

The School Lunch Tray: February 8, 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

- USDA Foods DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update: DoD allocation Amount Due February 13, 2023

Need to Know

- Last Distribution of School Year 2021-22 Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Benefits
- USDA Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- USDA Webinar for School Food Authority (SFA) Staff on Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, February 21, 2023
- Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Pattern Components, and Noncreditable Foods
- Resource Roundup: Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs

Good to Know

- Producer Training for Farmers, February 23, 2023
- Celebrate National School Breakfast Week: March 6-10, 2023
- Updated Nibbles for Health Newsletters Now Available
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation Webinar: Fueling Minds and Bodies: Best Practices for Increasing School Meal Participation, February 15, 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.



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Action Items

USDA Foods DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update: DoD allocation Amount Due February 13, 2023

The USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allows schools to use USDA Foods entitlement dollars to buy fresh produce. The program is operated by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) at the Department of Defense. The DoD program is an option for all Recipient Agencies (RAs) in Connecticut. There is a \$150 minimum drop per site. RAs can choose the amount of their entitlement for the DoD Fresh program. There is no cap on the dollar amount that can be allocated toward the DoD Fresh program.

All USDA DoD allocations from school year (SY) 2022-23 will rollover in full to SY 2023-24. As a reminder, many adjustments were made to DoD accounts as RAs added/moved dollars to other vendors, so **double check that the correct amount was entered into WBSCM**. If you do not see the correct DoD Fresh Amount in WBSCM, contact Allison Calhoun-White at allison.calhoun-white@ct.gov by **Monday, February 13, 2023**, with the requested DoD allocation amount for SY 2024 so it can be adjusted in WBSCM before placing orders. RAs can check the amount allocated in WBSCM by running the Entitlement Bonus Summary Report. To run the entitlement bonus summary report in WBSCM, click on Reports, Order Processing, Entitlement Management, Entitlement Bonus Summary Report, and then enter the following: (Program and Program Year. Your RA number should auto populate)

Home | Operations | Admin | **Reports** | Help

Order Processing

Reports > Order Processing > Entitlement Management > Entitlement/Bonus Summary Report

Welcome to Entitlement/Bonus Summary Report

All required fields are marked with a red asterisk (*). Dates are formatted as: MM/DD/YYYY.

Search Criteria

Execute | Reset | Print to PDF | i

* Program: NSLP

* Program Year: 2023 To

SDA Region Code:

RA / SDA Number:

Sold-To State: To

Then, review the DoD Fresh Amount to ensure that it is the amount you want allocated for next year:

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Entitlement/Bonus Summary Report

Program Year	Beginning Balance	DOD Fresh Amount	Ent. Order Total	Ent. Pounds	Ent. Balance	Bonus Order Total	Bonus Pounds
2023	67,476.09	37,000.00	20,099.45	6,798	10,376.64	0.00	0

To start the DoD Program for the first time, please e-mail Allison.Calhoun-White@ct.gov and monica.pacheco@ct.gov prior to placing any orders in WBSM, with the following information:

1. Allocation Amount for SY 24.
2. Name, address and e-mail contact and phone number for the person who will be placing orders in FFAVORS.
3. Name, address and e-mail contact and phone number for any requested delivery locations. As a reminder, the minimum drop amount for DoD orders is \$150/site.
4. Please indicate in the e-mail that you are requesting to be a new user of the DoD Program.

The vendor for the DoD program is Gargiulo Produce. For additional information on Connecticut's USDA DoD Fresh Program, please refer to the links below.

- [USDA Department of Defense \(DoD\) Fresh Program Connecticut Contract SPE3000-17-R-0031](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation: USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#)

Need to Know

Last Distribution of School Year 2021-22 Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Benefits

The last distribution of P-EBT benefits going to nearly 282,900 schoolchildren, and 39,865 children under age 6 in childcare through the federal P-EBT covering school year (SY) 2021-22 and subsequent summer period, totaling \$145.8 million, was distributed on December 4, 2022. No additional P-EBT issuances are planned for SY 2022-23 at this time. For the most up-to-date information on P-EBT, please visit [Pandemic EBT \(P-EBT\)](#). For questions regarding replacement cards, address changes, or activating cards, inquiries should be directed to the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS).

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USDA Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

On February 6, 2023, the USDA's Proposed Rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), was filed for public inspection by the Federal Register. Public inspection offers a preview of documents scheduled to appear in the next day's Federal Register issue.

Based on the latest nutrition science and extensive feedback from our school meal partners, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is proposing updates to the school nutrition standards in a few key areas to give children the right balance of nutrients for a healthy and appealing meals. The proposed updates reflect the goals of the most recent [Dietary Guidelines](#), as required by law, and build in plenty of time for planning and implementation to ensure the school meals community and the children they serve are set up for success.

This proposed rule is the next step in an [ongoing effort](#) toward healthier school meals that USDA and the broader school meals community have been partnering on for well over a decade.

USDA Webinar for School Food Authority (SFA) Staff on Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, February 21, 2023

The USDA is holding a webinar for SFA staff on the Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Date and time: Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Registration:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItD0ivqDgsH5t030eyQOK9wWS9KeU09xg>

Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Pattern Components, and Noncreditable Foods

The CSDE has updated the crediting resources for the meal patterns for grades K-12 and preschoolers in the school nutrition programs. These resources are listed in the chart below. Updates include links to the applicable modules of the CSDE's [What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#), revised USDA links, and content updates. The updates to [Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP](#) also correct a typo for the ounce equivalents in group C.

