

The School Lunch Tray: October 26, 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

- Final Reminder: Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Survey Closing Friday, October 28, 2022
- Final Reminder: Food Safety Inspection Report for School Year 2021-22 Due October 31, 2022.
- USDA 2023 Farm to School Grant Request for Applications: Due January 6, 2023

Need to Know

- Reminder: Resources for School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds
- USDA Foods Cheese Update
- Connecticut Farm to School Procurement Survey
- Resource Roundup: Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

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

Final Reminder: Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Survey Closing Friday, October 28, 2022

Please take a few minutes to fill out the [brief survey](#) regarding Gargiulo Produce, the vendor for the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. The survey will close on Friday, **October 28, 2022**.

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

All school food authorities must complete the Food Safety Inspection Report for School Year 2021-22 by **October 31, 2022**. 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](#). For additional information, refer to the [School Lunch Tray from October 12, 2022](#).

USDA 2023 Farm to School Grant Request for Applications: Due January 6, 2023

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2023 Farm to School Grant Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) are now open. The USDA expects to award up to \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities through the program in FY 2023. The application deadline is **January 6, 2023**.

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Need to Know

Reminder: Resources for School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds

The SMART funds resources below are available in the “[How To](#)” section of the CSDE’s Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 webpage.

- [Operational Memorandum No. 14-22: SMART Funds](#) provides important information about this grant. The Operational Memorandum includes the three attachments below.
 1. [Attachment 1: Questions and Answers: School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition funds for School Year 2022-23](#)
 2. [Attachment 2: School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition Funds List of Eligible School Food Authorities for School Year 2022-23](#)
 3. [Attachment 3: School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition Funds Attestation Statement](#)
- [List of School Food Authorities Receiving School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition \(SMART\) Funds: School Year 2022-23](#)
- [List of School Food Authorities Receiving SMART Funds Final Allocations for School Year 2022-23](#)
- [SMART Funds Second Question and Answers for School Food Authorities](#)
- **SMART Funds Information Session** (August 4, 2022)
 - [Webinar Recording](#)
 - [Webinar Slides](#)
 - [Webinar Transcript](#)
- **SMART Funds Projection Calculator:** Use this tool to estimate your monthly SMART funds reimbursement and project your monthly usage of funds.
 - [SMART Funds Projection Calculator](#)
 - Guidance on SMART funds requirements and how to use the SMART Funds Projection Calculator: First 30 minutes of CSDE’s [Table Talk from October 20, 2022](#)

USDA Foods Cheese Update

USDA Foods refrigerated cheese has a very limited shelf life.

- **Mozzarella String Cheese, Material Code # 110396**, has a best used by date of 3 months after packing, but can be frozen up to one year.
- **Shredded White Cheddar, Material Code # 100002**, has a best used by date of 120 days from packing, and can be frozen for up to one year.

Please plan to take delivery of these item as soon as possible.

Connecticut Farm to School Procurement Survey

The University of Connecticut's Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy, in partnership with the Departments of Agriculture and Education, is conducting a [survey of all National School Lunch Program sponsors](#) to understand their farm to school and local procurement activities. All directors are asked to complete the survey, even if the school district does not buy local food. This will help to establish a baseline for the state as a whole and better understand the challenges and opportunities facing directors. For more information, visit the [Connecticut Farm to School Procurement Survey](#) website. For questions, email are.survey@uconn.edu.

Resource Roundup: Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Meals served in the classroom must meet specific requirements to be reimbursable. School food authorities (SFAs) must ensure that all school staff involved with classroom meals (including food service staff and non-food service staff such as teachers, teacher aides, substitutes, and other applicable classroom staff) understand and implement these requirements. The CSDE's [Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) provides guidance on allowable meal service methods for classroom settings and important tips for ensuring that meals are reimbursable, including point-of-service meal counts.



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_26_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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