to Katie G. Kennedy, School Social Worker, who was selected by the Minnesota Juvenile Officers Association for the Pam Taschuk Outstanding Service Award.

Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. Registration for 2021-22 was completed for grades 7-11. Spring conferences will be held via Zoom March 8 and 16. Students in grades 7-9 will be back in school March 1 and grades 10-12 on March 15.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the elementary school. He thanked Dairy partners and the Arendt family for providing lunches for staff this month. Teachers have been listening to presentations on reading curriculum. Parent/teacher conferences will be held in March via zoom. Mr. Rasmussen thanked the board for their service as it is school board appreciation week.

Ms. Ahern reported for the primary school and special education. The ADSIS application has been completed and submitted and two paraprofessional positions have been filled. The students and Mrs. Krause raised over \$16,795 for their heart challenge this month. Primary construction is coming along with furniture for the new addition delivered March 3 and 4 and March as the target date to move into the new classrooms.

Mr. Harvey reported that enrollment was currently at 1,264, holding very steady this entire year.

There was no patron input.

Old Business:

1. The following policies were approved as presented:
#441 Salary Checks and Deductions
2. #442 Employee Athletic and Event Passes
3. #443 Policy Regarding MSHSL State Tournaments
4. #444 General Professional Personnel

5. #445 Absence from Classroom
6. #446 Licensure
7. #447 Teacher Accountability Policy
8. #448 Probation and Evaluation Teaching Staff
9. #450 Tenure, Separation, Retirement Teaching Staff
10. #452 Substitute Teachers
11. #454 General Non-Teaching
12. #456 Job Descriptions
13. #458 Probation and Evaluation Non-Teaching Staff
14. #460 Retirement, Resignation, Termination Non-Teaching Staff

The bid from Glenn Proudfoot and Jennifer Walter for the 2020-21 construction was accepted at \$351,059. The 2021-22 school calendar was approved with the following changes: The February 11 flex day was moved to February 18 to accommodate the state dance competition and the end of the third quarter was moved to March 24 with the teacher workday moved to March 25. The board decided to leave graduation on May 27. The November 11 parent teacher conference was moved to November 16. The board approved the resolution to extend the deadline for leaves granted by the Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act through March 31, 2021.

New Business:

The consent agenda, including payment of bills was approved as follows:

1. Approval of minutes: 1/25/2021 Regular meeting and 2/8/2021 work session
2. Approval of hires:
Justin Guse, paraprofessional, beginning 2/22/21
Joy Post, paraprofessional, beginning 2-22-2021
3. Approval of resignations:
Madeline Lawler, Cougar Care, 2/1/2020
4. Approval of tenure—none
5. Approval of reassignments—none
6. Approval of childcare leave—none
7. Approval of terminations—none
8. Approval of fundraisers—none
9. Approval of donations—none
10. Approval of grants—none
11. Approval of lane changes—Abby Purmal

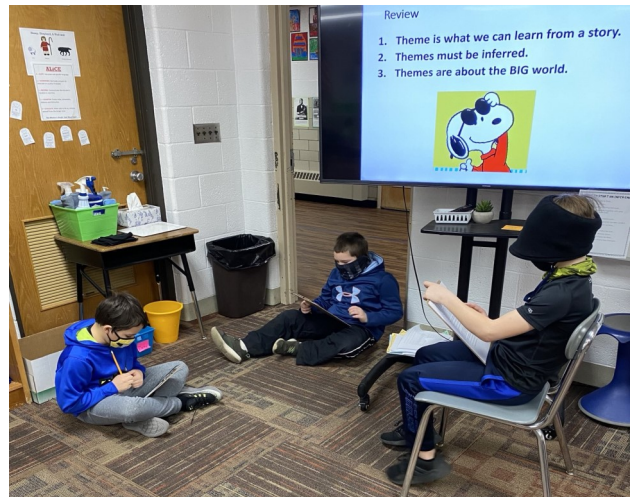
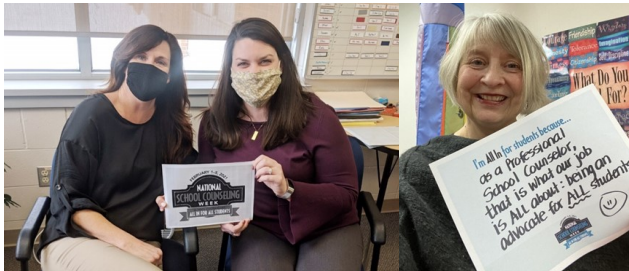
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**STUDENT
DROP-OFF
AND
PICK-UP
AREA**

Effective February 11, all bus drop off and pick-up has moved to the front of the Primary/MS/HS buildings. Due to construction beginning on the high school, buses and parents will not be using the back lot for buses or parent pick-up/drop-off. Buses will be parking in the primary parking lot and on Mill Street in front of the HS/MS. This area is reserved for buses. **Parent drop off and pick-up WILL ONLY BE ON MILL STREET IN FRONT OF THE PRIMARY.** Parents will not have access to the primary parking lot between 7:15 am-8:00 am and 2:45 pm-3:30 pm. Please do not get out of your vehicle; students will come to you. Parents— We ask that you do not enter the Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings parking lot. We ask for your patience during this construction time and thank you for your help and cooperation.

