

# The School Lunch Tray: August 24, 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**

- Required Training Reminder: Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program

## **Need to Know**

- CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member to the Child Nutrition Programs Unit
- CSDE Child Nutrition Programs Staff Contact Information for School Year 2022-23
- Updated USDA Resource: A Guide to Smart Snacks in School
- Resource Roundup: Updated and New Common Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

## **Good to Know**

- Head Back to School with MyPlate: Resources for Parents and Caregivers
- USDA's School Nutrition Environment Web Quiz
- New USDA Resource: How School Lunch is Made and How You Can Help

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

### Required Training Reminder: Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program

As a reminder, the CSDE's new **Determining Eligibility** training program is a series of recorded modules that provide guidance on complying with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations for determining a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or free milk in the [school nutrition programs](#) and free meals in the [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#). This training program is intended for school staff responsible for approving applications, conducting direct certification, and ensuring the accuracy of eligibility determinations through the verification process.

This training program is **required** for determining officials and direct certification contacts. Review this training **before** beginning the process of reviewing applications and direct certification for the new school year.

The **Determining Eligibility** training program consists of the modules below.

- Module 1: Introduction to Application Certification and Verification
- Module 2: Processing Applications
- Module 3: Direct Certification
- Module 4: Test Your Knowledge About Processing Applications
- Module 5: Confidentiality and Disclosure
- Module 6: Verification
- Module 7: Completing the FNS 742 Verification Summary Report

The first five modules are available now. Modules 6 and 7 will be released in early fall.

For more information and to access the training modules, visit the "[Related Resources](#)" section of the CSDE's [Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

**Note:** Completion of these modules counts toward the USDA's professional standards training requirements for school nutrition professionals.

## Need to Know

### CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member to the Child Nutrition Programs Unit

The CSDE is pleased to welcome Greg King, the newest member of the Child Nutrition Programs unit. Greg has over 25 years of diverse food service management experience ranging from casual dining to high-end catering and corporate food service. Most recently, Greg was the food service director in South Windsor public schools. Greg will be working with the school nutrition programs team.

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### CSDE Child Nutrition Programs Staff Contact Information for School Year 2022-23

Updated versions of the CSDE's handouts, [County Assignments for School Nutrition Programs](#) and [Child Nutrition Staff and Responsibilities](#), are available on the CSDE's [Contact Information for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The *County Assignments for School Nutrition Programs* handout lists the CSDE's technical assistance consultants for school nutrition programs, and indicates which consultant is assigned to each county. This is the person you should first contact with questions about school nutrition programs. The *Child Nutrition Staff and Responsibilities* handout lists all staff in the CSDE's Child Nutrition Programs and includes a list of their key responsibilities.

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### Updated USDA Resource: A Guide to Smart Snacks in School

The USDA recently updated [A Guide to Smart Snacks in School](#) to reflect policies and guidance for current and upcoming school years. This publication is designed for anyone who sells foods and beverages to students outside of the school meals programs on the school campus during the school day.

**Note:** This resource applies only to private schools, residential child care institutions (RCCIs), and public schools that choose **not** to implement Healthy Food Certification (HFC). **This resource does not apply to HFC public schools**, which must follow the [HFC requirements](#) and [Connecticut Nutrition Standards](#).

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### Resource Roundup: Updated and New Common Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE has two documents that include lists of common acronyms and abbreviations used in the school nutrition programs.

- **Updated:** [Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs](#) contains common acronyms and abbreviations used in the USDA's school nutrition programs.
- **New:** [Common Acronyms and Abbreviations for Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program](#) contains common acronyms and abbreviations related to determining and verifying eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk in the school nutrition programs and free meals in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

## Good to Know

### Head Back to School with MyPlate: Resources for Parents and Caregivers

The MyPlate.gov website has food and nutrition information based on the five food groups – fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy. You can also find information and resources specific to different ages, such as [kids aged 5-11 years old](#). Need a few tips to get started? MyPlate has easy-to-use and practical tip sheets just for these young children.

- MyPlate Guide to School Breakfast [[English](#), [Spanish](#)]
- MyPlate Guide to School Lunch [[English](#), [Spanish](#)]
- [Healthy Eating for Kids](#)
- Kids tip sheet [[English](#), [Spanish](#)]

Looking for some fun and engaging activities to entertain and educate the kids? The MyPlate website has activities for parents/caregivers and kids to do together.

- Healthy Snacking with MyPlate [[English](#), [Spanish](#)]
- [MyPlate food group quizzes](#)
- MyPlate coloring sheet [[English](#), [Spanish](#)]

The “[Life Stages](#)” section of the MyPlate.gov website also has healthy nutrition information, tips, and healthy recipes for other age groups.

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### USDA’s School Nutrition Environment Web Quiz

Are you a school wellness champion? Test your knowledge with the USDA’s new [web quiz on the school nutrition environment](#). This quiz is also available as a widget that can be embedded and displayed on other webpages.

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### New USDA Resource: How School Lunch is Made and How You Can Help

Inspired by questions that the USDA receives from students about school lunch, Team Nutrition’s newest publication “[How School Lunch is Made and How You Can Help](#)” is part of Team Nutrition’s Fueling My Healthy Life collection for middle school classrooms. This 12-page article is connected to eighth grade educational standards and provides information to students about what’s in a school meal, who decides what’s on the menu, and how students can influence what’s offered.

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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\\_24\\_2022.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_08_24_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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