

The School Lunch Tray: March 30, 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.

Need to Know

- Operational Memorandum No. 06-22: Payment of Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program
- Additional Food Allergy Guidance and Resources Added to CSDE's Guide Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs
- Reminder: New Vendor for USDA DoD Program
- Reminder: Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, March 31, 2022
- Resource Roundup: Food Safety Plan

Good to Know

- Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar, April 7, 2022: Think Outside the Service Line with Grab-and-Go Menu Options for NSLP and SFSP
- USDA Farm to School Program Releases Four Updated Fact Sheets
- Farm to School Resources in Institution for Child Nutrition's (ICN) Child Nutrition Sharing Site (CNSS) Resource Hub

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

- None

Need to Know

Operational Memorandum No. 06-22: Payment of Fiscal Year 2021-22 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program

The CSDE's [Operational Memorandum No. 06-22](#) outlines the process used for the payment of fiscal year 2021-22 state funds ("state match") paid as reimbursement to school food authorities (SFAs) that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Please review and share with appropriate staff members. This memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Additional Food Allergy Guidance and Resources Added to CSDE's Guide Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs

On March 16, 2022, the CSDE released an updated version of [Accommodating Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#). This guide has been updated again to include additional guidance on food allergies including key actions for school food service staff to keep the cafeteria safe for children with food allergies, and more food allergy resources. Please discard any versions downloaded prior to today and replace with the revised version.

Reminder: New Vendor for USDA DoD Program

As a reminder, over the next few weeks Connecticut's USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is transitioning to a new vendor, Gargiulo & Son. Based on guidance from Gargiulo & Son, Recipient Agencies (RAs) should continue to place orders under the current USDA DoD Schedule. As the vendor works on the new delivery schedule, they will reach out to individual RAs as necessary with any delivery scheduling adjustments. This makes it critically important that RAS update all contact information in FFAVORS.

Gargiulo & Son will start next week with a limited catalog in FFAVORS and plans to enhance the catalog offerings throughout April. Gargiulo & Son's preferred method of contact is to email their dedicated USDA DoD email address: dodcustomersupport@gargiuloproduce.com. To view the updated vendor information, please refer to the [USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Presentation](#) available on the [CT Food Distribution](#) webpage.

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Reminder: Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, March 31, 2022

Join the CSDE's school nutrition programs staff for Table Talk on March 31, 2022, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Table Talk will review pertinent information from the School Lunch Tray newsletters for March 9, 16, 23, and 30. To submit questions in advance, visit

https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo.

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#

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Resource Roundup: Food Safety Plan

SFAs are required to develop a written food safety plan based on the traditional or process approach to hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) principles. The food safety plan must:

- cover any facility where food is stored, prepared, or served for the purposes of the NSLP, SBP, or other USDA programs;
- include standard operating procedures (SOPs) for safe food handling on school buses, in hallways, school courtyards, kiosks, classrooms, or other locations outside the cafeteria, as applicable; and
- be updated annually with a copy available at each school.

For guidance on developing and implementing a food safety plan, refer to the resources below.

- [Guidance for School Food Authorities: Developing a School Food Safety Program Based on the Process Approach to HACCP Principles](#) (USDA)
- [Writing a HACCP-Based Food Safety Plan for Schools Workshop](#) (ICN)
- [Institute of Child Nutrition \(ICN\) Food Safety Resources](#) (ICN webpage)
- [Food Safety Standard Operating Procedure Templates](#) (ICN)

Good to Know

Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar, April 7, 2022: Think Outside the Service Line with Grab-and-Go Menu Options for NSLP and SFSP

In the current climate of school meals, some service models might have changed in order to serve more students faster. Grab-and-go meals served on or off the service line help meet the needs of operators to increase line speed and help busy students get on their way. Panelists will share how they are using grab-and-go strategies in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). CICN will also share their newest free resource: 20 grab-and-go recipes.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, April 7, 2022, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- Registration: https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d6BVNiSYRmWTUAT3uxZvQw
- *SNA Key Areas:* 1 – Nutrition, 2 – Operations
- *USDA Professional Standards Codes:* 1100 – Menu Planning, 2100 – Food Production, 2200 – Serving Food, 2300 – Cashier & Point of Service
- *Learning Objective:* Incorporate grab-and-go meal service strategies and recipes into school nutrition program operations to increase line speed and participation.

A continuing education certificate will be available 24 to 48 hours after completion of the webinar.

USDA Farm to School Program Releases Four Updated Fact Sheets

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service Farm to School Program has updated and released four fact sheets geared toward various farm to school stakeholders. These fact sheets provide updated guidance and resources, examples from Farm to School grantees, and more.

- [USDA DoD Fresh Program: A Source for Locally Grown Produce](#)
- [USDA Foods: A Resource for Maximizing Food Budgets to Buy Local](#)
- [Local Meat in Schools: Increasing Opportunities for Small and Mid-Sized Livestock Ranchers and Fishermen](#)
- [Selling Local Food to Schools: A Resource for Producers](#)

Farm to School Resources in Institution for Child Nutrition's (ICN) Child Nutrition Sharing Site (CNSS) Resource Hub

The ICN's [CNSS Resource Hub](#) now features a section for [farm to school resources](#). These free resources from various farm to school stakeholders cover a variety of topics, such as building your farm to school team, promoting your farm to school program, native/traditional food resources, and more.



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_30_2022.pdf.

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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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