

The School Lunch Tray: June 22, 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

- Final Reminder: First Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Due June 30, 2022
- Final Reminder: School Year 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement due July 1, 2022
- Final Reminder: Full-service Interschool Agreements for School Year 2022-23 due July 1, 2022

Need to Know

- School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds
- Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 for School Year 2022-23
- Updated Preschool Menu Planning Forms for School Year 2022-23
- Updated ASP Sample Menus for Grades K-12 and Preschoolers
- Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs
- Summer Meals Training Materials 2022
- Reminder: Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, June 23, 2022
- Resource Roundup: Requirements for Financial Management of the School Nutrition Programs

Good to Know

- New Food Buying Guide Mobile App Training Videos

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

Final Reminder: First Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Due June 30, 2022

The USDA's final rule, [Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the HHFKA of 2010](#), requires that each local educational agency (LEA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) must complete an assessment of their LSWP at least once every three years. LEAs must complete the first LSWP assessment by June 30, 2022, and make this assessment available to the public. For guidance on the steps and resources to complete this requirement, visit the "[What's Next](#)" section of the CSDE's School Wellness Policies webpage.

Final Reminder: School Year 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement due July 1, 2022

As indicated in [Operational Memorandum No. 05-22: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\) Statement for School Year 2022-23](#), all public school sponsors of the NSLP must complete the annual HFC Statement and upload the board of education's meeting minutes by **July 1, 2022**, using the CSDE's [Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (CNP System). The CSDE's [Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2022-23](#) provide important information and specific steps for completing the HFC Statement in the CNP System. For questions about the HFC application process, please visit the "[Apply](#)" section of the HFC webpage or contact Susan Fiore at susan.fiore@ct.gov.

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Final Reminder: Full-service Interschool Agreements for School Year 2022-23 due July 1, 2022

Sponsors that sell USDA meals or snacks to another district or school during school year 2022-23 must complete and submit an interschool agreement to the CSDE. Email completed interschool agreements to Sean Fogarty at sean.fogarty@ct.gov.

- The **Full-service Interschool Agreement form** must be submitted to the CSDE by **July 1, 2022**. A public school or district (recipient site) that receives meals under contract from a HFC district (providing sponsor) can choose to certify for HFC through this interschool agreement (section 3). For the sponsoring district to receive HFC payments for any recipient sites, the interschool agreement must be submitted to the CSDE by **July 1, 2022**. If the CSDE receives the interschool agreement after this date, the recipient site's lunch counts will not be included in the total number of reimbursable lunches that are used by the CSDE to determine HFC payments for school year 2022-23.
- The **Recipient Site Vended Interschool Agreements** must be submitted to the CSDE at least two weeks before the start of the school year, but no later than **August 30, 2022**.

The interschool agreement forms are available under "I" on the CSDE's [Forms for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. For more information, review [Operational Memorandum No. 04-22: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2021-22](#).

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Need to Know

School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds

During the last Connecticut General Assembly, 30 million dollars was allocated to the CSDE for “Free School Meals for Children.” Referred to as the School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) funds, SMART funds will allow school food authorities (SFA) that participated in the Seamless Sumer Option (SSO) of the NSLP in school year (SY) 2021-22 to continue to provide meals at no cost to all students for a longer duration of time while allowing for a smoother transition for households to submit free and reduced-price meals applications in SY 2022-23.

The SMART funds will reimburse SFAs the difference between the Federal reimbursement rate for free meals and the reduced-price and paid reimbursement rates. SFAs that receive SMART funds cannot charge students for reimbursable lunch and/or breakfast meals regardless of their individual student eligibility until the SMART funds have been expended.

Sites participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for SY 2022-23, new NSLP sponsors, and SFAs operating the NSLP (not the SSO) in SY 2021-22 are NOT eligible to receive SMART funds.

More detailed information regarding the SMART fund operational requirements and specific allocation amounts will be sent out over the summer along with resources, guidance, and other needed materials. **Eligible SFAs will be required to either opt in to or opt out of the SMART funds and must meet the deadlines identified in the materials that will be sent out to SFAs in order to participate.**

Please check your emails **weekly** throughout the summer to ensure that you do not miss notifications regarding SMART funds for SY 2022-23.

Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 for School Year 2022-23

The updated [ASP meal pattern for grades K-12](#) for school year 2022-23 (effective July 1, 2022) is now available in the “[Meal Patterns for the ASP](#)” section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage. These forms are dated June 2022.

Updated ASP Sample Menus for Grades K-12 and Preschoolers

Updated sample ASP menus for grades K-12 and preschoolers are available in the “[Menu Planning for the ASP](#)” section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage.

- [Sample ASP Menu for Ages 3-4](#)
- [Sample ASP Menu for Grades K-12](#)

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Updated Preschool Menu Planning Forms for School Year 2022-23

Updated preschool menu planning forms for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) are available in the [Menu Forms for Preschoolers](#) section of the CSDE's [Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. These forms are dated June 2022.

Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's meal pattern comparison charts are updated for school year 2022-23. These documents summarize and compare the meal pattern requirements for preschoolers and grades K-12 in the school nutrition programs. They also provide links to applicable crediting resources.

- **ASP:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program of the NSLP](#)
- **NSLP and SBP:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- **Grains:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Grains Component in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- **Milk:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Milk Component in School Nutrition Programs](#)

These documents are available in the "[Comparison Charts](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs webpage.

Summer Meals Training Materials 2022

The slides, recordings, and transcripts for the 2022 Connecticut Summer Meals training webinars are available on the CSDE's [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#) webpage. Sponsors of the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) would especially benefit from the following trainings:

- Area Eligibility on April 7, 2022
- USDA Foods, Local Foods, and Food Safety on May 5, 2022
- Summer Meals Outreach on June 2, 2022
- Summer Meals Program Flexibilities (Waivers) on June 16, 2022

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

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Reminder: Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, June 23, 2022

Join the CSDE's school nutrition programs staff for Table Talk on June 23, 2022, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Table Talk will review pertinent information from the School Lunch Tray newsletters for June 15 and 22. 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: Requirements for Financial Management of the School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's new guide, [Requirements for Financial Management of the School Nutrition Programs](#), contains information and resources to help school food authorities (SFAs) comply with the federal and state regulations for financial management of the USDA's school nutrition programs. This guide is the go-to resource to help SFAs understand the requirements for maintaining a nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA), determine allowable and unallowable expenses, and identify and allocate indirect costs. This guide applies to all public schools, private schools, and residential child care institutions (RCCIs) that participate in the NSLP, SBP, Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, ASP, and Special Milk Program (SMP).

Good to Know

New Food Buying Guide Mobile App Training Videos

Team Nutrition's training videos on navigating the Food Buying Guide (FBG) Mobile App are now available. These short videos are broken into four chapters to provide users with step-by-step instructions on using the Mobile App and its different components. These training videos, along with existing FBG Web Tool training videos, are accessible within the FBG Web Tool under the 'Help' tab from the top navigation menu. Additional trainings are available on Team Nutrition's [FBG Training Resources](#) webpage. The FBG is available at <https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/>.



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_22_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; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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