This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2024. The School Lunch Tray is the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly e-newsletter for Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP, Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).

Click the links in the "Links" column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and the corresponding Table Talk webinar.

Date	Links	Topics
07-10-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-10-2024	 State Funding for Reduced-price Meals for School Year 2024-25 Operational Memorandum No. 13-24: State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant for School Year 2023-24 Operational Memorandum No. 14-24: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Payment for School Year 2023-24 New Culinary Training and Resources from Team Nutrition and the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN)
07-03-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-03-2024	 Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Components, and Noncreditable Foods Resource Roundup: Portion Control and Weights and Measures National School lunch Week: October 14-18, 2024

Date	Links	Topics
06-26-2024	SLT Newsletter 06-26-2024	 No Table Talk for the Summer Updated Meal Patterns and Menu Planning Documents for SY 2024-25 Based on Final Rule Changes Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 for SY 2024-25 Updated Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12 for SY 2024-25 Updated Preschool Meal Patterns for SY 2024-25: NSLP, SBP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Updated Preschool Menu Planning Forms for SY 2024-25 Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern and Menu Planning Form for Grades K-12 for SY 2024-25 Updated CSDE Resources: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP Updated Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards Effective July 1, 2024 Updated Connecticut Nutrition Standards for School Year 2024-25: Effective July 1, 2024 Resource Roundup: "Upcoming Meal Pattern Changes" Section of CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs Webpage USDA Listening Session on the USDA Foods Processing program at SNA Annual National Conference: July 16, 2024
06-19-2024	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 06-19-2024	 Change to Distribution of Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Benefits Local Food for Schools Incentive Program Payments for Third Quarter 2023 Reminder for USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Participants: Receipting Invoices Summary of Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2024-25: USDA's final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Clarification on Potable Water Requirement: USDA's final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 and Preschool in the School Nutrition Programs Resource Roundup: New USDA Program Participation Dashboard FRAC Webinar on June 27, 2024: Gearing Up for Back to School with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks

Date	Links	Topics
06-12-2024	SLT Newsletter 06-12-2024	 Request Alternate Lunch Time Outside the Timeframes of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Due July 1, 2024 Food Safety Inspection Report for SY 2023-24 must be completed in the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Online Application and Claiming System by October 31, 2024 No Table Talk on Thursday, June 13, 2024 Operational Memorandum No. 12-24: Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2024-25 Important Information for Districts Contracting with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Virtual Training: Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership: August 6-8, 2024 USDA Webinar on Final Rule - Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Resource Roundup: Crediting Grain-based Desserts in the School Nutrition Programs
06-05-2024	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 06-05-2024	 Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Summer EBT Customer Service: 1-844-503-6871 Reminder: Requirements for Water Sold in Schools (Plain Water, Sparkling Water, and Seltzer) Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Recipes Using USDA Foods Team Nutrition's School Meals Grab n' Go newsletter: May 2024 Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is Seeking School Meal Standards Resources FRAC Webinar on June 27, 2024: Gearing Up for Back to School with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks ICN Webinar Recording Available: Food Allergies: Ask Me Anything Webinar

Date	Links	Topics
05-29-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-29-2024 Table Talk 05-30-2024	 Reminder: Operational Memorandum No. 10-24: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year (SY) 2023-24 Only – Offsetting Unpaid School Meal Charges Reminder: Operational Memorandum No. 11-24: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Reminder: 2024-25 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 7, 2024 Reminder: USDA Foods Update on Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Login Transition to Login.gov Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, May 30, 2024 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Information Session, Tuesday June 4, 2024, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Reminder: New Connecticut Local Food for School Incentive Program Resource Roundup: Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs
05-22-2024	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 05-22-2024	 Resource Roundup: Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs Operational Memorandum No. 10-24: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year (SY) 2023-24 Only – Offsetting Unpaid School Meal Charge Operational Memorandum No. 11-24: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision USDA Foods Reminder: Processing Sweeps on June 30, 2024 Information Session on Tuesday, May 21, 2024: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Program CSDE Summer Meals Training on May 23, 2024: Local Foods, USDA Foods, and Food Safety New Production Records for the Optional K-8 Meal Pattern for the NSLP and SBP Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Ideas for Using Excess USDA Foods Inventory Join Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print

