

The School Lunch Tray: February 16, 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

- Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2022-23: Orders due March 10, 2022
- Operational Memorandum No. 04-22: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2022-23: Due July 1, 2022 (Full Service) or August 30, 2022 (Vended)
- Operational Memorandum No. 05-22: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2022-23: Due July 1, 2022

Need to Know

- Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2021-22
- Resource Roundup: Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Good to Know

- New School Meals Training Opportunities from Team Nutrition: School Breakfast, March 9, 2022
- Now Available: USDA's Supply Chain Assistance for Schools Webinar Recording and USDA's Supply Chain Assistance Funding Opportunities for Schools Comparison Chart Handout
- Updated Team Nutrition Resource: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During Coronavirus (COVID-19): Best Practices for Parent Pick-Up of Meals and Snacks
- March is National Nutrition Month and School Breakfast Week

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

Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2022-23: Orders due March 10, 2022

The Connecticut Food Distribution Program's (FDP) catalog for USDA Foods for school year (SY) 2022-23 opens on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**, in Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM). The deadline to place orders in WBSCM is **March 10, 2022**. Recipient Agencies (RAs) that miss the ordering deadline will **not** receive USDA Foods.

Please carefully review and follow the CSDE's [Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2022-23](#). This document and the [USDA Foods Ordering Worksheets for School Year 2022-23](#) are available in the "[WBSCM](#)" section of the CSDE's FDP webpage. For questions, please contact the [Connecticut FDP staff](#).

Operational Memorandum No. 04-22: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2022-23: Due July 1, 2022 (Full Service) or August 30, 2022 (Vended)

[Operational Memorandum No. 04-22: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2022-23](#) is now available on the CSDE's [School Nutrition Operational Memos 2022](#) webpage. Sponsors that sell USDA meals or Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) snacks to another district or school during school year 2022-23 must complete and submit an interschool agreement to the CSDE.

- The **Full-service Interschool Agreement form** must be submitted to the CSDE by **July 1, 2022**.
- The **Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreements** must be submitted to the CSDE at least two weeks before the start of the school year, but no later than **August 30, 2022**.

The interschool agreement forms are available under "I" on the CSDE's [Forms for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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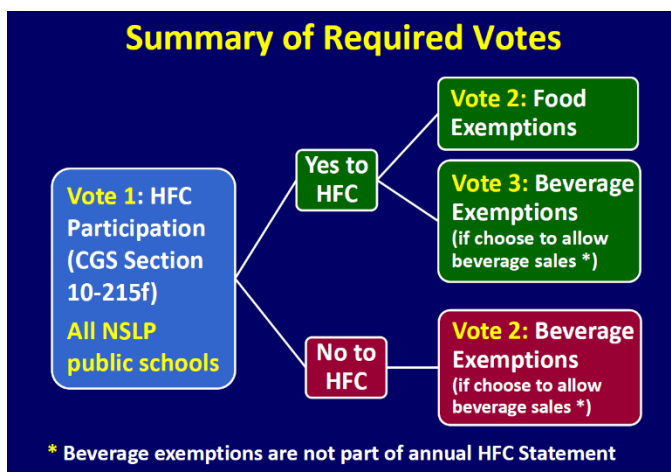
Operational Memorandum No. 05-22: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2022-23: Due July 1, 2022

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that each local board of education or governing authority (BOE) for all Connecticut public school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must **take action annually** to certify whether all food items sold to students will or will not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. This includes all public schools, regional educational service centers, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS), charter schools, interdistrict magnet schools, and endowed academies.

[Operational Memorandum No. 05-22: Requirements for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2022-23](#) is now available on the CSDE's [School Nutrition Operational Memos 2022](#) webpage. This memo provides the required motion language and summarizes the **steps that districts must take now** to ensure the accurate and timely submission of the 2022-23 HFC Statement by the deadline of **July 1, 2022**.

- All BOEs for public schools participating in the NSLP must vote on the **healthy food option** using the exact language contained in Operational Memorandum No. 05-22.
- BOEs that vote “yes” for the healthy food option must also vote on **food exemptions** using the exact language contained in Operational Memorandum No. 05-22.
- All BOEs may choose to vote on **beverage exemptions** using the exact language contained in Operational Memorandum No. 05-22.

