

The School Lunch Tray: August 10, 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

- Webinar Recording Available for the School Meals Assistance Revenue Transfer (SMART) Funds Information Session on August 4
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number for SMART Funds

Need to Know

- Operational Memorandum No. 15-22: Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two-cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in School Year 2022-23
- Operational Memorandum No. 16-22: Federal Meal Reimbursement Rates for School Year (SY): July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- Direct Certification Rollover for SY 2022-23
- Resource Roundup: Free and Reduced-price Meal Documents and Forms for SY 2022-23

Good to Know

- USDA Webinar on August 24, 2022: Unpaid Meals: Best Practices to Ensure Student Access to Meals
- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

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

Webinar Recording Available for the School Meals Assistance Revenue Transfer (SMART) Funds Information Session on August 4

The webinar recording, transcript, and presentation slides for the information session on SMART funds held on Thursday, August 4, 2022, are now available in the “[How To](#)” section of the CSDE’s Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19. As a reminder, 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**.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number SMART Funds

On April 4, 2022, the Federal government transitioned away from the use of the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and toward the new Unique Entity ID (UEI) as the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards government-wide. Entities that registered at SAM.gov should have already been assigned a new UEI.

Some school food authorities that are in the process of completing the SMART funds application have inquired about the UEI number. The UEI is a **unique 12-character alpha-numeric identifier** assigned to all entities (public and private entities, individuals, institutions, or organizations) who are required to register to do business with the federal government at [SAM.gov](#). This transition is a federal, government-wide initiative. The new UEI is required of state, regional, and local agencies, along with nonprofit organizations who receive federal funding; and subgrantees of state, regional, and local agencies.

Please note that if your school/district does **not** have a UEI number, *the release of SMART funds will be delayed* until you can submit the UEI number. For more information, please check with your business manager, superintendent, or the person who oversees grants.

Need to Know

Operational Memorandum No. 15-22: Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two-cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in SY 2022-23

Operational Memorandum No. 15-22 addresses the guidelines used to determine SFA eligibility for severe need breakfast and lunch in SY 2022-23. This memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Operational Memorandum No. 16-22: Federal Meal Reimbursement Rates for SY: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

[Operational Memorandum No. 16-22](#) summarizes the annual adjustments to the federal reimbursement rates for local educational agencies (LEAs) for lunches, breakfasts, afterschool snacks, and milk served to students participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), and Special Milk Program (SMP); and the NSLP reimbursement rate for USDA donated foods for SY 2022-23. This memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Direct Certification Rollover for SY 2022-23

The direct certification web application is currently closed. The CSDE IT department is working on completing the first direct certification match for school year 2022-23. The system should be open by next week. The CSDE will issue an email to all sponsors when it is available.

Resource Roundup: Free and Reduced-price Meal Documents and Forms for SY 2022-23

All documents and forms for free and reduced-price meals are updated and posted in the "[Documents/Forms](#)" section of the CSDE's [Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Good to Know

USDA Webinar on August 24, 2022: Unpaid Meals: Best Practices to Ensure Student Access to Meals

The goal of the school meal programs is to provide nutritious meals to children during the school day. Children who qualify for free meals may receive breakfast and lunch at no cost; however, sometimes, children who are not certified for free meals enter the cafeteria without the funds needed to purchase a breakfast or lunch. This is a difficult situation for the child and school nutrition staff. This webinar features panelists who will share proactive strategies to prevent and manage unpaid meal charges as schools return to standard counting and claiming in SY 2022-2023. A question-and-answer session will be available after the presentation.

- **Date and time:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- **Registration:**
https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_wmYduGJzT8SQenQyxZ1iXQ

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The ACP was created by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help households struggling to pay for internet service. The ACP provides eligible households up to \$30 per month (or \$75 per month for households living on Tribal lands) toward their internet bills, as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet.

The FCC is mobilizing people and organizations to help raise awareness about the ACP. School food authorities (SFAs) may be interested in providing outreach to their households regarding this benefit.

All households with a child who was approved to receive free or reduced-price school meals under the NSLP or SBP within the last 12 months, including children who attend schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), are eligible for ACP benefits. Households are also independently eligible if 1) their income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$55,500 for a family of four); or 2) a member of the household participates in certain other Federal benefit programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Medicaid, and Federal Public Housing Assistance. Families can check their eligibility, sign up, and find fully covered plans at [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) (mobile-accessible and available in Spanish) or by calling 877-384-2575.

ACP Resources

Multiple resources (see below) were created to assist SFAs with getting the message to their parents and guardians. These materials below are available for public use and can be downloaded and customized as needed. Note that the ACP Outreach Toolkit contains fliers (in English and Spanish) that SFAs may want to include in the back-to-school packets.

- [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov)—a one-stop shop to learn about ACP, check eligibility, enroll, and find fully covered internet plans.

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- [ACP Outreach Toolkit](#)—outreach materials from the FCC, including sample factsheets, fliers, PSAs, text messages, social media posts, and more.
 - Outreach partners can request the pre-qualification widget to embed on their own websites by emailing ACProgram@usac.org with the subject line “ACP Widget.” In the email, please include the web address where you plan to add the widget. The interactive widget includes questions to check eligibility and apply for ACP.
 - White House [Fact Sheet](#) on the ACP and its benefits.
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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_10_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

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