

The School Lunch Tray: May 23, 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: CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 11-23: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): Notification Due June 1, 2023

Need to Know

- School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds 2.0 March 2023 Payments
- Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, June 1, 2023
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 8: Meat/Meat Alternates (MMA) Component

Good to Know

- USDA Bulletin: School Meals Grab n' Go: Quick Tips to Improve Your Meal Service
- Transforming the U.S. Food System: Making It Better for Farmers and Families

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: CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 11-23: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): Notification Due June 1, 2023

CSDE [Operational Memorandum No. 11-23](#), Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), outlines the annual application process for the CEP. Local educational agencies (LEA) are eligible to participate in the CEP if the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for the entire district, groups of schools, or an individual school meets or exceeds 40 percent.

The school year (SY) 2023-24 lists of eligible and near-eligible LEAs and schools are available in 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](#)

LEAs must formally apply for the CEP for SY 2023-24 if they are interested in participating in the CEP for SY 2023-24 and if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

- LEAs/schools electing CEP participation for the first time;
- LEAs/schools in the mid-cycle of CEP participation that are requesting changes to their currently approved ISP;
- LEAs/schools that are currently in the fourth year of CEP participation with an ISP greater than or equal to 40 percent, and would like to start a new four-year cycle; and
- LEAs/schools currently in the fourth year of CEP participation with a new, calculated ISP greater than or equal to 30 percent, but less than 40 percent (eligible for one “grace” year based on the ISP as of April 3, 2023, of the current four-year cycle).

Note: LEAs and schools **must notify the CSDE by emailing your [CSDE school team member](#) no later than June 1, 2023**, if they intend to:

- formally apply for the CEP for the next school year;
- continue with their current ISP (for mid-cycle CEP participating LEAs and schools);
- recalculate their ISP; or
- withdraw from the CEP and revert to the regular meal counting and claiming process.

To notify the CSDE about the LEA/school's CEP decisions above, email your [CSDE school team member](#). This memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs webpage](#).


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Need to Know

School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds 2.0 March 2023 Payments

SMART Funds 2.0 March 2023 payments to eligible school food authorities (SFA) were processed on May 8, 2023. Each SFA's March earned amount will appear in the Disbursement of Funds Module under Claim Month - May 2023.

2022 - 2023 Disbursement of Funds Claim Year Summary



Type of Agency: Educational Institution
Type of SNP Organization: Public

Claim Month	Adj Number	Claim Status	Date Received	Date Processed	Earned Amount
Jul 2022					\$0.00
Aug 2022					\$0.00
Sep 2022	0	Processed	11/01/2022	11/01/2022	
Oct 2022	0	Processed	12/01/2022	12/01/2022	
Nov 2022	0	Processed	01/03/2023	01/03/2023	
Dec 2022					\$0.00
Jan 2023					\$0.00
Feb 2023					\$0.00
Mar 2023					\$0.00
Apr 2023					\$0.00
May 2023	0	Processed	05/08/2023	05/08/2023	
Jun 2023					\$0.00

Questions related to SMART Funds 1.0 and 2.0 payment dates and amounts should be directed to your [CSDE school team member](#).

Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, June 1, 2023

Table Talk will resume on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNOZDo.

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Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 8: Meat/Meat Alternates (MMA) Component

This 56-minute module is the eighth in the CSDE's *What's in a Meal* training program and reviews the requirements and crediting information for the MMA component. Topics include the difference between MMA and protein, the required daily and weekly servings, offering MMA substitutions at breakfast, the main dish requirement for lunch, crediting requirements for different types of MMA, e.g., commercial processed products, dried meats, cheeses, eggs, legumes (including roasted legumes and pasta made of 100 percent legume flours), nuts and seeds, nut and seed butters, yogurt and soy yogurt, tofu, tempeh, surimi, and alternate protein products (APPs), and noncreditable MMA. This module also describes resources for guidance and training on the MMA component. This module is available on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Good to Know

USDA Bulletin: School Meals Grab n' Go: Quick Tips to Improve Your Meal Service

The most recent edition of USDA's [School Meals Grab n' Go: Quick Tips to Improve Your Meal Service](#) bulletin focuses on "Tips for Offering School Meals Trays, Many Ways." Explore the many ways to offer school lunch and breakfast trays in Team Nutrition's [School Meals Trays, Many Ways photo collection](#). This bulletin also includes tips from school districts across the country for offering delicious and nutritious meals that students will love.

Transforming the U.S. Food System: Making It Better for Farmers and Families

USDA is [transforming the food system](#) for farmers and families through a variety of new programs and funding opportunities. This [new interactive infographic](#) details how the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is implementing these initiatives and building food system resiliency.



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_23_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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