

The School Lunch Tray: March 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

- None

Need to Know

- Secretary Vilsack's Release of USDA Actions for Nutrition Security: Thursday, March 17, 2022
- Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Workshops: Spring 2022
- WBSCM Upgrade and Switch to Google Chrome
- Revised CSDE Guide and Resources on Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs (March 2022)
- Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Invited to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars
- Review Data-Sharing Agreements with Food Service Providers
- Resource Roundup: Put Local on Your Tray

Good to Know

- Dietary Guidelines Professional and Consumer Resources Now Available in Spanish

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.



Action Items

- None

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Need to Know

Secretary Vilsack's Release of USDA Actions for Nutrition Security: Thursday, March 17, 2022

Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack will deliver an address on USDA Actions for Nutrition Security on Thursday March 17, 2022, at 2: 15 pm. at www.usda.gov/live.

Nutrition security means all Americans have consistent access to the safe, healthy, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being. Nutrition security builds on food security by focusing on how the quality of our diets can help reduce diet-related diseases. It also emphasizes equity and tackling long-standing health disparities.

USDA wants to engage with all its partners and stakeholders on ways to increase nutrition security. Together, we can make progress that will change lives and ensure a healthier, more prosperous future for all Americans.

Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Workshops: Spring 2022

Virtual LSWP workshops covering **Steps 3 and 4** will be held on the dates below.

- **Tuesday, March 22**, 9:00 am – 11:00 am (RSVP by Monday, March 21 at 5:00 pm)
- **Tuesday, April 26**, 9:00 am – 11:00 am (RSVP by Friday, April 22 at 5:00 pm)
- **Tuesday, May 17**, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (RSVP by Friday, May 13 at 5:00 pm)

Each 2-hour workshop explains how to complete the final steps to assess your LSWP, which include comparing your scores and creating summaries. If you have not already done so, you will need to complete the [WellSAT 3.0 and WellSAT-I](#) before the workshop. These steps are necessary before you can begin Step 3.

To register, please [complete this form](#) by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the workshop.

For more information about completing Steps 1 and 2, refer to the chart, [How to Complete the LSWP Triennial Assessment](#), on the CSDE's School Wellness Policies webpage.

WBSCM Upgrade and Switch to Google Chrome

Effective Monday, March 14, 2022, the [Web Based Supply Chain Management \(WBSCM\)](#) system was upgraded and is now available to users. While this was primarily a technical upgrade, WBSCM has also switched to **Google Chrome** as the recommended browser going forward. Review the new [WBSCM Browser Settings and Helpful Tips](#) job aid for Chrome-specific settings and other tips, and the [WBSCM Upgrade Summary](#) job aid for a description of changes after the upgrade, browser-based differences, and open issues and associated workarounds.

Revised CSDE Guide and Resources on Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs (March 2022)

The updated resources below provide guidance on the USDA requirements for meal modifications in the school nutrition programs. Please discard any resources downloaded prior to today and replace with the revised versions.

- **Requirements and Guidance**

- CSDE guide: [Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- CSDE presentation: [Managing Food Allergies in the Cafeteria: The Role of School Food Service Managers and Staff](#)
- CSDE presentation: [Requirements for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- Milk substitutes: [Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- Procedural safeguards: [Requirements for Procedural Safeguards for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- Summary chart: [Summary of Requirements for Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#)

- **Developing Policies**

- [Sample Action Plan: Developing District Policy for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Sample Action Plan: Promoting District Policy for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Self-assessment of Local Practices for Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#)

All resources are available on the CSDE's [Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

As a reminder, the USDA requires reasonable meal modifications for children whose disability restricts their diet, based on a medical statement signed by a recognized medical authority. The Connecticut State Department of Public Health defines a recognized medical authority as a state-licensed health care professional who is authorized to write medical prescriptions under state law, i.e., licensed physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN).

Meal modifications for children whose special dietary needs do not constitute a disability are optional. Examples include requests related to religious or moral convictions, general health concerns, and personal food preferences. All optional modifications must comply with the meal patterns.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Invited to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars

SSO sponsors are invited to attend the CSDE's annual Summer Meals training. This training will be held as a series of webinars on Thursdays from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Recorded webinars will be available for those that cannot attend live.

