

The School Lunch Tray: June 21, 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

- None

Need to Know

- Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars
- Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs
- Updated CSDE Resources: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement

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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Need to Know

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars

The final webinar of the 2023 Annual Summer Meal Programs Training Series will be held on **June 22, 2023, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** This webinar is open office hours to discuss any Summer Meals topics of your choosing (other than an inquiry regarding what day your application will be approved 😊). There will not be a formal presentation.

Registration is not required for SSO sponsors. To attend the training, use the TEAMS link below.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 273 960 499 287

Passcode: tK8s2c

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

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075..128618960#](#) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 128 618 960#

For questions about Summer Meal Programs training, please contact caroline.cooke@ct.gov.

Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's meal pattern comparison charts are updated for SY 2023-24. These documents summarize and compare the meal pattern requirements for preschoolers and grades K-12 in the school nutrition programs. They also provide links to applicable crediting resources.

- **ASP:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program of the NSLP](#)
- **NSLP and SBP:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)
- **Grains:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Grains Component in School Nutrition Programs](#)
- **Milk:** [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Milk Component in School Nutrition Programs](#)

These documents are available in the "[Comparison Charts](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs webpage.

Updated CSDE Resources: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP

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The CSDE's resources below provide guidance to help menu planners meet the NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements for grades K-12 and encourage student selections of reimbursable meals with offer versus serve (OVS).

- [Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP](#)
- [Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the SBP](#)

These documents are available in the "[Menu Planning for School Meals](#)" section of the CSDE's [Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement

This 77-minute module is the twelfth in the CSDE's *What's in a Meal* training program and reviews the weekly WGR requirement and the WGR criteria for the grains component. Topics include the WGR criteria for different types of grains (commercial grain products, commercial combination foods, ready-to-eat breakfast cereals, and grain foods made from scratch), the limit for noncreditable grains and when to ignore noncreditable grains, how to determine if commercial grain products and standardized recipes are WGR, the required WGR documentation for commercial grain products, and when a PFS is required for WGR foods. This module also includes a knowledge check on how to determine if commercial grain foods meet the WGR criteria and describes resources for guidance and training on the WGR criteria. Access this module and the other What's in a Meal modules on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Good to Know



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_06_21_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
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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