



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education *CR*

DATE: June 2, 2022

SUBJECT: School Nutrition Program Grants and Flexibilities

In accordance with recent legislative changes, this guidance addresses grants for school nutrition programs for school year (SY) 2021-22. Through a legislative change requested by the State Department of Education (CSDE), Senate Bill 226 authorized the Commissioner of Education to temporarily waive any provision of Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Sections 10-266w (School Breakfast Grant Program) and Sections 10-215, 10-215a, 10-215b, 10-215e or 10-215f (Healthy Food Certification) or modify any requirements relating to the eligibility for participation in these programs in response to any changes in federal law or waivers issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This change was necessary to ensure that local and regional boards of education participating in the federal nutrition programs continue to receive such grants as the State statutes intended and have historically been provided.

School Breakfast Grant Program

Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-266w provides for grants to schools that participate in the Federal School Breakfast Program (SBP) and meet the definition of Severe Need (i.e., 20 percent of the lunches served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the second prior year were served to students eligible for free or reduced-price meals). Under the USDA waivers for school child nutrition programs due to COVID-19, during SY 2021-22 most districts have shifted to operating and serving breakfast through the *Seamless Summer Option (SSO)* of the National School Lunch Program, instead of the traditional SBP. Therefore, pursuant to the aforementioned legislative changes, **I am authorizing the provision of school breakfast grants to eligible schools that: 1) participated in the SBP or offered breakfast meals through the SSO or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during SY 2020-21; and/or had indicated their intent to the CSDE to participate in the SBP during SY 2021-22; 2) are currently a school site serving breakfast under the SBP or SSO; and 3) meet the statutory definition of Severe Need for SY 2019-20.** For questions about this information, please contact the CSDE's [school nutrition program](#) staff.

Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Participation and Funding

C.G.S. Section 215b provides for funding of up to 10 cents per lunch served, to eligible local education authorities (LEA) including local or regional boards of education, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, governing authorities of state charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies, that participate in the NSLP and certify to meeting the Connecticut Nutrition Standards established by the CSDE. Therefore, pursuant to the legislative changes, **I am authorizing the provision of such HFC funding to eligible LEAs that: 1) planned to participate in the NSLP during SY 2021-22; 2) received local board of**

education or governing authority approval to participate in HFC; and 3) submitted the required HFC application documents to the CSDE by July 1, 2021. The CSDE will determine HFC funding amounts based on the number of NSLP, SSO and SFSP lunches (excluding community sites), served in SY 2020-21, subject to available appropriations.

HFC Documentation Requirements

The established procedure for HFC documentation for SY 2021-22 will be as follows: For eligible LEAs in good standing with HFC, the CSDE will accept the approved local board of education or governing authority resolution language certifying compliance already received by the CSDE as sufficient HFC documentation for SY 2021-22. (Refer to [Operational Memorandum No. 03-21](#)). Participating LEAs must still meet HFC requirements and maintain HFC compliance documentation but are not required to submit additional documentation for the current school year. For questions about this information, please contact Susan Fiore at susan.fiore@ct.gov or 860-807-2075.