The chart below summarizes the required votes.



Districts must schedule the required votes at a meeting of the BOE that occurs **before June 30, 2022**, to enable submission of the HFC Statement and BOE-approved meeting minutes by **July 1, 2022**. If the BOE minutes are not finalized by July 1, the district must submit the draft minutes to the CSDE by July 1, then submit the final BOE-approved minutes as soon as they are available.

For more information and an overview of the application steps, visit the “[Apply](#)” section of the CSDE’s HFC webpage and review the CSDE’s presentation, [Application Procedures for HFC](#).

Need to Know

Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2022-23

The CNS for school year 2022-23 will remain the same as the CNS for the current school year. Visit the CSDE's [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#) webpage for the CNS summary, the full CNS document, and a presentation on the CNS.

Public school districts that choose to implement the healthy food option of Healthy Food Certification under C.G.S. Section 10-215f must follow the CNS for all foods sold to students separately from reimbursable school meals on school premises, at all times and from all sources, including a la carte sales in the cafeteria, vending machines, school stores, fundraisers, culinary programs, and any other sources of food sales to students. For additional guidance, visit the CSDE's [Healthy Food Certification](#) webpage.

Resource Roundup: Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The CSDE's Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is used to notify parents about possible eligibility for SNAP benefits. The English and Spanish versions of this document were recently updated to reflect revised SNAP income guidelines. The revised documents are available under "A" on the CSDE's [Forms for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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Good to Know

New School Meals Training Opportunities from Team Nutrition: School Breakfast, March 9, 2022

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is offering a new webinar series, Meal Talk Webinars. These webinars provide interactive trainings on hot topics related to school meals.

The first Meal Talk webinar focuses on **School Breakfast** and will be held on **Wednesday, March 9, 2022**, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information and to register, please visit <https://usda-fns-events.webex.com/usda-fns-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0e07d9670247b6a994e9d98a7d737f7f>.

Now Available: USDA's Supply Chain Assistance for Schools Webinar Recording and USDA's Supply Chain Assistance Funding Opportunities for Schools Comparison Chart Handout

A recording is now available for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) webinar session, **Supply Chain Assistance for Schools**, which was hosted by the FNS and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on January 21, 2022. This webinar provides an overview of the relief opportunities being implemented by USDA to help schools address challenges they may be experiencing due to disruptions in the food supply chain. Also included is a comparison chart handout describing these various streams of supply chain assistance funding.

- Webinar Recording: [Supply Chain Assistance for Schools](#)
- [Supply Chain Assistance Funding Opportunities comparison chart](#)

Links to these and additional resources are available on the USDA's [Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs](#) webpage.

Updated Team Nutrition Resource: Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During Coronavirus (COVID-19): Best Practices for Parent Pick-Up of Meals and Snacks

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative recently updated their publication, [Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Best Practices for Parent Pick-Up of Meals and Snacks](#). This publication includes information and language about SY 2021-22 waivers and flexibilities, as well as additional tips for improving traffic flow, verifying eligibility, managing alternative pick-up options, and communicating with families. Many of these new suggestions were gathered from schools, child care, and summer meals sites that have successfully implemented parent pick-up in their communities during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

March is National Nutrition Month and School Breakfast Week

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative invites you to celebrate National Nutrition Month® (March 2022) and School Breakfast Week (March 7-11, 2022) by sharing Team Nutrition resources with schools, families, and children. Free printed materials are available to order for Team Nutrition Schools while supplies last. Materials include:

- [Launch Your Day with Breakfast Stickers](#)
- [MyPlate Nate and Kate Stickers](#)
- [Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers](#)
- [Discover New Foods Decal Set](#) (for elementary schools)
- [Fueling My Healthy Life Decal Set](#) (for secondary schools)
- [Stronger with School Meals Educational Materials](#)
 - An Infographic for teachers and parents (in English and Spanish)
 - An Activity Booklet for elementary-aged students
 - Five stickers for students
 - Two buttons for school nutrition professionals

All materials are available for download at TeamNutrition.USDA.gov.

For more resources, visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' [National Nutrition Month®](#) webpage and the School Nutrition Association's [School Breakfast Week](#) webpage.



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_02_16_2022.pdf.

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- (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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