

The School Lunch Tray: April 20, 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

- USDA Memo SP 08-2022, CACFP 07-2022 and SFSP 03-2022: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs
- Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Workshops: Spring 2022
- Resource Roundup: Recording of CSDE's Information Session about Supply Chain Assistance Funds

Good to Know

- Institute of Child Nutrition (ICS) Webinar: Engaging Student Influencers for Product Selection, Menu Planning, and Program Promotion, May 5, 2022
- Public Input on the Next Dietary Guidelines for Americans: Comments Due May 16, 2022
- FDA Issues Draft Guidance on Evaluating the Public Health Importance of Food Allergens Other Than the Major Food Allergens: Comments Due August 17, 2022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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Need to Know

USDA Memo SP 08-2022, CACFP 07-2022 and SFSP 03-2022: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs

[USDA Memo SP 08-2022, CACFP 07-2022 and SFSP 03-2022](#) addresses the requirements of Sections 740, 751, and 752 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (PL 117-103) (the Appropriations Act), enacted on March 15, 2022. A summary of the information in this memo is below.

- **Vegetables at breakfast:** For school years 2021-22 and 2022-23, school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) may credit any vegetable in place of fruit without including vegetables from other subgroups in the weekly menus.
- **Poultry from China:** Program funds cannot be used to procure raw or processed poultry products from the People's Republic of China (extended through September 30, 2022).
- **Paid lunch equity (PLE) provision:** SFAs with a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2021, must establish a price for paid lunches served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The USDA will be providing additional guidance for SFAs that are required to comply with the paid lunch equity (PLE) provision during SY 2022-23
- **Low-fat flavored milk:** SFAs that are approved by the CSDE for a meal pattern waiver may continue to serve low-fat flavored milk under the USDA's *Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-22*. Beginning July 1, 2022, the transitional meal pattern standards go into effect, allowing low-fat flavored milk to be offered in the NSLP and SBP, and for children ages 6 and older who participate in the Special Milk Program (SMP).

This memo is also available in the "[School Nutrition Memos 2022](#)" section of the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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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, 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.

Resource Roundup: Recording of CSDE's Information Session about Supply Chain Assistance Funds

On April 8, 2022, the CSDE conducted an information session about Supply Chain Assistance funds. This session explained the funding awarded to the CSDE to provide additional funds to assist eligible SFAs experiencing supply chain disruptions. A recording and transcript of the webinar are now available in the "[Supply Chain Assistance Funds for School Year 2021-22](#)" section of the CSDE's [Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks](#) webpage.

Good to Know

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICS) Webinar: Engaging Student Influencers for Product Selection, Menu Planning, and Program Promotion, May 5, 2022

Making meaningful connections with customers has many benefits, including ensuring their needs and expectations are met. Savvy school nutrition program leaders know that student engagement can build trust while driving meal program participation. Join this webinar to learn how three expert panelists are engaging student influencers as a strategy to enhance their school meal programs.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, May 5, 2022, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Registration: https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gMbMMAtmR8uzyHioIZuz2A
- *SNA Key Areas:* 1 – Nutrition, 4 – Communications/Marketing
- *USDA Professional Standards Codes:* 1100 – Menu Planning, 4100 – Communications & Marketing
- *Learning Objective:* Apply student engagement practices to build customer trust and to assist with menu development.

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

Proposed Scientific Questions to Inform the Development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030: Comments Due May 16, 2022

Every five years, the USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) partner to update the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. As the first step in the development process of the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the HHS and USDA have released [proposed scientific questions](#) for public comment. The public comment period is open for 30 days from April 15, 2022, through May 16, 2022, at 11:59 PM.

For more information, visit [Learn About the Process](#) and refer to the additional resources below.

- [Looking Ahead: The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Process](#)
- [News Alert announcing the public comment period for proposed scientific questions](#)
- [HHS Blog about proposed scientific questions](#)
- [Sign up to receive email updates on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans development process and other related news, including future opportunities for public involvement](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- [USDA's Commitment to Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security](#)

FDA Issues Draft Guidance on Evaluating the Public Health Importance of Food Allergens Other Than the Major Food Allergens: Comments Due August 17, 2022

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued [Evaluating the Public Health Importance of Food Allergens Other Than the Major Food Allergens Listed in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic](#)

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[Act](#) on April 18, 2022. When finalized, this draft guidance will outline the FDA's approach to evaluating the public health importance of food allergens that are not one of the major food allergens identified by law in the U.S. The major food allergens are milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans. Sesame becomes the ninth major food allergen effective January 1, 2023.

Comments on the FDA's draft guidance are due by **August 17, 2022**. For more information and guidance on submitting comments, visit the FDA's [Evaluating the Public Health Importance of Food Allergens Other Than the Major Food Allergens Listed in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act](#) webpage and refer to the resources below.

- [Federal Register Notice of Availability](#)
 - [Draft Guidance for FDA Staff and Stakeholders: Evaluating the Public Health Importance of Food Allergens Other Than the Major Food Allergens Listed in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act](#)
 - [Food Allergies](#)
 - [Food Allergens/Gluten-Free Guidance Documents & Regulatory Information](#)
 - [Press Release: FDA Takes New Steps Regarding Evaluating Public Health Importance of Additional Food Allergens](#)
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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_04_20_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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