

The School Lunch Tray: January 19, 2022

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

The School Lunch Tray contains the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly email notifications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. This week's topics are listed below.

Action Items

- Reminder: Required Information for Use of USDA Nationwide Waivers by Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors: Due January 31, 2022
- USDA Foods Reminder: Foods Available List for School Year 2022-23

Need to Know

- USDA Foods Reminder: Refrigerated Cheese Items
- Reminder: CSDE's Table Talk Resumes Tomorrow, Thursday, January 20, 2022
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's School Lunch Tray and Table Talk Webpage

Good to Know

- Connecticut's USDA Food Show and Conference Goes Virtual: January 26-28, 2022
- Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Training Sessions for February and March 2022

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. For previous versions of the School Lunch Tray, visit the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage.



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Action Items

Reminder: Required Information for Use of USDA Nationwide Waivers by Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors: Due January 31, 2022

Connecticut sponsors of the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) that wish to use the USDA nationwide waivers during the current COVID public health emergency must indicate to the CSDE which waivers will be implemented at each school/site. All SSO sponsors must complete the required information in the CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) no later than **January 31, 2022**. For instructions on how to enter this information in the CNP System, refer to the CSDE's [Instructions for Completing the "USDA Waivers" Section of Connecticut's CNP System: Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program](#).

USDA Foods Reminder: Foods Available List for School Year 2022-23

Please review the [USDA's Foods Available List](#) for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Contact the [Food Distribution Team](#) with any requests to add or remove any direct delivery items from the catalog for next year's orders by **Friday, January 21, 2022**.

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Need to Know

USDA Foods Reminder: Refrigerated Cheese Items

As a reminder, refrigerated USDA Foods cheese items have a limited shelf life. Please order and use accordingly. The following items are currently in the HPC warehouse. **Note:** Items with multiple expiration dates are from multiple sales orders and will be shipped first in, first out.

Material Code	Item Description	Use By Date
100002	Cheese, Cheddar Shredded White	5/12/22
110396	Cheese, Mozzarella String 1 oz.	3/7/22, 3/15/22, 3/23/22
100018	Cheese, American Yellow	9/3/22
100019	Cheese, American White	3/16/22, 10/25/22

Reminder: CSDE's Table Talk Resumes Tomorrow, Thursday, January 20, 2022

The CSDE's Table Talk will resume tomorrow, Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and will be scheduled every other Thursday. As a reminder, Table Talk takes a deeper dive into the School Lunch Tray and serves as the CSDE's "office hours" for your questions. Tomorrow's session of Table Talk will also provide more information on the CSDE's new *Instructions for Completing the "USDA Waivers" Section of Connecticut's CNP System: Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program*. **Note:** Please have the instructions available during the Table Talk session.

Registration is not required. Please use the link below to join Table Talk on Microsoft Teams.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,339267402#](tel:+18608402075339267402) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 339 267 402#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Resource Roundup: CSDE's School Lunch Tray and Table Talk Webpage

All previous versions of the School Lunch Tray and Table Talk are available on the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage.

Good to Know

Connecticut's USDA Food Show and Conference Goes Virtual: January 26-28, 2022

As we transition into 2022, SNACT and their industry partners, the USDA, and the CSDE have all risen to the challenge. Please review the [Food Show & Conference flier](#) and plan on attending all three days of this trailblazing event.

- **Wednesday, January 26 (1:00-3:30 p.m.)** is “**Watch It Wednesday**” with a virtual food show with over 20 vendors available to visit in their own virtual showrooms.
- **Thursday, January 27 (9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)** is “**Thirsty for Information Thursday**” with an information-packed morning of updates directly from the USDA and CSDE, and a panel session of knowledgeable industry and food service professionals to discuss the many supply chain issues that we all continue to face.
- **Friday, January 28 (8:00-9:30 a.m.)** is “**Follow-Up Friday**” with questions, networking, and idea sharing.

Let's make the best of the situation and have some virtual fun together!

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Training Sessions for February and March 2022

The ICN is offering free, live, interactive training sessions for child nutrition professionals. These virtual training sessions feature individual lessons led by ICN's expert trainers on important topics for child nutrition professionals in school and child care programs. Topics include food safety, food allergies, procurement, nutrition, and many more. Visit <https://theicn.org/vilt/> to view all topics, dates, times, and registration information.



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_01_19_2022.pdf.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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