

The School Lunch Tray: May 4, 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

- Tenth Annual School Lunch Hero Day: Friday, May 6, 2022

Need to Know

- Reminder: Annual Summer Meals Training on Local Foods, USDA Foods, and Food Safety, May 5, 2022
- USDA Foods Order Update for School Year 2022-23: Raisins
- List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated April 25, 2022
- New CSDE Resource: Transitional Sodium Limits for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP): July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024
- New USDA Resource: The Nutrient Analysis Protocols: How to Analyze Menus for USDA's School Meals Programs
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs webpage

Good to Know

- None

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

Tenth Annual School Lunch Hero Day: Friday, May 6, 2022

School Lunch Hero Day recognizes the difference that school nutrition professionals make for every child who comes through the cafeteria. Between preparing healthy meals for America's students, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, school nutrition professionals are true heroes.

For the past two years, School Lunch Hero Day has taken on a new meaning with the challenges that COVID-19 has brought on to school meal operations. School Lunch Heroes across the country have worked diligently throughout the pandemic to make sure students continue to receive healthy meals. School Lunch Hero Day is the perfect opportunity to provide well-deserved recognition to these professionals for their hard work and dedication to the health and well-being of students. Visit the School Nutrition Association's [School Lunch Hero Day](#) webpage for more information.

Need to Know

Reminder: Annual Summer Meals Training on Local Foods, USDA Foods, and Food Safety, May 5, 2022

The next session of the CSDE's annual Summer Meals training covers Local Foods, USDA Foods, and Food Safety. This webinar will be held on **Thursday, May 5, 2022**, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. SSO sponsors are invited to attend. Use the Teams link below to attend the training.

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.

USDA Foods Order Update for School Year 2022-23: Raisins

Connecticut has one full truck and one partial truck of raisins coming in August 2022. One partial truck of individual boxed raisins (material code 100293) has been canceled due to insufficient bids. The expected delivery date for this shipment was August 15, 2022. Recipient Agencies should review their Requisition Status Reports carefully to see if they are affected by this cancellation.

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List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated April 25, 2022

Updated lists of foods and beverages are now available on the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage. New products on the lists are indicated by pink highlighting on the manufacturer and product name. Items that have been **added or deleted** since the last update are listed on the CSDE's document, [Summary of Updates to Approved Food and Beverages](#).

These lists identify foods that comply with Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) and beverages that comply with the state beverage statute (Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes) and the USDA Smart Snacks beverage standards. Foods on this list also comply with Smart Snacks because the CNS requirements are stricter than the Smart Snacks food standards.

For additional guidance, visit the "[How to Evaluate Foods for CNS Compliance](#)" section of the CSDE's Connecticut Nutrition Standards webpage.

New CSDE Resource: Transitional Sodium Limits for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP): from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024

The CSDE's resource, [Transitional Sodium Limits for the NSLP and SBP](#), summarizes the weekly sodium limits for lunch and breakfast that are in effect from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2024. The transitional sodium limits are part of the USDA's final rule, [Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium](#). Additional guidance on sodium reduction in school meals is available in the "[Dietary Specifications \(Nutrition Standards for School Meals\)](#)" section of the CSDE's [Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

New USDA Resource: The Nutrient Analysis Protocols: How to Analyze Menus for USDA's School Meals Programs

The USDA's *Nutrient Analysis Protocols: How to Analyze Menus for USDA's School Meals Programs* (NAP Manual) assists school nutrition professionals and state agencies with the process of obtaining an accurate nutrient analysis of menus using a USDA-approved software program. The NAP Manual provides guidance for calculating the nutrient analysis of menus offered in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). It is designed to help school nutrition programs plan and execute their nutrient analyses.

The NAP Manual is divided into seven chapters and includes a glossary and resource list.

- Purpose of Nutrient Analysis and Introduction to Dietary Specifications
- Selecting Software for Nutrient Analysis
- Overview of Calculating a Nutrient Analysis
- Preparing for a Nutrient Analysis
- Entering Food Items into Your Software's Database
- Adding a Recipe to Your Software's Database
- Analyzing Menu Plans and Special Considerations

The NAP Manual is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Nutrient-Analysis-Protocols-Manual>.

Resource Roundup: CSDE's Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs webpage

The CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage lists all applicable CSDE and USDA memos for the school nutrition programs. Click on "[School Nutrition Memos 2022](#)" in the grey box to access the current year's memos.



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_05_04_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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