

The School Lunch Tray: May 3, 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: Deadline for Comment Period for the Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans is May 10, 2023

Need to Know

- Happy School Lunch Hero Day: May 5, 2023
- Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, May 4, 2023
- USDA Memo SP 13-2023: Best Practices for Contracting with Food Service Management Companies
- USDA's Summer Meals Site Finder Starts May 4, 2023
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation

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.



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Action Items

Reminder: Deadline for Comment Period for the Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans is May 10, 2023

This is a reminder that the comment period for the Proposed Rule *Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* closes on May 10, 2023. Comments can be submitted through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#), following the online instructions for submitting comments. Instructions are also included for mail-in comments. Refer to Section 16 of the Rule to see a summary of the rule and a full list of the questions being asked. For more information on submitting comments, refer to the Federal Register's resource, [Tips for Submitting Effective Comments](#).

As noted in the proposed rule, the USDA intends to finalize the rule in 2024. A new reference tool, [Proposed Implementation Timeline for Nutrition Standards](#), is now available for stakeholders to visualize what changes may be in effect by school year. More information about the proposed rule is available on the USDA's [Proposed Updates to the School Nutrition Standards](#) webpage.

Celebrate School Lunch Hero Day: May 5, 2023

School Lunch Hero Day recognizes the difference that school nutrition professionals make for every child who comes through the cafeteria. Between preparing healthy meals for America's students, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies, and offering service with a smile, school nutrition professionals are true heroes. School Lunch Hero Day is the perfect opportunity to provide well-deserved recognition to these professionals for their hard work and dedication to the health and well-being of students. Visit the School Nutrition Association's [School Lunch Hero Day](#) webpage for more information.



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Need to Know

Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, May 4, 2023

Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, May 4, 2023, 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

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Meeting ID: 225 336 668 44

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USDA Memo SP 13-2023: Best Practices for Contracting with Food Service Management Companies

On April 21, 2023, the USDA released [USDA Memo SP 13-2023: Best Practices for Contracting with Food Service Management Companies](#). This memorandum provides procurement-related technical assistance and information for school food authorities to consider when entering into and executing contracts with food service management companies.

USDA's Summer Meals Site Finder Starts May 4, 2023

The USDA's [Meals for Kids Site Finder \(Summer Site Finder\)](#) for will go live for the 2023 summer season on May 4, 2023. Families can use this tool to find directions to nearby meal sites, as well as their hours of operation and contact information. The map will be refreshed and published weekly.

Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation

This module is the sixth in the CSDE's *What's in a Meal* training program. Module 6 reviews the meal pattern documentation requirements for school meals. Topics include menus, production records, standardized recipes, and crediting documentation for commercial processed foods, i.e., Child Nutrition (CN) labels and product formulation statements (PFS), and the USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs. This module also describes resources for guidance and training on meal pattern documentation and includes a knowledge check on how to review the creditable ingredients in a PFS. This module is available on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.



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_05_03_2023.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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