ZM Celebrates their Counselors

National School Counseling Week was celebrated at ZM Schools in February. Middle school counselor Angela Hunstad and high school counselor Chelsie Lockner, along with elementary counselor Pam Potter Langley, are “All In for All Students” and are available to help with academic, social-emotional, mental health and career planning needs. ZM appreciates the hard work these individuals do daily!



Figuring out the story's theme in grade 3

School Board Minutes, continued from page 6

The 2020-22 Maintenance & Coordinator of Health and Safety Management contract for Mike Deming was approved as presented.

Mr. Harvey reviewed the elementary construction project phasing and what the plan will be for future construction. The board approved the mechanical supply package for the elementary as follows:

1. TMS Johnson for the air-cooled scroll water chiller for \$127,220
2. SVL for the modular air handling units for \$16,645
3. SVL for the packaged rooftop units and 23 7415 rooftop energy recovery units for \$182,215.

The total bid package was \$326,080.00

Board Comments and Reports:

Mr. Wendt requested a Covid update from Mr. Harvey. The county numbers are down, and he noted that about half the ZM staff has had their first vaccination. He did discuss with the board the possibility of staff becoming ill after the second vaccination and how to handle staffing and substitutes. Mr. Harvey said one option would be to have the Wednesday distance learning day be moved to Friday as most of the staff will receive the second vaccination on a Wednesday or Thursday. Another option would be to have a K-6 WILD day and the distance learning day on Friday for grades 7-12.

The board would like K-6 to remain as a WILD day, if needed and that grades 7-12 could have their distance learning day on the Friday instead of Wednesday for the three Fridays in March (5, 12, and 26) when teachers could be ill from their second series

of vaccinations. The board would like students to remain in school, if possible.

Mr. Harvey also said the Minnesota State High School League has revised their quarantine recommendation. MSHSL said a shortened quarantine could be implemented, but Mr. Harvey recommended that the full 14 days be used if a student is exposed. Mr. Lohmann questioned the use of masks in wrestling and why wrestlers were not required to wear a mask during competition and basketball players were. He felt all student players should be wearing masks if competing.

There were no additional board comments. Minutes were available from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative, the Goodhue County Education District, and the Southeast Service Cooperative.

Mr. Harvey thanked the school board for their service as it is School Board Appreciation Week February 22-26. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Pertinent Dates

- February 26—Teacher Planning Day/No Students
- March 1—Special Meeting, 7:00 a.m. via Zoom
- March 8 - Gr 7-12 Scheduled Conferences
- March 8 - School Board Work Session, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- March 16 & 18 - PreK-12 Conferences
- March 22 - Regular School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- March 31 - End of Third Quarter

"A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers" –Helen Keller

PREPARE NOW
mn.gov/dhs/p-ebt/

2020-21 School Year Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

There is no application for 2020-2021 P-EBT benefits.



To be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits, your child **MUST** be enrolled in at least one of the following programs:

- Free or reduced-price school meals for the current school year
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/food support/EBT)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP/cash)

Even if your family has chosen full-time distance learning, enroll your children in Free/Reduced-price Meals. P-EBT benefits may be retroactive to September 2020 if you are approved for Free/Reduced-price Meals before February 28, 2021.

Benefit amounts may vary, based on your child's school attendance and distance- or hybrid-learning models. If your child is eligible for 2020-21 School Year P-EBT, a new card will be mailed to you – one for each eligible child. There is no application.

Families who received P-EBT benefits last school year and summer are not automatically eligible.

P-EBT Looks Different!

Act today to be ready...

- ✓ Does your child's school have your current address and contact information?
- ✓ Is your child enrolled in Free/Reduced-price Meals? Think they qualify? Act now! Submit an Application for Educational Benefits (AEB) through your child's school. Questions? Contact your child's school.
- ✓ Think you qualify for SNAP (food)? Want to apply? Act now! SNAP application assistance is available from Second Harvest Heartland at (844) 764-5513 or SNAPRefer@2harvest.org and from other local outreach partners.
- ✓ Already receiving SNAP (food) or MFIP (cash)? Submit reports and documentation on time to keep your case open and active.

P-EBT is NOT SUBJECT to Public Charge rules: EVERYONE who has children receiving Free/Reduced-Price Meals at school can apply! The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Education and Code for America to operate the program. This flyer was created in partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension SNAP-Ed and Second Harvest Heartland SNAP Outreach and Child Hunger programs. These institutions are equal opportunity employers and providers. This flyer does not constitute legal advice.