

The School Lunch Tray: October 12, 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

- Reminder: Food Safety Inspection Report for School Year 2021-22 Due October 31, 2022.

Need to Know

- Save the Date: Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, October 20, 2022
- Updated CSDE Offer versus Serve (OVS) Resources for School Year 2022-23
- October is National Farm to School Month
- Reminder: School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) Conference: Navigating Nutrition: From Choppy Seas to Smooth Sailing! October 14-15, 2022
- Resource Roundup: Required Edit Check Worksheets for Breakfast and Lunch

Good to Know

- Four Ways to Nourish More Children through School Meals
- Now Available: Local School Wellness Policy Refresh! Infographic
- CDC Releases New Resource to Survey School Wellness Policies
- How School Lunch Is Made and How You Can Help
- Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Webinar: Proposed Changes to the Definition of "Healthy," October 21, 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.



Happy National School Lunch Week!

Action Items

Reminder: Food Safety Inspection Report for School Year 2021-22 Due October 31, 2022

Section 9(h) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), 42 U.S.C. 1758(h), requires that at least twice a year, schools must obtain a food safety inspection conducted by a state or local agency responsible for such inspections. The food safety inspections requirement applies to all food preparation-service sites and service-only sites.

Guidance on reporting the number of food safety inspections in the [CNP System](#) begins on page 29 of the CSDE's guide, [Updating the Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs](#). The Food Safety Inspection Report can be completed by anyone who has access to the CNP System.

Food safety inspections for facilities not under the jurisdiction of the local or state health department

Some schools or facilities (such as schools or group homes operated by the Department of Children and Families) do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and will not be inspected by DPH or the local health department. **However, food safety inspections that are conducted by the state agency that licenses the facility *would qualify* toward meeting the requirement of two food safety inspections annually.**

While the CSDE recognizes that there may be difficulty in obtaining the two food safety inspections, SFAs are responsible for requesting these inspections and documenting their efforts. SFAs may use the CSDE's [Sample Letter to Request Food Safety Inspection](#) for this purpose. Retain a copy of the letter/email sent to the health department to document the SFA's attempt to comply with this regulation.

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Need to Know

Save the Date: Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, October 20, 2022

Table Talk will resume on Thursday, October 20, 2022, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. The CSDE's school nutrition programs staff will review pertinent information from the School Lunch Tray newsletters for October 12 and 19, and other relevant information. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo.

Note: Starting on Thursday, November 3, 2022, Table Talk will be regularly scheduled every other Thursday from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 225 840 614 443

Passcode: cXqMJX

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Updated CSDE Offer versus Serve (OVS) Resources for School Year 2022-23

The CSDE has updated the [Offer versus Serve Guide for School Meals](#) for school year 2022-23 to reflect the meal pattern requirements for milk and grains, effective July 1, 2022. This guide contains detailed information and resources for implementing the USDA's OVS provision for grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP. The OVS summary handouts below are also updated.

- [Overview of OVS in the National School Lunch Program](#)
- [Overview of OVS in the School Breakfast Program](#).

These resources are available on the CSDE's [Offer versus Serve for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Please discard any versions prior to the October 2022 revision.

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October is National Farm to School Month

CT Grown for CT Kids Week may be over, but October still celebrates [National Farm to School Month](#). Continue to highlight Connecticut's local bounty in school meals, gardens and the classroom. [Put Local on Your Tray](#) has the marketing materials, tips, recipes, and farmer directory to help keep the celebrations going all month long.

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

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.

Resource Roundup: Required Edit Check Worksheets for Breakfast and Lunch

Edit checks are one of the internal controls that **all local educational agencies (LEAs) participating in the NSLP and SBP must have in place** to ensure an accurate claim for reimbursement. Prior to filing a monthly claim for reimbursement, all LEAs must perform meal count edit checks. The meal count totals on the edit check sheets are the numbers used to enter the monthly claim. The CSDE's edit checks worksheets are available in the "[Edit Check Forms](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Counting and Claiming for School Nutrition Programs webpage. For information on meal counting and claiming, review the CSDE's resource, [Overview of Meal Counting and Claiming Process](#).

Good to Know

Four Ways to Nourish More Children through School Meals

Over the last two years, school meals have experienced major disruptions from pandemic-related school closures and supply chain disruptions that have impacted the cost and availability of food, staff, and supplies. The USDA is offering school nutrition programs [support](#) for the coming school year but does not have the authority to offer all options from recent years, including free school meals for all children. In September, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack reached out to every state governor, urging them in a [letter](#) to do everything in their power to ensure children still have access to critical nutrition through school meals. This letter summarized four key ways to support and strengthen school meal programs.

Now Available: Local School Wellness Policy Refresh! Infographic

This infographic encourages school districts to bring their school community together and refresh their Local School Wellness Policy efforts. Printed copies of this publication are now available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#). Schools participating in the NSLP can request free printed copies while supplies last.

CDC Releases New Resource to Survey School Wellness Policies

The [Wellness Policy in Action Tool \(WPAT\)](#) is a new resource designed to help schools meet USDA's triennial assessment requirements, including measuring how well schools are aligning their school nutrition and physical activity practices with their district's local school wellness policy. The WPAT is an online platform that addresses 31 key topics and uses questions from the [WellSAT 3.0](#) and the [School Health Index](#). Scores and recommendations for next steps will help users take the best action for creating healthier schools.

How School Lunch Is Made and How You Can Help

Printed copies of "How School Lunch is Made and How You Can Help" will be available for program operators on October 3. Inspired by questions USDA receives from students about school lunch, this 12-page article 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. For more details, visit fns.usda.gov/tn/how-school-lunch-made-and-how-you-can-help.

Schools that participate in USDA Child Nutrition Programs can order Team Nutrition materials at <https://pueblo.gpo.gov/TN/TNPubs.php>. For bulk orders, email TeamNutrition@USDA.gov. Questions about this announcement may be sent to TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Webinar: Proposed Changes to the Definition of “Healthy,” October 21, 2022

FDA will host a stakeholder webinar on Friday, October 21, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. to provide an overview of the recently released [proposed rule](#) to update the definition of the nutrient content claim “healthy.” The [“healthy” claim](#) can act as a quick signal on food package labels to help empower consumers with information to identify foods that will help them build healthy eating patterns.

The proposed changes to the definition of “healthy” are aligned with current nutrition science, the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025](#) and the updated [Nutrition Facts label](#). The FDA’s approach focuses on ensuring that nutrient-dense foods that help consumers to build a diet consistent with current dietary recommendations can qualify to bear the claim.

Registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3VP9RQL>.



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_10_12_2022.pdf.

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
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