

The School Lunch Tray: October 19, 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 Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Vendor Survey
- Reminder: Complying with Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training Program
- Second Round of CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program: Due November 15, 2022

Need to Know

- CSDE Updates Presentation at School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) Conference
- List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated October 14, 2022
- Reminder: Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, October 20, 2022
- USDA Food Safety Resources
- New USDA Tip Sheet: Crediting Milk in Child Nutrition Programs
- Resource Roundup: Key Information for Connecticut Claims Preparers for School Nutrition Programs

Good to Know

- FARE Webinar: The Six Stages of Food Allergy Parenting, October 24, 2022
- Ingredients for a Successful Taste-Test Event
- Team Nutrition Resources for Schools

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.



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Action Items

USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Vendor Survey

Please take a minute to complete a [brief survey](#) to provide feedback for the new DoD vendor, Gargiulo Produce.

Reminder: Complying with Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training Program

Each district's designated HFC contact person is required to complete the CSDE's training program, *Complying with Healthy Food Certification*. This training program is also strongly recommended for all individuals who coordinate sales of competitive foods to students on school premises, such as school food service staff and fundraiser coordinators.

Complying with Healthy Food Certification is a series of recorded modules that provide guidance on how to meet the requirements for HFC under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes and the related state laws for competitive foods in schools. For more information and to access the training modules, visit the "[Related Resources](#)" section of the CSDE's [HFC](#) webpage.

Second Round of CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program: Due November 15, 2022

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg) recently opened the second round of funding made available through the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program. A grant award of up to \$24,999 is available to help establish and further Farm to School initiatives. Visit DoAg's [CT Grown for CT Kids Grant](#) website for application information and grant coaching opportunities. The application deadline is November 15, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

Need to Know

CSDE Updates Presentation at School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) Conference

The PowerPoint slides from the CSDE's presentation at the SNACT conference on October 14, 2022, are available on the CSDE's [Training for Child Nutrition Programs](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/CSDE_Update_SNACT_10_14_22.pdf) webpage. The direct link is https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/CSDE_Update_SNACT_10_14_22.pdf

List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated October 14, 2022

Updated lists of foods and beverages are now available on the CSDE's [List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages](#) webpage. New products on the lists are indicated by pink highlighting on the manufacturer and product name. Items that have been **added or deleted** since the last update are listed on the CSDE's document, [Summary of Updates to Approved Food and Beverages](#).

These lists identify foods that comply with Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) and beverages that comply with the state beverage statute (Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes) and the USDA Smart Snacks beverage standards. Foods on this list also comply with Smart Snacks because the CNS requirements are stricter than the Smart Snacks food standards. For additional guidance, visit the "[How To Evaluate Foods for CNS Compliance](#)" section of the CSDE's Connecticut Nutrition Standards webpage.

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Reminder: Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, October 20, 2022

The CSDE's school nutrition programs staff will kick-off the school year 2022-23 Table Talk series on October 20, 2022, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., with additional information about the School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) funds. Table Talk will also review pertinent information from the School Lunch Tray newsletters for October 12 and 19. Be SMART and don't be late to Table Talk!

To submit questions in advance, visit

https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNOZDo.

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

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USDA Food Safety Resources

Emergencies and disasters may disrupt operations and increase food safety risks. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [Food Safety Emergency Response](#) webpage provides resources that can help FNS program operators to prevent foodborne illness during emergencies and disasters.

- The *Food Safety Emergency Response Pocket Guide* (April 2022) is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This resource supports school nutrition professionals in their response to food safety emergencies caused by disasters and weather-related events. Emergencies addressed include power outages, water outages, water contamination, sewage issues, floods, and fires.
- The *Assembling Food Safety Emergency Supply Kits* poster (August 2022) is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This resource highlights key supplies to include in emergency kits that may be used during emergencies and disasters that impact foodservice operations.

Additional food safety resources and information are available on the [FNS Food Safety](#) webpage and the Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) [Food Safety Resources](#) webpage.

New USDA Tip Sheet: Crediting Milk in Child Nutrition Programs

The USDA recently released [Crediting Milk in Child Nutrition Programs](#). This tip sheet is an easy-to-use reference for program operators in implementing the milk component requirements across all Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). It includes a knowledge check of the meal component requirement with a question-and-answer section. This is the fourth tip sheet in a series of seven that includes the previously released *Crediting Fruits in Child Nutrition Programs*, *Crediting Vegetables in Child Nutrition Programs*, and *Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates in Child Nutrition Programs*. These tip sheets are available on the USDA's [Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Resource Roundup: Key Information for Connecticut Claims Preparers for School Nutrition Programs

As a reminder, claims preparers should follow the guidance in the CSDE's [Key Information for Connecticut Claims Preparers for School Nutrition Programs](#). This document provides an overview of important information and resources for claims preparers regarding the entry of accurate claims for reimbursement for the USDA's school nutrition programs operated by the district's school food authority (SFA). Please share this information with your claims preparer. Claims preparers who are new to the position or need a refresher should review this important information.

Good to Know

FARE Webinar: The Six Stages of Food Allergy Parenting, October 24, 2022

The Six Stages of Food Allergy Parenting framework helps parents understand their tasks and develop their mindset and parenting choices for each stage of allergy parenting. Parents will gain insights into whether they are focusing on the appropriate tasks associated with their child's stage of development, are falling behind, or pushing too far too quickly. This directly impacts a child's ability to gain the necessary skills to learn how to live confidently with allergies.

- *Date and time:* October 24, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* <https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/six-stages-food-allergy-parenting>

Ingredients for a Successful Taste-Test Event

Taste tests are a great way for school nutrition professionals to introduce new menu items and get students excited to try healthy foods at school. The input collected from students can be used to improve recipes and create school meals that students want to eat. Team Nutrition's October 12, 2022 bulletin, [School Meals Grab n' Go: Quick Tips to improve your meal service](#), includes tips to help plan and host a successful taste-test event. For taste-testing event resources, visit the USDA's [Taste-Testing Event Resources](#) webpage.

Team Nutrition Resources for Schools

The USDA's Team Nutrition offers a variety of free nutrition education resources for school nutrition professionals. A complete listing of the free print materials that may be ordered is available at [School Nutrition Professionals Publications \(gpo.gov\)](#). Downloadable Team Nutrition resources are also available on the USDA's [Team Nutrition Resources for Schools](#) webpage.



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_19_2022.pdf.

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