

The School Lunch Tray: September 28, 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

- USDA Foods Diced Peach Cups Offering for November Delivery
- CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations

Need to Know

- School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) Conference: *Navigating Nutrition: From Choppy Seas to Smooth Sailing!* October 14-15, 2022
- Update: USDA DoD Fresh Delivery
- National School Lunch Week (NSLW) is October 10-14, 2022
- 2023 Advanced Placement® (AP) Testing and Sharing of a Student's Eligibility
- CT Grown for CT Kids Week October 3-7, 2022
- Resource Roundup: Important Points for Completing Verification

Good to Know

- Team Nutrition Schools and NSLW and free resources
- Awareness Campaign for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

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

USDA Foods Diced Peach Cups Offering for November Delivery

The USDA Foods Catalog will be open today through Friday, September 30, 2022. One item is available: Material Code 100241, [Peach Freestone Diced Frozen Cup, 96 4.4 ounce cups](#). These are scheduled for delivery to HPC in the beginning of November. Please only place orders for the amount that the school food authority (SFA) will use. If you need additional entitlement to place the order, please contact the [Food Distribution Program staff](#) to request an adjustment to the SFA's entitlement. Please note that orders may be adjusted due to a limited number of trucks available.

For assistance with gaining access to [Web Based Supply Chain Management \(WBSCM\)](#) for the first time, contact the [Food Distribution Program Staff](#). For guidance on placing orders, please refer to the [WBSCM Training Guide](#), starting on page 39.

CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations

The CSDE is aware that SFAs may be continuing to experience challenges with the supply chain. If you continue to experience supply chain challenges, please complete the [CSDE's brief survey](#) to report supply chain issues impacting your programs. This survey link can be used throughout the school year to report supply chain issues.

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Need to Know

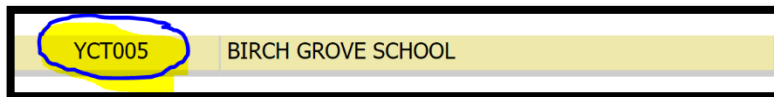
School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) Conference: Navigating Nutrition: From Choppy Seas to Smooth Sailing! October 14-15, 2022

Mark your calendars! The SNACT conference *Navigating Nutrition: From Choppy Seas to Smooth Sailing!* will take place October 14-15, 2022, at the Mystic Marriott. This two-day conference features something for everyone, including hands-on workshops and the following dynamic speakers: Kern Halls and Joe Pettit. The conference will also include the SNACT's 73rd **Food & Industry Trade Show** on Friday, October 14, 2022. **Note:** There will not be a separate USDA Foods show this year.

For registration information, visit [SNACT annual conference](#). SNACT members have a discounted rate. Refer to the SNACT 2022 [Conference Rates](#) for more information.

Update: USDA DoD Fresh Delivery

As a reminder, please contact the USDA DoD Fresh vendor at dodcustomersupport@gargiuloproduce.com for any concerns with USDA DoD Fresh deliveries. Include the YCT number from FFAVORS for the impacted SFAs (refer to example below).



National School Lunch Week (NSLW) is October 10-14, 2022

NSLW is October 10 to 14, 2022 and turns 60 this year! The 2022 theme is “*NSLW 2022: Peace, Love & School Lunch.*” President John F. Kennedy created NSLW in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child’s life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. For more information visit [SNA NSLW](#).



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2023 Advanced Placement® (AP) Testing and Sharing of a Student's Eligibility

The CSDE Performance Office issued the following information to all AP Coordinators providing guidance regarding AP, PSAT, or SAT exams and student eligibility to waive exam fees:

The CSDE and College Board will cover the entire cost of the **2023 AP** exam fees for all students from low-income families who attend public schools in Connecticut. Since the AP, PSAT, and SAT are considered part of a CSDE State Educational Program, the AP, PSAT, and SAT coordinator can be given access to a student's income eligibility status. To request access, the coordinator must complete the [Disclosure Release Request for Free or Reduced Eligibility Status of Students in the School Nutrition Program form](#) to ensure that they have an understanding of the USDA regulations and do not use this information for other purposes.

