

The School Lunch Tray: May 31, 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

- Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Updates to School Year 2022-23 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Application Packets: Due June 12, 2023
- Reminder: 2023-24 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 9, 2023

Need to Know

- USDA Foods Reminder: Wrapping Up School Year 2022-23
- Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, June 1, 2023
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 9: Fruits Component

Good to Know

- Team Nutrition's Child Nutrition Label Quiz
- New USDA Tip Sheets: Crediting Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs
- New Features of USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool

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

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Updates to School Year 2022-23 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Application Packets: Due June 12, 2023

School food authorities that indicated intent to participate in the SSO via the annual Summer Meal Programs Interest Survey have been contacted with instructions to update their district's school year 2022-23 NSLP application packet. These updates must be completed and submitted for approval no later than **Monday, June 12, 2023**.

If you have not been contacted with instructions and are still intending to participate in SSO for summer 2023, please contact caroline.cooke@ct.gov no later than Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

For questions about Seamless Summer Option participation, please contact caroline.cooke@ct.gov.

Reminder: 2023-24 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 9, 2023

The CSDE's [FFVP Grant Announcement](#) provides information regarding the 2023-24 FFVP grant opportunity. The FFVP provides funding to serve a variety of free fresh fruit and vegetable snacks to all children in participating schools. **This grant-funded program is different from the USDA Foods DOD program.** The goals of the FFVP are to:

- create healthier food choices;
- expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience;
- increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption; and
- make a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health.

The CSDE will accept completed applications online until close of business on **June 9, 2023**. For questions, please contact Andy Paul, Associate Education Consultant, at andrew.paul@ct.gov or 860-807-2048.

Submission Process: The 2023-24 FFVP Applications must be completed and submitted via the CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs ([CNP System](#)); therefore, applicants must have an ID and Password to access the system or must connect with a district staff associate with current access. The [Instructions for Submitting the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\) Grant Application](#) describes how to enter and submit the completed application. **Applicants must complete and upload the [Application Certification form](#).** The [FFVP Area Eligibility List](#) and [FFVP Site Eligibility List](#) are specific to the FFVP grant only, and will assist in determining which schools are potentially eligible to participate in the FFVP.

FFVP Information: For information on the FFVP, visit the CSDE's [FFVP](#) webpage. Applicants must review the USDA's [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Handbook](#) prior to completing the online application to ensure it meets the federal guidelines.

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Need to Know

USDA Foods Reminder: Wrapping Up School Year 2022-23

There is one more USDA Foods delivery from the HPC warehouse, Recipient agencies (RAs) should continue to check monthly allocations and schedule deliveries as appropriate. RAs with significant balances will have product transferred from their account to another RA who has used all their allocated USDA Foods this school year.

Please continue to place orders for pounds diverted to processors as the sweep of all remaining pounds from this school year will proceed on June 30. For additional information on sweeps, please refer to [CSDE Operational Memo No. 02-19](#), USDA Foods – Processing of USDA Foods.

Additional dollars are available for the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for this school year. RAs with a balance below 10 percent of the original allocation may contact the [Food Distribution Program \(FDP\) staff](#) to request additional funds. Prior to approving additional DoD Funds, the FDP will review current usage of all USDA Foods ordered for this school year.

Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, June 1, 2023

Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, June 1, 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.

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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_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo.

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Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 9: Fruits Component

This 46-minute module is the ninth in the CSDE's *What's in a Meal* training program and reviews the requirements and crediting information for the fruits component. Topics include the required daily and weekly servings, the weekly juice limit, crediting requirements for different types of fruits (whole fresh fruits, frozen fruits, canned fruits, dried fruits, fruit juice, coconut, and pureed fruits including fruit smoothies), and noncreditable fruits. This module also describes resources for guidance and training on the fruits component and includes knowledge checks on canned fruits and crediting fruits. This module is available on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Good to Know

Team Nutrition's Child Nutrition Label Quiz

Test much you know about Child Nutrition (CN) labels with Team Nutrition's latest web quiz. The [Child Nutrition Label Quiz](#) helps operators identify products that may need a CN label and understand the requirements for accepting CN labeled products. The quiz consists of 10 self-paced questions that provide feedback for correct and incorrect answers. The user has the opportunity to retake the quiz and retry the questions as many times as desired. This quiz was created to support the information found in the [CN Labeling Program](#) and [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#).

New USDA Tip Sheets: Crediting Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs

The USDA's [Crediting Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheets](#) are the last three in the series of seven tip sheets. These tip sheet provides guidance on crediting grains in a quick reference format and address three topics:

- Part 1: Creditable Grains in Child Nutrition Programs
- Part 2: Identifying Grain Products that are Whole Grain-Rich
- Part 3: Program Requirements

Each tip sheet has its own question-and-answer section.

The entire crediting tip sheets series is available on the USDA's [Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs](#) website and includes Crediting Fruits, Crediting Vegetables, Crediting Meats/Meat Alternates, and Crediting Fluid Milk.

New Features of USDA’s Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool

The USDA’s [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool](#) now has an option to add an associated certification to training logs for recurring trainings or courses that result in a certification. By using the new “Log Certifications” feature, the PSTTT will send an email reminder 90 and 30 days before the certification expiration date.

An additional option is now available to log certifications separate from training hours. This feature could be used for new hires that may have completed a certification course prior to their hire date.



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_30_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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