

# The School Lunch Tray: January 25, 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**

- Modules 6-10 Now Available for CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12
- Reminder: Completion of Complying with Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training Modules Required for HFC Public Schools
- Resource Roundup: Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program

## **Good to Know**

- USDA Request for Applications: Cooperative Agreement for the Development and Implementation of the Healthy Meals Incentives School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants: Due February 1, 2023
- Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) Webinar: FASTER Act in Action: Understanding Sesame Legislation in 2023, February 15, 2023
- Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline: February 28, 2023
- Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps: Now Accepting Service Member Applications: Due March 27, 2023

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.



# The School Lunch Tray: January 25, 2023

## Need to Know

### **Modules 6-10 Now Available for CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12**

Last week, the CSDE announced *What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12*, a new training program for school nutrition programs. *What's in a Meal* is a series of 16 recorded training modules that provide comprehensive guidance on complying with the meal patterns for grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP. These modules are intended for school food service professionals in the NSLP, SBP, and SSO, including food service directors, managers, and staff.

The CSDE is releasing the 16 modules in stages. Modules 6-10 are now available on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The CSDE will notify school food authorities as additional modules are released.

### **What's in a Meal modules released January 18, 2023**

- 1: Introduction to Training
- 2: Introduction to School Meal Patterns
- 3: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern
- 4: School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern
- 5: Dietary Specifications

### **What's in a Meal modules released January 25, 2023**

- 6: Meal Pattern Documentation
- 7: Milk Component
- 8: Meat/Meat Alternates (MMA) Component
- 9: Fruits Component
- 10: Vegetables Component

### **What's in a Meal modules coming soon**

- 11: Grains Component
- 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement
- 13: Grain Ounce Equivalents
- 14: Water Availability During Meal Service
- 15: Offer versus Serve (OVS) in the NSLP
- 16: Offer versus Serve (OVS) in the SBP

### **Reminder: Completion of Complying with Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training Modules Required for HFC Public Schools**

The CSDE's training program, *Complying with Healthy Food Certification*, is required for the district's designated HFC contact person and is strongly recommended for all individuals who coordinate sales of competitive foods to students on school premises. This training program 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.

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### **Resource Roundup: Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) CN Labeling Program is a voluntary federal labeling program for the Child Nutrition Programs. CN labels provide a guarantee of a commercial product's meal pattern contribution. CN labels are available for products that contain at least ½ ounce equivalent of the meat/meat alternates component. They also typically include the contribution of other meal components that are part of the product, such as grains, vegetables, and fruits.

The CSDE's resource, [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Program](#), provides detailed guidance on CN labels, including eligible products, the benefits of using CN labels, how to identify CN labels, acceptable documentation for CN labels, where to find the USDA's lists of authorized CN labels and manufacturers, and additional resources for using CN labels in school meals.

**Note:** Detailed guidance on CN labels is available in Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation of the CSDE's training program, [What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#).

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## Good to Know

### **USDA Request for Applications: Cooperative Agreement for the Development and Implementation of the Healthy Meals Incentives School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants: Due February 1, 2023**

Non-governmental entities are invited to submit applications to for a cooperative agreement with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to develop and implement the Healthy Meals Incentives School Food System Transformation (SFST) Challenge Sub-Grants. Eligible entities include accredited colleges/universities, private or public non-profit or for-profit research institutions, and organizations with experience working with school food authorities (SFAs) and/or the school food service industry to improve the nutritional quality of school meals through food system transformation. Up to four (4) cooperative agreements (maximum of \$50 million) will be awarded to non-governmental entities who will offer competitive SFST Challenge Sub-Grants to support collaborative projects including non-governmental entities, SFA, and food industry.

- [View the Request for Applications](#)
- [School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants](#)
- [More information about Healthy Meals Incentives](#)

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### **Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) Webinar: FASTER Act in Action: Understanding Sesame Legislation in 2023, February 15, 2023**

The Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education & Research (FASTER) Act became law in April 2021, requiring manufacturers to list sesame as a food allergen if it is present in packaged foods beginning January 1, 2023. A FARE webinar, FASTER Act in Action: Understanding Sesame Legislation in 2023, will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2022, from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/faster-act-action-understanding-sesame-legislation-2023>.

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### **Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline: February 28, 2023**

Ensure your students have the best tasting milk possible by submitting a Chill Out with Cold Milk temperature [survey](#) by 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2023, for a chance to win a free cow spot wrapped milk cooler. Full details and official contest rules are available at [NewEnglandDairy.com](http://NewEnglandDairy.com).

Funding for this project was provided by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy.

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### **Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps: Now Accepting Service Member Applications: Due March 27, 2023**

The application is now open to serve as an AmeriCorps member with FoodCorps for the 2023-24 school year. FoodCorps AmeriCorps service members spend a year working with school food professionals, teachers, and administrators to connect kids to the joy and power of food. Service members earn a stipend, a year's worth of training and professional development resources, and a network of passionate food educators and school nutrition leaders. FoodCorps is accepting applications until March 27, 2023, at [www.foodcorps.org/apply](http://www.foodcorps.org/apply).

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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\\_25\\_2023.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2023/SLT_01_25_2023.pdf).

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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