

The School Lunch Tray: January 4, 2023

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.

Happy New Year!

Action Items

- None

Need to Know

- Operational Memorandum No. 04-2023: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer - Local Level Administrative Cost Grant
- USDA Foods Update
- Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Basics at a Glance

Good to Know

- Public Comment on USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative Recognition Awards

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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Need to Know

Operational Memorandum No. 04-2023: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer - Local Level Administrative Cost Grant

CSDE [Operational Memorandum No. 04-2023](#) contains important information about the additional funding awarded to the CSDE through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Local Level Cost Grant. This grant will be distributed to eligible school food authorities (SFA) to help offset the SFA's administrative costs incurred in support of P-EBT benefits in school year 2021-22.

USDA Foods Update

USDA Foods are one of the benefits of participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). USDA Foods are domestic foods to use in offering nutritious meals and helping to offset the cost of running the NSLP. Recipient agencies (RAs) should take delivery of USDA Foods when they arrive at the state contracted warehouse, and every month after until all foods are utilized.

Letting USDA Foods remain at the warehouse is not an efficient use of federal funds and increases warehouse storage costs. Products that are in the warehouse for over 90 days without any usage may be moved to RAs that are using their inventory.

Since many USDA Foods are delivered once per year, the CSDE continuously monitors usage. Products will not be redistributed for RAs that place monthly orders. For questions or assistance, please contact the CSDE's [Food Distribution Program \(FDP\) staff](#).

Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Basics at a Glance

The ICN's [Basics at a Glance](#) poster offers "at a glance" information on recipe abbreviations, measurement conversions, portioning tools, and steamtable pan capacity. This resource is also available in Spanish.

Good to Know

Public Comment on USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative Recognition Awards

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently announced the notice 87 FR 78918, [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative Recognition Awards](#), for school year 2023-24. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This is a new collection for the Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards Application.

The Recognition Awards will recognize school food authorities (SFAs) that have made significant improvements to the nutritional quality of their school meals by exceeding the transitional school meal pattern requirements, engaging students, and implementing innovative practices. SFAs can apply to one or more Recognition Awards included in the Application form. Written comments must be received by **March 10, 2023**.



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/2023/SLT_01_04_2023.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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