

## The School Lunch Tray: July 27, 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**

- Update: Free and Reduced-price Eligibility Forms for School Year 2022-23
- Resource Roundup: CSDE Guide: Requirements for Financial Management of the School Nutrition Program

### **Good to Know**

- New USDA Tip Sheet on Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates in Child Nutrition Programs
- Meal Talk: Local School Wellness Policies Webinar: Wednesday, August 17, 2022
- USDA Farm to School Program Announces Fiscal Year 2022 Farm to School Grant Awards

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.



## Need to Know

### **Update: Free and Reduced-price Eligibility Forms for School Year 2022-23**

This is a reminder that sponsors still cannot access some specific forms on the [Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs](#) website. These forms must reflect the recent legislative and waiver changes. We understand the urgency in getting these forms to all sponsors and will issue them as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

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### **Resource Roundup: CSDE Guide: Requirements for Financial Management of the School Nutrition Program**

The CSDE's 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 information in 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).

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## Good to Know

### **New USDA Tip Sheet on Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates in Child Nutrition Programs**

The USDA's new [Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates in Child Nutrition Programs](#) tip sheet is designed for program operators as a handy and easy-to-use reference on how to credit meats and meat alternates and incorporate them into the meal pattern requirements.

This tip sheet is part of a series that are available on the USDA's webpage, [Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs](#). Printed versions of the tip sheet series will be available at a later date.

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### **Meal Talk: Local School Wellness Policies Webinar**

On Wednesday, August 17, 2022, the USDA's Team Nutrition initiative will present a [Meal Talk](#) webinar on Local School Wellness Policies. This webinar will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Registration is available at <https://usda-fns-events.webex.com/usda-fns-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=eabb988fd7866c203ef395c4254df15e9>.

Team Nutrition staff and guest speakers from South Carolina's Local Wellness Policy State Technical Assistance Team and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will share how to energize, strengthen, and assess local school wellness policies. Attendees will leave with new ideas for increasing engagement and excitement about school wellness in their communities, including among administrators, teachers, parents, students, and more.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. List three actions school food authorities (SFAs) can take to renew their local school wellness policies for School Year 2022-23.
2. Identify three strategies to engage school administration, staff, and families in local school wellness policies.
3. Name two ways to strengthen local school wellness policies based on triennial assessment findings.

This webinar will be offered with closed captioning. Participants who require a different accessibility tool to participate in this webinar may contact Sheila Kopczynski by August 3 at [sheila.kopczynski@usda.gov](mailto:sheila.kopczynski@usda.gov) or 208-202-2811.

For questions regarding this webinar, please contact [TeamNutrition@USDA.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@USDA.gov).

### **USDA Farm to School Program Announces Fiscal Year 2022 Farm to School Grant Awards**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Farm to School Program recently announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Farm to School Grant awards. For the 2022-2023 school year, the Farm to School Grant Program will provide more than \$10 million in grants to 123 farm to school projects spanning 44 States and the District of Columbia with seven projects serving Native American communities. These grants will serve more than 3 million children at more than 5,000 schools, where almost two-thirds (62%) of students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

Congratulations to Connecticut's own Groton Public Schools for being one of the 2022 Farm to School Grant award recipients!

- **Groton Public Schools**, in Connecticut, will expand its successful Farm to School Program to the new Thames River Magnet Elementary School (TRMS). TRMS is located in a USDA-designated "food desert" and serves over 500 students, 50 percent of whom are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This project will purchase garden beds, an industrial-size greenhouse, and associated educational materials to grow foods for partnering schools.

For more information, refer to the USDA's [press release](#).

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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\\_07\\_27\\_2022.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_07_27_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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