

The School Lunch Tray: July 6, 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

- Revised USDA Nondiscrimination Statement and "And Justice for All" Posters

Need to Know

- USDA Webinar: Child Nutrition Flexibilities and Support for Summer 2022 and School Year (SY) 2022-23, Thursday, June 7, 2022
- Updated CSDE Civil Rights Complaint Procedure and PowerPoint Presentation
- Updated CSDE Resource: Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs
- Resource Roundup: Financial Management: A Course for School Nutrition Directors

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

Revised USDA Nondiscrimination Statement and “And Justice for All” Posters

On May 5, 2022, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) Civil Rights Division issued a memorandum informing FNS program recipients that the prohibition of discrimination based on sex in Title IX and the Food and Nutrition Act includes gender identity and sexual orientation. The changes impact the USDA nondiscrimination statement (NDS) and the *And Justice for All* (AJFA) posters. The revised USDA NDS includes updated language for all other FNS programs and is available on the CSDE’s [Nondiscrimination Statements](#) webpage.

All documents, pamphlets, websites, and similar materials should be updated with the 2022 NDS as indicated below.

1. Websites must be updated by **August 3, 2022**.
2. Documents, pamphlets, brochures, and similar materials that use the 2015 NDS language must be updated when the current supply on hand is exhausted or by **September 30, 2023**.
3. All new printing must use the 2022 NDS.

New AJFA posters are being designed and printed and will be distributed to all school food authorities when they are received. AJFA posters currently posted cannot be removed until they are replaced with the new poster. The 2019 AJFA poster language should be updated on websites, training presentations, and any pending printing of brochures, pamphlets, and materials; and replaced with the appropriate 2022 version.

Note: The USDA NDS statement is available in other languages on the USDA FNS [Nondiscrimination Statement](#) webpage. The Spanish version of the NDS is not available yet.

Need to Know

USDA Webinar: Child Nutrition Flexibilities and Support for Summer 2022 and School Year (SY) 2022-23, Thursday, June 7, 2022

On Thursday, July 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in collaboration with national partners will present the webinar, *Child Nutrition Flexibilities and Support for Summer 2022 and School Year (SY) 2022-23*. This webinar will provide an overview of the recently enacted KKFA, and discuss the additional resources and flexibilities available for summer, school, and child care programs during summer 2022 and SY 2022-23. Registration is available at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4OsGjsCZTdeh9Dpj8s_3gQ.

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Updated CSDE Civil Rights Complaint Procedure and PowerPoint Presentation

Updated versions (dated July 2022) of the CSDE's Civil Rights presentation and overview of the presentation (six slides per page) are available under the "[School Nutrition Programs](#)" section of the CSDE's [Civil Rights for Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. An updated version of the CSDE's Sample [Civil Rights Complaint Procedures for School Nutrition Programs](#) is also available. Please discard any previous versions. As a reminder, the USDA requires that all staff members who work with program applicants or participants must receive annual Civil Rights training. This includes front line staff, supervisors, determining officials, verifying officials, and hearing officials.

Updated CSDE Resource: Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's [Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs](#) is updated to reflect the milk component requirements effective July 1, 2022. As a reminder, the USDA allows only two types of milk substitutes for children whose dietary needs do not constitute a disability.

1. **Lactose-free or lactose-reduced milk** that meets the appropriate fat content for each grade group. For grades K-12, lactose-free and lactose-reduced milk must be low-fat or fat-free (either unflavored or flavored). For preschoolers, lactose-free and lactose-reduced milk must be unflavored whole for age 1 and unflavored low-fat or fat-free for ages 2-4.
2. **Nondairy milk substitutes that meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes**, such as certain brands of soy milk. Other types of nondairy milk substitutes (such as almond milk, rice milk, oat milk, and cashew milk) do not meet the USDA's requirements. **Note:** Not all brands of soy milk meet the USDA's nutrition standards for fluid milk substitutes. Before purchasing any type of soy milk, SFAs should review products to make sure they comply with the USDA's requirements. The CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage ([list 17](#)) indicates USDA compliant products.

Juice, water, and any other beverages not specified above can **never** substitute as the milk component for a child *without* a disability.

Resource Roundup: Financial Management: A Course for School Nutrition Directors

Directors must make difficult decisions about long-term goals to ensure the sustainability of the Child Nutrition Programs and must also meet the increasing demands for improved financial and nutritional accountability. School districts need financial management information systems that provide data for evaluation and financial decision-making. The Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) course, [Financial Management: A Course for School Nutrition Directors](#), assists new and experienced school nutrition directors with managing the financial aspects of their school nutrition programs. This course is designed to help participants recognize sound financial principles and concepts as the primary foundation for school nutrition programs.



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_07_06_2022.pdf.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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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