

The School Lunch Tray: March 22, 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

- Reminder: Summer Meals 2023 Interest Survey: Due March 24, 2023

Need to Know

- Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, March 23, 2023
- Summer Meals 2023 Outreach Materials: Due April 1, 2023
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12

Good to Know

- Presentations and Resources Available on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reminder: 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge: April 3-23, 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

Reminder: Summer Meals 2023 Interest Survey: Due March 24, 2023

The CSDE is asking all organizations interested in participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for Summer 2023 to complete a [brief interest survey](#). This survey is only five questions and will take less than 2 minutes to complete. Please submit the interest survey by close of business on **Friday, March 24, 2023**.

Note: This interest survey is not the application to participate in Summer Meals, which will come later in the spring. Indicating an interest to participate does not lock the district into participating, nor does it confer eligibility to participate. This survey simply allows the CSDE to plan adequate technical assistance and support for sponsors that intend to participate.

The CSDE will follow up with interested sponsors to provide assistance with establishing eligibility of proposed meal sites. Please contact your assigned [Summer Meals staff](#) with any questions.

Need to Know

Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, March 23, 2023

Table Talk will resume on Thursday, March 23, 2023, and will be held every other Thursday from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Table Talk will review pertinent information from the School Lunch Tray newsletters. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo.

Registration is not required. Please use the link below to join Table Talk on Microsoft Teams.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 225 336 668 44

Passcode: muTuBy

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,327687577#](tel:+18608402075327687577) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 327 687 577#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

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Summer Meals 2023 Outreach Materials: Due April 1, 2023

End Hunger Connecticut! (EHC!), a nonprofit partner in statewide promotion of the Summer Meal Programs in Connecticut, is now accepting pre-orders for Connecticut Summer Meals outreach materials. Please take a few minutes to complete the [pre-order form](#) to order your Summer Meals outreach materials through EHC! All outreach materials are free, available in Spanish and English, and come in multiple sizes. Please review all details in the form's description and submit pre-orders no later than **8:00 p.m., April 1, 2023**. EHC! will schedule multiple pick-up dates and times and will provide those details to everyone who submits a pre-order form. For questions, please contact EHC! Program Manager Molly Stadnicki at mstadnicki@endhungerct.org.

Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12

The CSDE's *What's in a Meal* training program 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. Modules 1-10 and 14 are 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.

Good to Know

Presentations and Resources Available on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

The USDA and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) offer a variety of resources on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA), 2020-2025.

- Presentations are available on the [DGA](#) webpage. The presentations also include guidance on specific life stages, such as infants and toddlers, children and adolescents, and adults.
- Print materials are available on the "[Professional Resources](#)" section of the DGA webpage.

Reminder: 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge: April 3-23, 2023

Registration is open for the 21-Day Racial Equity Building Challenge, which will be held from April 3-23, 2023. For additional information and to register, visit <https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/>.



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, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2023/SLT_03_22_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

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