

## The School Lunch Tray: June 29, 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**

- Listening Session for Connecticut Sponsors of the Child Nutrition Programs: Thursday, June 30, 2022
- June 2022 Claim for Reimbursements
- Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Pattern Components, and Noncreditable Foods
- Authorized Signatures Change Form
- Draft Department of Public Health Regulations to Implement the FDA Food Code
- Resource Roundup: Revised USDA Guide: Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs

### **Good to Know**

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Retailer Locator

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.



# The School Lunch Tray: June 29, 2022

## Need to Know

### Listening Session for Connecticut Sponsors of the Child Nutrition Programs: Thursday, June 30, 2022

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recognizes that there has been an unprecedented amount of pivoting in the Child Nutrition Programs during the COVID-19 public health emergency. As we prepare to embark on the next chapter of Child Nutrition Program operations and incorporate the recent federal and state level opportunities ahead, we want to hear from you. The CSDE is hosting a one hour listening session on **Thursday, June 30, 2022, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.** for sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and School Breakfast Program and NSLP.

**Note:** The CSDE will **not** be presenting. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, concerns, and questions with the CSDE about the Child Nutrition Programs.

Please use the link below to join the discussion. No pre-registration required. Please submit questions in advance at [https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo](https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo).

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, 799194658#](tel:+18608402075799194658) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 799 194 658#

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## June 2022 Claim for Reimbursements

Some school districts had snow days this school year that changed the operating days for June. If this occurred in any of your schools, the error message below may appear when you try to prepare your claims in the Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System).

Code	Error Description
27313	Seamless Summer Option/School Lunch; 'Number of Operating Days' cannot exceed the number of days entered on the site application.
27513	Seamless Summer Option/School Breakfast Program; 'Number of Operating Days' cannot exceed the number of days entered on the site application.

If this occurs, please access the CNP System and update the number of operating days in June for each applicable SSO site in the 2021-22 application, then submit for CSDE approval. Questions may be directed to your [school county consultant](#).

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## Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Pattern Components, and Noncreditable Foods

The CSDE has updated the crediting resources for the meal patterns for grades K-12 and preschoolers in the school nutrition programs. These resources are listed in the chart below.

- The crediting resources for the NSLP and SBP meal patterns for grades K-12 are available on the CSDE’s [Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Refer to the “[Documents/Forms](#)” section for the resources for each meal pattern components.
- The crediting resources for the preschool meal patterns are available in the “[Related Resources](#)” section of the CSDE’s Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage.
- The crediting resources for the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) meal patterns are available in the “[Meal Patterns for the ASP](#)” section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage.

Please discard any previous versions dated prior to June 2022 and replace with the updated versions.

**Note:** Several resources for the grains component (shaded in orange) are still in the process of being updated, pending additional USDA guidance. They will be available later this summer.

Crediting resource	Applies to	
	Grades K-12	Preschoolers
<b><i>Product Documentation</i></b>		
• <a href="#">Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Product Formulation Statements</a>	✓	✓
<b><i>Meat/Meat Alternates</i></b>		
• <a href="#">Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Deli Meats in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Legumes in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Yogurt for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Requirements for Alternate Protein Products in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓

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Crediting resource	Applies to	
	Grades K-12	Preschoolers
<b>Vegetables and Fruits</b>		
• <a href="#">Crediting Juice for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Crediting Juice for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Smoothies for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Crediting Smoothies for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Soup in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Vegetable Subgroups in the NSLP</a>	✓	
<b>Grains</b>		
• Crediting Enriched Grains in the NSLP and SBP <i>coming soon</i>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• Crediting Whole Grains in the NSLP and SBP <i>coming soon</i>	✓	✓
• <a href="#">Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP <i>coming soon</i>	✓	
• <a href="#">Calculation Methods for Grains/Breads Servings for Grades K-12 in the ASP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• <a href="#">Grains/Breads Servings for Grades K-12 in the ASP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">How to Identify Creditable Grains for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓
• Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 <i>coming soon</i>	✓	
<b>Noncreditable Foods</b>		
• <a href="#">Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	✓	
• <a href="#">Noncreditable Foods for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>		✓

### Authorized Signatures Change Form

The ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (Agreement) is the formal agreement between a sponsoring organization and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to operate one or more of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs. The Agreement designates representatives authorized to:

- enter into an agreement with the CSDE;
- review and certify the claims for reimbursement; and
- sign-off on other state and federal forms requiring an official signature.

The CSDE recognizes that one or both of the authorized signers will change periodically. The sponsoring organization must execute the *Authorized Signatures Change Form* whenever there is a change to either of the two authorized signers. An updated form can be scanned and emailed to [CNPermanentAgreement@ct.gov](mailto:CNPermanentAgreement@ct.gov). Include "Authorized Signatures Change Form" in the subject line of the e-mail.

- [Authorized Signatures Change Form and Instructions](#)

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### Draft Department of Public Health Regulations to Implement the FDA Food Code

In 2017, legislation was passed that modified the Connecticut General Statutes to include language to adopt the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code and allow the Department of Public Health (DPH) to adopt regulations to implement the Code [See §19a-36h (a) and (b)]. The DPH Food Protection Program (FPP) recently announced that the draft regulations to implement the FDA Food Code are now posted on the Secretary of State website initiating a 30-day comment period. The draft regulations can be found at [eRegulations - Regulation Making Record For Tracking Number PR2018-017](#). The 30-day comment period that began on the day the regulations were posted will end on July 18, 2022.

Until the proposed regulations receive final approval, certified food inspectors have been instructed to continue to enforce Sections 19-13- B40, 19-13-B42, 19-13-B48, and 19-13-B49 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

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### **Resource Roundup: Revised USDA Guide: Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Farm to School Program recently released the revised guide, *Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs*, which provides an overview of federal procurement principles and covers topics related to sourcing and purchasing local foods, for state agencies and child nutrition program operators. This guide highlights a variety of mechanisms schools can use to purchase local products while complying with federal procurement regulations. Featured are examples of how to:

- target local foods when conducting both formal and informal procurements;
- use the Geographic Preference option; and
- use the USDA Foods and DoD Fresh Programs to enhance local purchasing.

The revised guide and other local procurement resources for child nutrition program operators are available on the USDA's [Procuring Local Foods](#) website.

### **Good to Know**

#### **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Retailer Locator**

The [SNAP Retailer Locator](#) allows anyone to locate nearby SNAP-authorized retailers by entering a street address, city and state, or zip code. Enter your starting location and select a retailer or map point to get details and directions. Although the tool is designed to help SNAP recipients, it is also helpful for other government entities, community organizations, and others aiding SNAP recipients.

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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](#) 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\\_29\\_2022.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_06_29_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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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