



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of the National School Lunch Program

FROM: Shannon K. Yearwood, Bureau Chief *Shannon K. Yearwood*
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

DATE: January 30, 2026

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum No. 04-26
Interschool Agreements for School Year 2026-27

The interschool agreement forms for school year 2026-27 are posted under "[Interschool Agreements](#)" on the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [Forms for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Sponsors that vend or satellite meals to another district are required to submit and receive approval of an annual interschool agreement to the CSDE. This form must be signed by the authorized representative for the providing sponsor and the recipient site.

- Full-service Interschool Agreements for schools that choose the healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification (HFC) must be submitted to the CSDE by **July 1, 2026**. For more information, see "HFC Payments and Interschool Agreements" below.
- Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreements must be submitted to the CSDE at least two weeks before the start of the school year and no later than **August 31, 2026**.

The interschool agreement must be submitted to the CSDE **before** the local educational agency (LEA) starts serving and claiming meals, even if the LEA lists the site on their district's online agreement.

The CSDE's interschool agreement forms are samples. The LEA may make modifications, such as deleting sections that do not apply. For example, "Section 3 – Healthy Food Certification (HFC)" in the Full-service Interschool Agreements applies only to public schools. Private schools are not eligible for HFC. The LEA should delete section 3 before completing the interschool agreement for a private school.

If the LEA chooses to submit a different interschool agreement form, the LEA is responsible for ensuring that the applicable components outlined in the CSDE's sample forms are included in the LEA's interschool agreement.

HFC Payments and Interschool Agreements

A public school or district (recipient site) that receives meals under contract from a HFC district (providing sponsor) can choose to certify for the healthy food option under HFC and follow the [Connecticut Nutrition Standards \(CNS\)](#). A recipient site that certifies for the healthy food option under HFC must be included in section 3 of the Full-service Interschool Agreement Form between the recipient site and the providing sponsor district. The Full-service Interschool Agreement Form must be submitted to the CSDE by July 1, 2026, for the sponsoring district to receive HFC payments for any recipient sites for school year 2026-27.

For more information on HFC and the CNS, visit the CSDE's [Healthy Food Certification](#) and [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) webpages.

CT Fresh Ed: Compass

All LEAs participating through an interschool agreement will be required to complete the CT Fresh Ed: Compass. The CT Fresh Ed: Compass is designed to capture key elements of Farm to School operations across Connecticut and to support continuous improvement of Farm to School practices within LEAs.

Questions pertaining to interschool agreements may be directed to Fionnuala Brown at (860) 807-2129 or fionnuala.brown@ct.gov.

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Important: This is a numbered Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) operational memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain for future reference. All CSDE operational memoranda are posted on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.