Date	Links	Topics
05-15-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-15-2024	 2024-25 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 7, 2024 No Table Talk for Thursday, May 16, 2024: Replaced by Summer Meals Training Summer Meals Training on May 16, 2024: Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program Information Session on Tuesday, May 21, 2024: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Program New Connecticut Local Food for School Incentive Program USDA Foods Reminder: Guidance on Complaints Reminder: University of Connecticut Training on Friday, May 17, 2024: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Managing an Excess Operating Balance
05-08-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-08-2024	 Reminder: 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2024 Reminder: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2024-25 Due July 1, 2024 (Full Service) or August 30, 2024 (Vended) Reminder: USDA Webinar Tomorrow (May 9, 2024) on the Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Summer Meals Training for Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors on May 16, 2024: Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program. Reminder: USDA Foods Transfer Request Forms Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week 2024: October 7-11 Resource Roundup: Food Safety for Child Nutrition Programs School Meals Grab n' Go Newsletter: Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals FRAC Webinar: Boosting Breakfast in Older Youth: May 23, 2024 Institute of Child Nutrition (UCN) Recorded Webinar: Recognition of School Culinary Professionals – Spotlight on School Meal Innovations

Date	Links	Topics
05-01-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-01-2024	 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April 2024 Purchases due May 17, 2024 No Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, May 2, 2024 Important Updates for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans USDA Webinar on the Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Resource Roundup: Healthy Fundraising Food Research & Action Center Webinar: Promoting School Breakfast: Tips and Tricks for Marketing Your Program, May 9, 2024
04-24-2024	SLT Newsletter 04-24-2024	 Operational Memorandum No. 09-24: Payment of Fiscal Year 2024-25 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program Updated CSDE Resource: Healthy Celebrations Discover MyPlate Look and Cook Recipe: Garden Bite Team Nutrition Cooks: Salad With Vinaigrette Dressing Team Nutrition Resources for Fruits and Vegetables
04-17-2024	SLT Newsletter 04-17-2024 Table Talk 04-18-2024	 Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, April 18, 2024: Launch of Connecticut's Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for school year 2024-25 Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Starts Summer 2024 Resource Roundup: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Date	Links	Topics
04-10-2024	SLT Newsletter 04-10-2024	 Interest Survey for Summer Meals 2024 Sponsors: Due April 17, 2024 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of March 2024 Purchases due April 19, 2024 Reminder for Public Schools: Schedule Board Meeting Now for the 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement New Foods in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs USDA Child Nutrition Database, Release 27 (CN27) Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Shaking It Up: Small Changes Lead to Big Flavors Webpage Shaping Tomorrow Together: School Nutrition Association (SNA) Annual National Conference, July 14-16, 2024 Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) New Article Details the Process Used to Develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Effective Menu Planning Strategies: A Step-by-Step Approach ICN Webpage: Shaking It Up: Small Changes Lead to Big Flavors
04-03-2024	SLT Newsletter 04-03-2024 Table Talk 04-04-2024	 Celebrate School Lunch Heroes in May 2024 Recording Available for CSDE's SFSP 2024 Annual Sponsor Training Session 1: USDA Updates Connecticut Summer Meals 2024 Outreach Materials Order Form Resource Roundup: USDA's Indirect Costs Guidance Manual Alliance for a Healthier Generation Webinar: Active & Engaged Learning for Afterschool and Summer Programs, April 10, 2024 Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Maximizing Participation in Summer Meals and Summer EBT: April 11, 2024 Connecticut Farm to School Institute Applications for 2024-25: Deadline is April 12, 2024 USDA Team Nutrition Newsletter: School Meals Grab n' Go: Quick Tips to Improve Your Meal Service Alliance for a Healthier Generation Resource: Increasing Student Engagement Through Taste Tests Alliance for a Healthier Generation Resource: Creating Collaborative Nutrition Education: Partnering with Educators and Nutrition Services Alliance for a Healthier Generation On-demand Training: Fresh from the Farm: Farm to School and Out-of-School Time Programs