- The crediting resources for the NSLP and SBP meal patterns for grades K-12 are available on the CSDE's [Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Refer to the "[Documents/Forms](#)" section for the resources for each meal pattern components.
- The crediting resources for the preschool meal patterns are available in the "[Related Resources](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

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- The crediting resources for the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) meal patterns are available in the [“Meal Patterns for the ASP”](#) section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage.

Please discard any previous versions dated prior to February 2023 and replace with the updated versions.

Crediting resource	Applies to	
	Grades K-12	Preschoolers
Product Documentation		
• Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program	✓	✓
• Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs	✓	✓
Meat/Meat Alternates		
• Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Crediting Deli Meats in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Crediting Legumes in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Crediting Yogurt for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	
• Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Requirements for Alternate Protein Products in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
Vegetables and Fruits		
• Crediting Juice for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	
• Crediting Juice for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• Crediting Smoothies for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	
• Crediting Smoothies for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• Crediting Soup in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Vegetable Subgroups in the NSLP	✓	
Grains		
• Crediting Enriched Grains in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	
• Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• Crediting Grain-based Desserts for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	✓	
• Crediting Whole Grains in the NSLP and SBP	✓	✓
• Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	
• Calculation Methods for Grains/Breads Servings for Grades K-12 in the ASP	✓	
• Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	

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Crediting resource	Applies to	
	Grades K-12	Preschoolers
<i>Grains, continued</i>		
• Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• Grains/Breads Servings for Grades K-12 in the ASP	✓	
• How to Identify Creditable Grains for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓
• When Commercial Grain Products Require a Product Formulation Statement to Credit in the School Nutrition Programs	✓	✓
<i>Noncreditable Foods</i>		
• Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the ASP	✓	
• Noncreditable Foods for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	✓	
• Noncreditable Foods for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP		✓

Resource Roundup: Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs

School food authorities (SFAs) must be able to document that commercial processed products meet the crediting requirements of the NSLP, SBP, and ASP meal patterns. A product formulation statement (PFS) from the manufacturer is **required** for all commercial processed products that do **not** have a [Child Nutrition \(CN\) label](#).

The CSDE's resource, [Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs](#) provides guidance on PFS forms, including the required information they must contain, how to review a PFS for accuracy, where to find the USDA's PFS forms, and additional resources for using PFS in school meals.

Note: Detailed guidance on PFS forms and how to evaluate a PFS 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

Producer Training for Farmers, February 23, 2023

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture and University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension are hosting a Producer Training for Farmers interested in learning how to work with the school market. The morning is focused on how school food procurement works in Connecticut's K-12 public schools. Food service directors (FSDs) and support staff are invited to join the afternoon session. The afternoon includes a panel with farmers and FSDs working together on various levels; a presentation of direct purchasing relationships - requirements, regulations, and opportunities; and networking activities. A happy hour will be held from 4-6 p.m. to provide further opportunity to connect with farmers while enjoying some CT Grown snacks.

Date: February 23, 2023,

Time: Afternoon session, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Happy hour 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Auer Farm in Bloomfield

Registration: <https://forms.gle/9FfjCB9w6TFB8yU99>

Celebrate National School Breakfast Week: March 6-10, 2023

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) celebrates the importance of a nutritious school breakfast in fueling students for success. This special observance during the first week of March celebrates the School Breakfast Program and the many ways it gives kids a great start every day. For more information and resources, visit the websites below.

- [Celebrating School Breakfast](#) (USDA)
- [Celebrate National School Breakfast Week](#) (Action for Healthy Kids)
- [National School Breakfast Week](#) (School Nutrition Association)

Updated Nibbles for Health Newsletters Now Available

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative recently released two slightly revised Nibbles for Health: Nutrition Newsletters for Parents of Young Children ("Nibbles for Health Newsletters"). The English and Spanish versions of the following newsletters have been updated to replace "servings" with "ounce equivalents."

- "Child Care: What Will My Child Eat?" [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- "Healthy Snacks with Smiles" [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

To view the full collection of Nibbles for Health Newsletters, visit www.fns.usda.gov/tn/nibbles.

Alliance for a Healthier Generation Webinar: Fueling Minds and Bodies: Best Practices for Increasing School Meal Participation, February 15, 2023

For many children in America, school meals are a primary source of consistent nutrition. In partnership with Kohl's Healthy at Home, Healthier Generation will host an important and timely conversation with Donna Martin, Director of School Nutrition Programs, Burke Co. Public Schools, and advocate for universal free meals. She is the former President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and was the first School Nutrition Director to be President of the Academy. This informational webinar will address benefits of increasing school meal participation for students, families, and school staff and strategies to help schools and districts improve or achieve universal meal programming.

Date and time: Wednesday, February 15, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. ET

Registration: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

New and updated USDA Materials: Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten

New and updated [Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten](#) materials are now available from USDA's Team Nutrition initiative. Team Nutrition expanded these resources to include additional foods, Spanish-language components, and new materials showing where food comes from. These resources foster the development of healthy food choices and physically active lifestyles during a critical developmental and learning period for children—*kindergarten*.



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_02_08_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
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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