

## The School Lunch Tray: January 11, 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.

### **Action Items**

- None

### **Need to Know**

- Reminder: Plan to Reduce Excess Operating Balance Must be Submitted Using the CSDE's Form
- USDA Foods Update: Foods Available List for School Year 2023-24
- USDA Fall 2022 Regulatory Agenda Published
- Resource Roundup: Noncreditable Foods for the School Nutrition Programs

### **Good to Know**

- New USDA Web Quiz: Test Your Knowledge About Whole Grains

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

### Reminder: Plan to Reduce Excess Operating Balance Must be Submitted Using the CSDE's Form

School food authorities (SFAs) that exceed three months' average expenditures must submit a [Plan for Reducing Excess Operating Balance](#) to the CSDE to indicate how the excess balance will be spent to maintain the SFA's nonprofit status. Expenditures must make improvements to the USDA school nutrition programs such as improving food quality and replacing or purchasing necessary equipment.

This plan is submitted as part of the SFA's annual Financial Report and **must be on the CSDE's form, [Plan for Reducing Excess Operating Balance](#)**. For detailed instructions, refer to the CSDE's [Instructions for Completing the Plan to Reduce Excess Operating Balance](#).

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### USDA Foods Update: Foods Available List for School Year 2023-24

Please review the [USDA's Foods Available List](#) for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. A summary of changes is below. Contact the [Food Distribution Team](#) with any requests to add or remove any items from the catalog for next year's orders.

#### New Items

- 111643 – Cherries, Tart, Dried, Individual Portion – 250/1.36 oz bag

#### Cherries, Tart, Dried, Individual Portion



- WBSCM ID: 111643
- 250/1.36 oz bag
- 21.25 lb. case
- 1,584 cases per truck
- Estimated price/case: \$122.83
- Crediting: ½ cup fruit in NSLP and CACFP. ¼ cup in SFSP and the Afterschool Snack Program.

#### Items Removed

This item has been temporarily removed due to insufficient quantities and supply chain issues.

- 111100 – Cereal, Oat Circles, Bowls – 96/1 oz bowls

This item has been temporarily removed due to vendor capacity and quality issues.

- 100195 – Tuna, Chunk Light, Canned (K) – 6/66.5 oz can

These items have been removed due to low order volumes or changes in processor needs.

- 100236 – Cherries, Tart, Pitted, Unsweetened, Frozen (IQF) – 12/2.5 lb. bag
- 100397 – Peanut Butter, Smooth - 500 lb. drum

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### USDA Fall 2022 Regulatory Agenda Published

The Biden Administration's Unified Regulatory Agenda reports on the regulatory actions that administrative agencies plan to issue in the near and long term. On January 4, 2023, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs released the Fall 2022 Regulatory Agenda. The USDA's Agency Rule List is available at [Agency Rule List - Fall 2022 \(reginfo.gov\)](https://www.reginfo.gov).

Of note, the following Child Nutrition Program rules are included on the current Regulatory Agenda:

- Proposed Rule – Community Eligibility Provision: Increasing Options for Schools
- Proposed Rule – Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Proposed Rule – Implementing Provisions from the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004: Seamless Summer Option for Schools Participating in the National School Lunch Program
- Proposed Rule – Serious Deficiency Process in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program
- Final Rule – Child Nutrition Program Integrity

The proposed rule, Community Eligibility Provision: Increasing Options for Schools, is appearing on the Regulatory Agenda for the first time. This rule would propose to lower the minimum participation threshold for Community Eligibility Provision elections. This does not impact the 1.6 percent multiplier for calculating the claiming percentage. Since this is a proposed rule, no changes would be in effect for school year 2023-24. An abstract of this rule and the other forthcoming Child Nutrition Program rules can be found at the link above.

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### Resource Roundup: Noncreditable Foods for the School Nutrition Programs

True or false: Egg whites, reduced fat (2%) milk, bacon (pork), cream cheese, and fruit leathers are examples of noncreditable foods. The answer is true!

Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that cannot credit in USDA's meal patterns for Child Nutrition Programs because they 1) do not belong to the meal pattern components; or 2) are served in amounts too small to credit. For more information on noncreditable foods, refer to the applicable CSDE resource for each school nutrition program.

- [Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Noncreditable Foods for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program](#)

## Good to Know

### **New USDA Web Quiz: Test Your Knowledge About Whole Grains**

The USDA recently released a new [web quiz on whole grains](#). This 10-question quiz is a fun way to reinforce information found in the updated [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#), [Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs](#), and [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). It can be used for a self-paced knowledge assessment, or at trainings or other nutrition events as a fun and engaging learning activity.

More USDA web quizzes are available on the [Team Nutrition](#) website.

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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/2023/SLT\\_01\\_11\\_2023.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2023/SLT_01_11_2023.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
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