

# The School Lunch Tray: August 3, 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

- School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds
- SMART Funds Information Session: Thursday, August 4, 2022

## Need to Know

- CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 13-22: Carryover of a Student's Eligibility for School Year 2022-23
- USDA Foods Update on Remaining Inventory from School Year 2022
- New Resource: USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs
- CICN Webinar: Introducing the USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs, Thursday, August 4, 2022
- Resource Roundup: USDA's Eligibility Manual for School Meals

## Good to Know

- Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Back-to-School Toolbox
- Team Nutrition Resources Available in Print for School Year 2022-23
- New Job Titles for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)
- Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Gearing Up for Back to School Year 2022–2023, August 11, 2022

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

### School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds

Pursuant to Public Act No. 22-118 (House Bill 5506), 30 million dollars of federal American Rescue Plan Act (2021) funds was allocated to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) for the Free School Meals for Children grant. The intent of these funds is to assist households through school food authorities continuing to provide school meals at no cost to students for as long as possible in school year 2022-23 as they transition back to operating the NSLP and SBP.

Please refer to [Operational Memorandum No. 14-22: School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition \(SMART\) Funds](#) for important information about this grant. The Operational Memorandum includes the three attachments below.

1. [Attachment 1: Questions and Answers: SMART funds for School Year 2022-23](#)
2. [Attachment 2: SMART Funds List of Eligible School Food Authorities for School Year 2022-23](#)  
If the SFA is not listed, do not submit the SMART Funds Attestation Statement.
3. [Attachment 3: SMART Funds Attestation Statement](#)  
**All eligible NSLP sponsors must complete the Attestation Statement** (including eligible sponsors not opting in to the SMART funds opportunity). The Attestation Statement is due to the CSDE by **August 19, 2022**.

All SMART funds documents are available on the CSDE's website: [Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19](#).

**Note:** Residential child care institutions (RCCIs) that do not have day students and school food authorities with all schools under their sponsor agreement participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for SY 2022-23, are **not required** to complete and submit the SMART Funds Attestation Statement since they are not eligible for SMART funds.

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## The School Lunch Tray: August 3, 2022

### SMART Funds Information Session: Thursday, August 4, 2022

Join the CSDE's School Nutrition Team for a 30-minute information session about the *School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds*. This session will explain the SMART funds grant allocation and how the funding will assist SFAs with providing school meals at no cost to students for as long as possible in school year 2022-23, during the transition back to operating the NSLP and SBP.

- Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022
- Time: 2:00-2:30 p.m.
- Platform: Microsoft TEAMS (use log in information below, you do not need a Microsoft account to join)

**Join on your computer or mobile app:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: **284 627 396 66** Passcode: **faqay3**

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Or call in (audio only):** [+1 860-840-2075,,812833491#](#) United States, Hartford Phone Conference ID: 812 833 491#

## Need to Know

### CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 13-22: Carryover of a Student's Eligibility for School Year 2022-23

The CSDE's [Operational Memorandum No. 13-22](#) provides important information and guidance regarding the carryover of a student's eligibility for school year 2022-23.

### USDA Foods Update on Remaining Inventory from School Year 2021-22

HPC will continue to deliver inventory remaining on your allocations from school year 2021-22 over the summer. If you can take delivery of any of your product in the next few weeks, please submit an order and HPC will work with you on a delivery date. Please contact Steve Cop at [Scop@hpcfs.com](mailto:Scop@hpcfs.com) with any questions regarding deliveries.

### New Resource: USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs

Team Nutrition, in partnership with the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN), recently released the [USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs](#). This resource is a "how-to" guide on recipe standardization for school nutrition recipe developers. The guide is designed to be a complete source of information on recipe standardization from conception to implementation of a recipe.

### **CICN Webinar: Introducing the USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs, Thursday, August 4, 2022**

On Thursday, August 4, 2022, the CICN will present the webinar, “Introducing the USDA Recipe Standardization Guide for School Nutrition Programs.” This webinar will provide an overview of the guide, including a discussion on the benefits of standardized recipes and the three-phase approach to the recipe standardization process. Register at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

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### **Resource Roundup: USDA’s Eligibility Manual for School Meals**

The USDA’s [Eligibility Manual for School Meals](#) is a comprehensive resource to help school food authorities (SFAs) understand the requirements for determining and verifying students’ eligibility status for school meals and milk. This guide addresses the federal requirements, policies, and procedures for establishing eligibility in the school nutrition programs. It is your go-to resource for information about all areas related to processing applications and conducting the verification process. The latest version is dated July 18, 2017.

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## Good to Know

### **Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Back-to-School Toolbox**

The ICN's [Back-to-School Toolbox](#) with resources for returning, new, and aspiring school nutrition professionals. You can plan professional development using ICN's toolbox, conveniently organized by staff categories: Front-Line Staff, Managers, Menu Planners, and Directors. Each category provides links to ICN Trainings, [iLearn](#) Online Courses, [Virtual Instructor-Led Training](#) (VILT) opportunities, and ICN Resources for download.

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### **Team Nutrition Resources Available in Print for School Year 2022-23**

Program operators, and sponsoring organizations that participate in the USDA's Child Nutrition Programs can request free printed copies of Team Nutrition's materials. Orders may be placed using the links below.

- [Dig In! Poster Set](#)
  - [Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs -Kit](#)
  - [Healthier Middle Schools: Every Food Service Manager Can Help](#)
  - [Healthier Middle Schools: Every Parent Can Help](#)
  - [Healthier Middle Schools: Every Student Can Help](#)
  - MyPlate Guide to School Lunch [[English](#)] [[Spanish](#)]
  - MyPlate Posters [[Blue/Magenta](#)] [[Green/Yellow](#)]
  - Offer Versus Serve Lunch Posters [[Elementary School](#)] [[Middle School](#)] [[High School](#)]
  - Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast [[English](#)] [[Spanish](#)]
  - [Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals](#)
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### **New Job Titles for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)**

PSTTT users who do not have required Professional Standards training hours, such as administrative support staff and volunteers, now have the option to select from two new job titles for their PSTTT profile. The two job titles, "School Food Authority – Non-Food Service Employee" and "School Food Authority – Volunteer," both have the annual required training hours set as "0." These new job titles apply to users assigned to the "Director" role (who may be logging training for multiple employees) or "Employee" role. The creation of these two new job titles was in response to user requests. Access the PSTTT at <https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>.

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### **Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Gearing Up for Back to School Year 2022-23, August 11, 2022**

As students and schools across the country gear up to return to the classroom this fall, FRAC is hosting a webinar to share tips and best practices for school and afterschool meals. As many schools return to pre-pandemic child nutrition operations, it is more important than ever to consider various options for optimizing school and afterschool meal service.

Join FRAC and a panel of experts as they discuss topics including the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), collecting school meal applications, breakfast after the bell, and afterschool meals, and answer your questions looking ahead to the 2022-23 school year.

- Date and time: Thursday, August 11, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
  - Registration: [Cisco Webex Meetings - Register Meeting](#)
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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\\_08\\_03\\_2022.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_08_03_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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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