Date	Links	Topics
03-27-2024	SLT Newsletter 03-27-2024	 Reminder: CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 08-2024 Annual Notification Requirement for All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs): Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Due April 5, 2024 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars USDA Foods Update on Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Login Transition to Login.gov Revised Interschool Agreements for School Year 2024-25 Revised CSDE Resource Lists University of Connecticut Training on Friday, May 17, 2024: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy FoodCorp Service Member Applications for School Year 2024-25 due March 29, 2024 What Two Healthy People 2030 Objectives Indicate About the Nation's Nutrition Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024
03-20-2024	SLT Newsletter 03-20-2024 Table Talk 03-21-2024	 CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 08-2024 Annual Notification Requirement for All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs): Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Due April 5, 2024 Direct Certification Case Management Reminder Review List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated March 18, 2024 Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Special Guest CSDE's Deputy Commissioner Sone-Moyano and a listening session about student unpaid meal debt and charging policies Resource Roundup: Capital Expenditure Approved List for School Food Authority Equipment Purchases Evaluation of the USDA Summer EBT Demonstrations: Lessons Learned from More Than a Decade of Research Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into FRAC's New School Meal Participation Reports, March 21, 2024

Date	Links	Topics
03-13-2024	SLT Newsletter 03-13-2024	 Public Schools: Schedule Board Meeting Now for the 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement USDA Memo SFSP 07-2024 and SP 13-2024: Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Questions and Answers Reminder: How the State Statute Requiring Nutritious and Low-fat Foods Applies to Vending Machines in Public Schools (Section 10- 221p of the Connecticut General Statutes) New Resources: Requirements for Cafeteria A La Carte Foods and Beverages Resource Roundup: Crediting Foods Made from Scratch in School Nutrition Programs Ag Day at the Capitol: March 20, 2024 Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into the Community Eligibility Provision, March 14, 2024 Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition

Date	Links	Topics
Date 03-06-2024	SLT Newsletter 03-06-2024 Table Talk 03-07-2024	 Final Reminder: Orders for USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25 Due March 8, 2024 Happy National School Breakfast Week: March 4-8, 2024 Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, March 7, 2024 USDA Foods Update: Planning Remaining Deliveries for USDA Foods Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of February 2024 Purchases due March 15, 2024 Recording and Slides Available for USDA Community Eligibility Provision 101 Webinar Updated CSDE Resources: Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K- 12 in the NSLP and SBP, Grain Ounce Equivalents for the NSLP and SBP Preschool Meal Patterns, and Servings for Grains/Breads in the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 Revised CSDE Crediting Summary Charts: Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12, Meal Patterns for Grades K- 12 in the School Nutrition Programs, and Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs Resource Roundup: Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP USDA Resources for School Breakfast
		 USDA Resources for School Breakfast Ways to Celebrate School Breakfast Apply for a Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Breakfast Trailblazer Award Celebrate National Nutrition Month 2024: Beyond the Table Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: School Breakfast 101: Implementing Innovative Breakfast Models, Thursday, March 7, 2024
02-28-2024	SLT Newsletter 02-28-2024	 Operational Memorandum No. 06-24: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2024-25: Due July 1, 2024 (Full Service) or August 30, 2024 (Vended) Operational Memorandum No. 07-24: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2024-25: Due July 1, 2024 USDA Resource: Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Manual Resource Roundup: Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs

Date	Links	Topics
02-21-2024	SLT Newsletter 02-21-2024	 Reminder: Orders for USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25 Due March 8, 2024 No Table Talk for Thursday, February 22, 2024 Now Available: CSDE's List of Area Eligible Schools and List of Site Eligible Schools for School Year 2023-24 New CSDE Resources on the Federal and State Requirements for A La Carte Foods and Beverages in School Cafeterias Updated CSDE Resources on Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Schools Resource Roundup: Allowable Beverages in Connecticut Public Schools Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline March 15, 2024 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Webpage: Information on Select Dietary Supplement Ingredients and Other Substances
02-14-2024	SLT Newsletter 02-14-2024	 Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25: Orders due March 8, 2024 Save the Dates: Summer Meal Programs Annual Training 2024 Crediting Hummus in the School Meal Patterns Updated CSDE Resource: Crediting Legumes in the NSLP and SBP Updated CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12 Updated CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP Updated CSDE Resource: Afterschool Snack Program Handbook National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is March 4-8, 2024 Resource Roundup: Staff training with What's in a Meal Module 4 - School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern New look for USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) Recorded Webinar Available from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN): Produce Safety University (PSU) Keeping School Food Safe Starts with Science Recorded Webinar Available from the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN): Optimizing School Nutrition Kitchens: A Guide to Efficient Facility Design and Equipment Selection American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) Membership