Please note that once the AP, PSAT, or SAT coordinator completes the form and it is reviewed and approved by the district or school's determining official (the person that processes the free and reduced-price meal applications), they can access the free, reduced, and paid information **directly via the CSDE's Public School Information System (PSIS)** without having the determining official provide them with a list of children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

CT Grown for CT Kids Week October 3-7, 2022

CT Grown for CT Kids Week is next week! The CT Farm to School Collaborative is hosting the [CT Grown for CT Kids! website](#). This website includes a menu of resources and ideas to fit your needs. From a Crunch event to larger schoolwide celebrations, CT Grown for CT Kids Week highlights the great work of farmers, producers, and schools to source locally and teach kids about food, nutrition, and the farming community. More resources are being added all the time, so check the site frequently and start planning your celebrations! And celebrate all through October for [Farm to School Month](#).

Resource Roundup: Important Points for Completing Verification

As local educational agencies (LEAs) prepare to conduct the formal verification process, refer to the CSDE's guidance, [Important Points for Completing Verification](#). This document should be reviewed by all LEAs that conduct the verification process.

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Team Nutrition Schools and National School Lunch Week

[Team Nutrition Schools](#) are part of an important network of over 52,000 schools committed to providing healthy school meals and nutrition environments for students. [Signing up](#) to become a Team Nutrition School is free and easy. Any school participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to enroll.

During [National School Lunch Week](#), the Team Nutrition School Network will highlight school lunch trays from 10 Team Nutrition Schools. These trays will be featured on the Network starting on October 11. In March 2023, Team Nutrition plans to highlight additional trays from Team Nutrition Schools. Team Nutrition Schools are encouraged to share their diverse and popular school meal menus and tray images by emailing TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.

In addition, Team Nutrition will highlight Team Nutrition Schools and their taste-testing events during the Team Nutrition Meal Talk webinar on Wednesday, October 12 at 3pm Eastern Time. For more information and to register, visit fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-talk-webinar-series.

Team Nutrition Schools also have access to free exclusive printed materials. These resources include (while supplies last):

- [Taste-Test Poster](#) (limit 1 pack of 2 posters per school);
 - [Be a Food Critic! Poster](#) (limit 1 pack of 2 posters per school);
 - [Stronger With School Meals Activity Booklet](#) (limit 6 packs of 50 booklets per school) and buttons (limit 20 packs of 2 buttons with different designs per school);
 - Discover New Foods Decals, which include decals for [Dairy](#), [Fruits](#), [Grains](#), [Proteins](#), and [Vegetables](#) (limit 20 sets of 5 per school);
 - Fueling My Healthy Life Decals, which includes decals for [Active](#), [Busy](#), [Colorful](#), [Creative](#), and [Flavorful](#) (limit 20 sets of 5 per school);
 - [Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers](#) (limit 10 rolls of 100 stickers per school); and
 - [Launch Your Day with Breakfast! Stickers](#) (limit 10 rolls of 200 stickers per school).
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Awareness Campaign for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

The [Student Loan Fund](#) is working to ensure CT public servants (.gov, .edu, and .org) with student debt apply for full student debt cancelation through the federal public service loan forgiveness (PSLF) program. **Borrowers must apply by October 31, 2022.** Just one percent of public servants have received cancelation so far out of the estimated 110,000 Connecticut public service workers who are eligible. The awareness raising campaign includes both public messaging and resources for borrowers and the organizations that care about them, including:

- [A borrower step by step guide](#)
 - An [Employer Toolkit](#) including information, draft emails, and social media links (there are also union and membership toolkits)
 - [Borrower Virtual Workshops](#) providing live support and Q&A
 - Overall [PSLFACT.org](#) website including borrower support and additional toolkits
 - A [video from Secretary Cardona](#) reminding borrowers of the upcoming Public Service Loan Forgiveness deadline
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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_09_28_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

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