

The School Lunch Tray: July 13, 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

- Reminder: Waiver Flexibilities for Summer Meals 2022
- Area Eligibility Waiver Applications Now Being Accepted

Need to Know

- New USDA Nationwide Waivers: Child Nutrition Flexibilities and Support for Summer 2022
- USDA DoD Fresh Program Over the Summer Update
- USDA Foods Cut-up Chicken Cancellations
- CT Grown for CT Kids Grants
- Resource Roundup: Indirect Cost Guidance

Good to Know

- U.S. COVID Atlas

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.



Action Items

Reminder: Waiver Flexibilities for Summer Meals 2022

On June 30, 2022, the USDA released and the CSDE opted in to nationwide waivers which have immediate impact on summer meals operations (see “New USDA Nationwide Waivers: Child Nutrition Flexibilities and Support for Summer 2022” in the “Need To Know” section below).

The [Keep Kids Fed Act](#) extended USDA’s authority to issue nationwide waivers for summer programs, including waivers allowing for continued use of the flexibilities in place last summer, such as; waivers for non-congregate meal service, parent/guardian pick-up, and meal service times, that enabled sponsors to implement “grab and go” and other non-congregate meal service models. Since Connecticut opted in to all of these waivers, sponsors approved to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) need to notify the CSDE’s Summer Meals Staff if they intend to implement these waivers. SFSP sponsors should contact their [SFSP county consultant](#) and SSO sponsors should notify Caroline Cooke.

Sponsors implementing these waivers must maintain documentation of:

- schools/sites using each waiver;
- start and end date for each waiver used in the program;
- which waivers were implemented at which sites;
- the dates the waivers were implemented;
- supporting documentation (e.g., production records, point-of-service meal counts, menus, edit check worksheets) for all waivers; and,
- how this waiver resulted in improved services to program participants.

Sponsors will be required to report this information to the CSDE at a later date.

Area Eligibility Waiver Applications Now Being Accepted

The USDA has extended Connecticut’s ability to approve summer meals sites to operate in areas that do not meet the previously authorized options to establish area eligibility. Please note that **any sponsors intending to implement the area eligibility flexibility are required to submit an [Area Eligibility application](#)** (*Application for Area Eligibility for Emergency Meals Distributions During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*) to CNPermanentAgreement@ct.gov and must have an approved application **prior to beginning operations**.

The Area Eligibility application is available in the “[How To](#)” section of the CSDE’s Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks webpage.

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Need to Know

New USDA Nationwide Waivers: Child Nutrition Flexibilities and Support for Summer 2022

On June 30, 2022, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released several new Child Nutrition Program (CNP) nationwide waivers and flexibilities based on authority amended by the KKFA of 2022 to support CNP operations in summer 2022. These waivers and flexibilities increase funding, support access, and balance operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals.

- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #107](#): Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility for Summer 2022 Operations - Extension 5
- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #108](#): Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2022 Operations - Extension 4
- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #109](#): Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates for the Seamless Summer Option in Summer 2022

On July 6, 2022, the USDA FNS issued the additional waivers below.

- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #111](#): Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 7
- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #112](#): Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION
- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #113](#): Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 4
- [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #114](#): Nationwide Waiver of the Summer Sponsor Application Deadline and to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval for Summer 2022 Operations

These waivers are posted in the “[USDA Waivers](#)” section of the CSDE’s Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks webpage.

USDA DoD Fresh Program Over the Summer Update

Recipient agencies (RAs) that would like to order USDA DoD Fresh for their Seamless Summer Operations may begin placing orders this week for delivery next week. Delivery days remain the same. RAs will need to use their NSLP allocations for SY 2022-2023 for these orders. The \$150 minimum per drop site still applies. All other protocol for the DoD Fresh Program must be followed. For specifics on the current contract, please review the [contract details](#). There will likely be additional funding available later in the school year for the DoD Fresh Program.

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USDA Foods Cut-up Chicken Cancellations

The USDA continues to experience challenges in obtaining poultry products for SY23. After unsuccessfully receiving offers for cut-up chicken, material 111361, the USDA canceled the orders below in WBSCM. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is conducting market analysis to determine what quantities are available for future buys, specifically for delivery periods from October through December. Results from this analysis will assist in future chicken purchase schedules and hopefully ensure additional vendor participation. Please plan accordingly if you have any cases on these trucks. Continue to run weekly Requisition Status Reports so you can track what items have been purchased and canceled, as supply chain issues continue.

Material Code	Item	Sales Order	Requested Delivery Date
111361	Chicken Cut Up 40#	5000765472 Bonus	8/31/2022
111361	Chicken Cut Up 40#	5000765471 Entitlement	9/30/2022

CT Grown for CT Kids Grants

The Farm to School Collaborative spearheaded efforts that lead to establishing the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program. The first round of awards were made in early 2022, with a variety of Farm to School projects funded. A [summary](#) of the projects is available on the [Connecticut Department of Agriculture's webpage](#). A second round will be opening soon, to continue to support Farm to School efforts. Look for an announcement later this summer.

Resource Roundup: Indirect Cost Guidance

The USDA's guide, [Indirect Costs: Guidance for State Agencies & School Food Authorities](#), provides assistance to school food authorities (SFAs) and business officials to ensure that nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA) funds are limited to those expenses that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable to provide quality meals for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Visit the CSDE's [Financial Management for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage for comprehensive information on the financial requirements for school nutrition programs.

Good to Know

U.S. COVID Atlas

The [U.S. COVID Atlas](https://uscovidatlas.org), led by University of Chicago with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), is a near real-time visualization tool that helps you access current, validated county-level data and spatial analysis to better understand the spread in communities and to bolster planning efforts.

- Identify hotspots in real-time.
- Track vaccination rates by region or county.
- Locate areas that will soon be affected by the virus.
- Connect social, economic, and health indicators for meaningful community context.

Explore your county's data at <https://uscovidatlas.org>.



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_13_2022.pdf.

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
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