Date	Links	Topics
02-07-2024	SLT Newsletter 02-07-2024	 Press Release for CSDE's Summer Meal Programs List of Connecticut Sponsors of the NSLP and SBP for School Year 2023-24 Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2024-25 Using Electronic Production Records Updated CSDE Resource: Determining if Nondairy Beverages Meet the USDA's Nutrition Standards for Fluid Milk Substitutes in School Nutrition Programs Updated CSDE Resource: Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs Update CSDE Guide: Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs USDA Webinar: Community Eligibility Provision 101, February 21, 2024 (Second Training Date) Resource Roundup: Key Information for Connecticut Claims Preparers for School Nutrition Programs Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps: Now Accepting Service Member Applications Tyson K-12 Hunger Heroes: Due March 14, 2024 FoodCorps Free Download of Fruit and Veggie Valentines
01-31-2024	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 01-31-2024	 USDA Memo SFSP 03-2024 and SP 05-2024: Implementation Guidance for the Rural Non-congregate Option Provisions of the Interim Final Rule, Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs USDA Memo SFSP 04-2024 and SP 06-2024: Rural Designations in the Summer Meal Programs – Revised Revised CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP, SBP, and ASP USDA Webinar: Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meals Programs, February 13, 2024 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2024 Purchases due February 16, 2024 New Features and Food Yields in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool Resource Roundup: Sample Letter to Request Food Safety Inspection USDA's Investing in America Signage Guidelines Toolkit New England Feeding New England Connecticut State Brief 2023

Date	Links	Topics
01-24-2024	SLT Newsletter 01-24-2024 Table Talk 01-25-2024	 Reminder: Onsite Monitoring Must be Completed by February 1, 2024 Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, January 25, 2024 Resource Roundup: CSDE's Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs Webpage Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline February 28, 2024
01-17-2024	SLT Newsletter 01-17-2024	 Reminder for Selected NSLP School Food Authorities (SFAs): Complete USDA School Meals Operations (SMO) Study by January 19, 2024 Next Table Talk: Thursday, January 25, 2024 List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated January 17, 2024 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of December 2023 Purchases due January 24, 2024 Resource Roundup: Meal Counting and Claiming Process for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs Safe Meals, Healthy Kids: Food Safety Tips for Safe Summer Meals Webinar: January 31, 2024 Food Solutions New England (FSNE) 21-Day Racial Equity Habit- Building Challenge
01-10-2024	SLT Newsletter 01-10-2024	 Reminder: Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS), Applications Due January 22, 2024 Reminder: Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems (Project SCALES), Applications for First Cohort Due January 26, 2024 USDA 2023-24 School Food Authority (SFA) Survey on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation Resource Roundup: Monitoring Order Status of USDA Foods Recording Available for Team Nutrition's webinar: Level Up Your Professional Standards Tracking School Nutrition Environment and Services: Policies and Practices That Promote Healthy Eating Among K-12 Students

Date	Links	Topics
01-03-2024	SLT Newsletter	CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member to the Child Nutrition
	01-03-2024	Programs Bureau
		Updated CSDE Staff Contact Information
		No Table Talk for Thursday, January 11, 2023
		USDA Foods Update: Foods Available List for School Year 2024-25
		SNACT's Winter Warm Up Conference January 9, 2024
		Reminder: Water Availability During Meal Service
		Resource Roundup: Buy American Justification Form
		New England Dairy Free 30-minute webinar: Chill Out with Cold
		Milk, Thursday, February 1, 2024

For more information, visit the CSDE's School Lunch Tray and Table Talk webpage or contact the school nutrition programs staff at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2024/Summary_SLT_Topics_2024.pdf.

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- 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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