

## The School Lunch Tray: April 26, 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**

- CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) is Now Open to Submit Annual HFC Statement: Due July 1, 2023

### **Need to Know**

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)
- Module 11: Grains Component 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
- New Chapters Feature Added to What's in a Meal Training Modules
- New CSDE Resource: How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the NSLP and SBP
- New CSDE Resource: How to Use the How to Use the Grains/Breads Servings Chart for Grades K-12 in the ASP
- Updated Versions of CSDE's Grain Crediting Resources (April 2023)
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 5: Dietary Specifications

### **Good to Know**

- None

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.



### Action Items

#### CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) is Now Open to Submit Annual HFC Statement: Due July 1, 2023

The HFC application module of the CNP System is **now open** for NSLP sponsors to complete their 2023-24 HFC Statement and upload their board minutes. Please read the important information below **before** accessing the CNP System.

- Review the CSDE's [Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2023-24](#). This document provides important information and specific steps for completing the 2023-24 HFC Statement in the CNP System.
- The HFC application requirements are summarized in the "[Apply](#)" section of the HFC webpage and [Operational Memorandum No. 08-23: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\) Statement for School Year 2023-24](#). For additional guidance, review the CSDE's training module, [Completing the Application Process for Healthy Food Certification](#).
- **Complete the HFC module only:** Do **not** begin the application process to participate in the USDA school nutrition programs for school year 2023-24. The CSDE will notify sponsors when it is time to start the online application process for school nutrition programs.
- The chart below summarizes the different responsibilities of the district's **claims preparer** and **authorized signer 1 or 2** in completing and submitting the annual HFC Statement in the CNP Online System. **Note:** The **claims preparer** must enroll the district for school year 2023-24, but only **authorized signers** can complete the HFC application.

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District staff responsibilities for completing the online HFC Statement		
Staff and responsibility	HFC districts	Non-HFC districts
<p><b>Claims Preparer</b> must <b>enroll</b> the district in the 2023-24 application process for school nutrition programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The claims preparer <b>cannot</b> complete, certify, or submit the HFC Statement.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to <b>steps 1-6</b> in section 2 of <a href="#">Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2023-24</a>.</p>	<p>Refer to <b>steps 1-6</b> in section 3 of <a href="#">Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2023-24</a>.</p>
<p><b>Authorized Signer 1 or 2</b> must <b>complete, certify, and submit</b> the HFC Statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorized Signer 1 or 2 <b>cannot</b> access the online HFC module until the claims preparer first enrolls the district in the 2023-24 application process for school nutrition programs.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to <b>steps 7-16</b> in section 2 of <a href="#">Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2023-24</a>.</p>	<p>Refer to <b>steps 7-12</b> in section 3 of <a href="#">Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2023-24</a>.</p>

For questions about the HFC application process, please contact Susan Fiore at [susan.fiore@ct.gov](mailto:susan.fiore@ct.gov).

### Need to Know

#### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

The SY 2023-24 lists of eligible and near-eligible LEAs and schools are now available on the [Eligibility](#) section of the CSDE's [CEP](#) webpage.

- [List of Eligible and Near-eligible Connecticut LEAs \(Districts\)](#)
- [List of Eligible and Near-eligible Connecticut Schools](#)

The CSDE would like to thank all LEAs for submitting data to inform the eligibility lists. The CSDE will submit these data to the USDA.

### Module 11: Grains Component 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

Module 11: Grains Component is now available on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. This module reviews the requirements and crediting information for the grains component. Topics include the required daily and weekly servings, allowable grains and grain products, creditable grain ingredients, how to identify whole and enriched grains, the crediting requirements for different types of grains (breakfast cereals, commercial grain products, commercial combination foods, and grain foods made from scratch), and restrictions for crediting grain-based desserts. This module also describes resources for guidance and training on the grains component.

The CSDE is releasing the 16 *What's in a Meal* modules in stages. The modules highlighted in yellow (1-11 and 14) are available now. The CSDE will notify school food authorities when the remaining modules are released.

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

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## New Chapters Feature Added to What's in a Meal Training Modules

The videos in the CSDE's [What's in a Meal training modules](#) now have a new **chapters feature** that allows easy navigation to each topic within a module. The chapters feature is the icon with three dots and three lines on the far right of the toolbar. To access the toolbar during the video, move the mouse to the green bar at the bottom of the video.



Click the **chapters** icon and the list of topics for that module will appear. Select a topic to go directly to that section of the video.



### **New CSDE Resource: How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the NSLP and SBP**

The CSDE's new resource, [\*How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the NSLP and SBP\*](#), reviews the steps for using the USDA's Exhibit A quantities in the CSDE's [\*Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP\*](#) to determine the ounce equivalents contribution of three types of commercial products and standardized recipes in groups A-G. These include grain menu items in groups A-G that contain multiple small pieces per serving (e.g., crackers, hard pretzels, animal crackers), multiple large pieces per serving (e.g., pancakes, slices of bread, and waffles), and one piece per serving (e.g., muffins, bagels, and rolls).

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### **New CSDE Resource: How to Use the How to Use the Grains/Breads Servings Chart for Grades K-12 in the ASP**

The CSDE's new resource, [\*How to Use the How to Use the Grains/Breads Servings Chart for Grades K-12 in the ASP\*](#), reviews the steps for using the USDA's Exhibit A quantities in the CSDE's [\*Servings for Grains/Breads in the ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12\*](#) to determine the grains/breads servings contribution of three types of commercial products and standardized recipes in groups A-G. These include grain menu items in groups A-G that contain multiple small pieces per serving (e.g., crackers, hard pretzels, animal crackers), multiple large pieces per serving (e.g., pancakes, slices of bread, and waffles), and one piece per serving (e.g., muffins, bagels, and rolls).

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## The School Lunch Tray: April 26, 2023

### Updated Versions of CSDE's Grain Crediting Resources (April 2023)

Updated versions (dated April 2023) of the grain crediting resources listed below are available. The updated versions include some content edits related to the new CSDE resources, [How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the NSLP and SBP](#) and [How to Use the How to Use the Grains/Breads Servings Chart for Grades K-12 in the ASP](#).

- [Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program of the NSLP](#)
- [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program of the NSLP](#)
- [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Grains Component in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Crediting Enriched Grains in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Crediting Whole Grains in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- [How to Identify Creditable Grains for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP](#)

The resources for grades K-12 are available in the “[Grains Component for Grades K-12](#)” section of the CSDE’s [Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The preschool resources are available in the “[Grains Component for Preschoolers](#)” section of the CSDE’s [Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The comparison charts are available under “[C](#)” on the CSDE’s [Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Please discard any versions downloaded prior to today and replace with the April 2023 versions.

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### Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 5: Dietary Specifications

This 18-minute module is the fifth in the CSDE’s *What's in a Meal* training program. Module 5 reviews the four dietary specifications for school meals (calories, saturated fat, sodium, and trans fat) and describes resources for guidance and training on the dietary specifications. This module is available on the CSDE’s [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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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, 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\\_04\\_26\\_2023.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2023/SLT_04_26_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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