

The School Lunch Tray: June 1, 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

- Reminder: Annual Summer Meals Training on Outreach, June 2, 2022
- Child Nutrition Database Release 25
- Updated USDA Resource: A Guide to Smart Snacks in School
- Reminder: Next Table Talk is Thursday, June 9, 2022
- Resource Roundup: Buy American Justification Form

Good to Know

- New USDA Resources: Tip Sheets on Crediting Fruits and Crediting Vegetables in Child Nutrition Programs

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

Reminder: Annual Summer Meals Training on Outreach, June 2, 2022

The next session of the CSDE's annual Summer Meals training covers Outreach and will be held on **Thursday, June 2, 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.

Child Nutrition Database Release 25

The Child Nutrition Database, Release 25 (CN25), is now available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/child-nutrition-database>. The CN25 is a required database for nutrient analysis software approved by USDA for use in school meals. After July 1, 2022, school food authorities (SFAs) and local schools should verify with their nutrient analysis software company that the software includes the most current version of the Child Nutrition Database (version CN25).

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Updated USDA Resource: A Guide to Smart Snacks in School

The USDA's Team Nutrition recently updated [A Guide to Smart Snacks in School](#) to include the following changes:

- a new cover and publication date of May 2022;
- updated information about the types of milk that meet Smart Snacks Standards in accordance with [Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium](#);
- updated website link for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Smart Snacks Product Calculator;
- updated instructions on entering multi-unit packages in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's [Smart Snacks Product Calculator](#);
- removed the image of the old Nutrition Facts label; and
- new content for additional nutrition education resources on page 15.

Note: The Smart Snacks food standards apply to sponsors of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), including private schools, residential child care institutions (RCCIs), and public schools that do not participate in [Healthy Food Certification](#) (HFC). The Smart Snacks beverage standards apply to private schools, RCCIs, and all public schools. For more information, visit the CSDE's [Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpages.

Reminder: Next Table Talk is Thursday, June 9, 2022

The next Table Talk is June 9, 2022, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNOZDo.

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)

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Resource Roundup: Buy American Justification Form

The Buy American requirements for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are summarized in [USDA Memo SP 38-2017: Compliance with and Enforcement of the Buy American Provision in the NSLP](#). As a reminder, on the rare occasion that school food authorities (SFAs) are considering purchasing non-domestic products, the CSDE's [Buy American Justification Form](#) must be used to justify exceptions. For additional resources, visit the "[Buy American Provision](#)" section of the CSDE's Procurement for School Nutrition Programs webpage.

Good to Know

New USDA Resources: Tip Sheets on Crediting Fruits and Crediting Vegetables in Child Nutrition Programs

The USDA recently published two new tip sheets on crediting fruits and vegetables in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). These simple, easy-to-use references highlight crediting basics for these two meal components. They address requirements common to all CNPs, as well as requirements that are specific to each program. Program operators can test their knowledge of the meal component requirement with a question-and-answer section.

These tip sheets are part of a series that include Milk, Meats/Meat Alternates and Whole Grains. They are available at the USDA's [Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Printed versions of these tip sheets and more tips sheets on crediting the other meal components will be available later.



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](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, School Health, Nutrition and Family Services, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_06_01_2022.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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