- **April 7, 2022:** Area Eligibility
- **May 5, 2022:** Local Foods, USDA Foods, Food Safety
- **June 2, 2022:** Summer Meals Outreach
- **June 16, 2022:** Hold in event of USDA Updates

Registration is not required for SSO sponsors. To attend each training, use the TEAMS link below.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,811978172#](tel:+18608402075811978172) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 811 978 172#

For questions about Summer Meals Training, please contact caroline.cooke@ct.gov.

Review Data-Sharing Agreements with Food Service Providers

Child nutrition program leads should ensure that their providers (e.g., cafeteria management, free and reduced lunch management, etc.) comply with the State's student data privacy law ([CGS §§ 10-234aa – dd](#)). Among other requirements, the statute requires specific assurances in the agreements that entered into by districts whenever they share data with providers or consultants. Visit the Commission for Educational Technology's [Student Data Privacy](#) webpage for resources to support compliance, including the State's list of compliant products on [LearnPlatform](#), communication templates for outreach to vendors, and the recently released [guidance](#) that further streamlines compliance efforts.

Resource Roundup: Put Local on Your Tray

Spring is a great time to start making plans for incorporating local foods in school meals. The [Put Local on Your Tray](#) website has a wealth of resources to help school food authorities provide and promote healthy and nutritious school meals. School meals help all children access local, healthy, and fresh foods. Farm to School activities create meaningful community relationships between schools, families, and local farms. Buying from local farms also creates and sustains jobs and strengthens the local economy.

Good to Know

Dietary Guidelines Professional and Consumer Resources Now Available in Spanish

As part of National Nutrition Month®, many of the USDA and Health and Human Service (HHS) professional and consumer resources for the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025* are now available in Spanish.

- [Professional resources in English](#)
- [Professional resources in Spanish](#)
- [Consumer resources in English](#)
- [Professional resources in Spanish](#)

Now Available: Team Nutrition Webinars Captioned in Spanish

Team Nutrition recently announced the release of the “Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)!” and “Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator” English webinars captioned in Spanish.

- **Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)!** This webinar provides a demonstration of the PSTTT, as well as an overview of the Professional Standards requirements and resources. The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>.
- **Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator:** This webinar provides an interactive demonstration of the Food Buying Guide (FBG) Calculator, a feature included with the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool. Participants learn how to create a shopping list using the FBG Calculator when ordering food for their programs. The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

For more information about these tools and related resources visit these Team Nutrition webpages:

- [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#)

¡Ya disponible! ¡Seminarios web subtítulos en español!

Team Nutrition se complace en anunciar el lanzamiento de los seminarios web en inglés "¡Domina la herramienta para reportar capacitaciones de los estándares profesionales (PSTTT, por sus siglas en inglés)!" y "Navegando la Calculadora de la Guía de compra de alimentos" subtítulos en español.

- **¡Domina la herramienta para reportar capacitaciones de los estándares profesionales (PSTTT)!** Este seminario web ofrece una demostración de la herramienta para reportar capacitaciones de los estándares profesionales, titulada Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) , y también una descripción general de los requisitos y recursos de las Normas Profesionales. El seminario web se puede ver en inglés y con subtítulos en español en <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>
- **Navegando la Calculadora de la Guía de compra de alimentos** Este seminario web ofrece una demostración interactiva de la Calculadora de la Guía de compra de alimentos (FBG), una función incluida con la herramienta interactiva web de la Guía de compra de alimentos para los Programas de Nutrición Infantil titulada, *Food Buying Guide* (FBG, por sus siglas en inglés). Los participantes aprenden cómo crear una lista de compras utilizando la Calculadora FBG cuando piden comida para sus programas. El seminario web se puede ver en inglés y con subtítulos en español en <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

Para obtener más información sobre estas herramientas y recursos relacionados, visite estas páginas web de Team Nutrition:

- [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
 - [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#)
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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_03_16_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: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-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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