

The School Lunch Tray: July 12, 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: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Application and Attestation Statement Due July 14, 2023

Need to Know

- Updated Addendum B for School Year 2023-24: Access Health CT HUSKY Health Insurance
- Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy: August 21, 2023
- Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards for School Food Authorities (SFA)
- Resource Roundup: USDA's Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast

Good to Know

- National Farm to School Network Webinar: Advocating for Farm to School: How to Host a Site Visit, Wednesday, July 12, 2023
- FRAC Webinar: Behind the Scenes with School Meals for All: What You'll Need to Be Successful: July 27, 2023
- FRAC Webinar: Boosting Breakfast Participation in Grades 6-12: August 3, 2023
- Enjoy Healthy Summer Activities from Team Nutrition's Summer Food, Summer Moves Resource Kit
- USDA Resources: Cook with Kids

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.



The School Lunch Tray: July 12, 2023

Action Items

Reminder: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Application and Attestation Statement Due July 14, 2023

On June 28, 2023, [CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 14-23](#) announced the LFSIP for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP, and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP. The LFSIP provides USDA funding for procuring locally grown and produced foods.

All school food authorities (SFAs), including SFAs that choose not to participate, must complete [the Application and Attestation Statement for the Local Food for School Incentive Program \(LFSIP\)](#) by **July 14, 2023**. For questions, contact Monica Pacheco at monica.pacheco@ct.gov.

Need to Know

Updated Addendum B for School Year 2023-24: Access Health CT HUSKY Health Insurance

The Connecticut Department of Public Health recently updated the Access Health CT HUSKY Health Insurance document, *Addendum B: Does Your Family Need Health Insurance?* The SY 2023-24 document is available in English and Spanish in the “[Addenda](#)” section of the CSDE’s Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs webpage. This document provides valuable information regarding HUSKY Health Insurance and providing health insurance for eligible children and adults. The CSDE strongly recommends that NSLP and SBP sponsors: 1) include this document with the school/district’s free and reduced-price application materials issued to households; and 2) include a link to the document on the school/district’s website.

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy: August 21, 2023

On Monday August 21, 2023, the University of Connecticut is hosting a WSCC Academy to help districts learn how to strengthen their school practices to promote whole child development. WSCC Academy participants will:

- increase their knowledge about the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) WSCC model;
- learn about the WSCC Practice Blueprint, an action planning tool to help schools assess and strengthen their WSCC aligned practices; and
- use the WSCC Practice Blueprint to evaluate practices in their own school and develop a strategy to strengthen their school’s practices beginning this year.

For more information and to register, refer to the attached flier and visit <https://csch.uconn.edu/wsc-academy/>.

Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards for School Food Authorities (SFA)

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative, Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is offering Recognition Awards to celebrate SFAs that have made significant improvements to the nutritional quality of their school meals. The Recognition Awards will spotlight innovative practices, student and community engagement activities, and strategies schools have used to provide meals that are consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

- **Application portal:** The Recognition Awards application portal and helpful resources to complete the application are available at <https://healthymealsincentives.org/recognition-awards/>. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through June 30, 2025. Applicants will be notified of their results within two months of submission by email and the application status will also be posted on the portal.
- **Informational webinar:** AFHK will host an informational webinar about the Recognition Awards on September 21, 2023, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. This webinar will provide an overview of the Recognition Awards including information about eligibility, the application process, technical assistance available, and more. Register at <https://actionforhealthykids.jotform.com/231774608182056>.
- **Questions:** Email awards@healthymealsincentives.org.

Resource Roundup: USDA's Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast

The USDA's [Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#) provides guidance for school nutrition professionals on how to identify sources of added sugars and specific ways to reduce the amount of added sugars in school breakfast meals.

The School Lunch Tray: July 12, 2023

Good to Know

National Farm to School Network Webinar: Advocating for Farm to School: How to Host a Site Visit, Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Join the National Farm to School Network's webinar on how to invite and host decision makers to highlight your farm to school efforts. Showcasing your program in-person is one of the most impactful ways to advocate for farm to school. Some officials may have never heard of farm to school or related efforts before, and site visits are a great opportunity for them to learn more. Giving officials at any level or branch of government the opportunity to experience your farm to school program firsthand will not only make them familiar with farm to school, but also allow them to interact with those who benefit the most.

- **Date and time:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- **Registration:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlcumgrjooHNRyCzWPI-KpiE8ceO4VR8q#/registration>

FRAC Webinar: Behind the Scenes with School Meals for All: What You'll Need to Be Successful: July 27, 2023

Momentum is growing for Healthy School Meals for All. Schools across the country are seeing the benefits of offering school meals to all students at no charge, such as increasing participation in school meals and eliminating meal debt. Join the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) for tips and tricks for a smooth transition to healthy school meals for all.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, July 27, 202, 3:00 p.m.
- **Registration:** https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s5zTa_VjRG6N7lFcSBSRfQ#/registration

FRAC Webinar: Boosting Breakfast Participation in Grades 6-12: August 3, 2023

FRAC will explore successful strategies to engage older students and increase school breakfast participation in secondary schools. This webinar highlights schools and districts that are using innovative and collaborative methods to increase adolescents' participation in school breakfast.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, August 3, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
- **Registration:** https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Vr2wAInZSziTniHiQTp1cA#/registration

Enjoy Healthy Summer Activities from Team Nutrition's Summer Food, Summer Moves Resource Kit

Summer is officially here! Share some fun and healthy activities for kids and their families/caregivers from Team Nutrition's [Summer Food, Summer Moves Resource Kit](#):

- [Make fun and tasty ice cubes](#)
- [Play Summer Fruit & Veggie Bingo](#)
- [Try picnic games and festive summer foods](#)
- [Turn on the music and learn new dance moves](#)

Summer Food Service Program operators may request free [printed copies](#) while supplies last. These materials are also available in [Spanish](#).

USDA Resources: Cook with Kids

Looking for a fun at-home activity to do with young kids this summer? Get them cooking with these [Look and Cook Recipes](#) from Discover MyPlate. [Watch this video](#) for instructions and try all five recipes!

Find more [Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten](#) resources for teachers and families, including [two more videos](#), on USDA's website. For Spanish materials, visit [Descubre MiPlato: educación nutricional para el jardín de niños](#).



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_07_12_2023.pdf.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race; color; religious creed; age; sex; pregnancy; sexual orientation; workplace hazards to reproductive systems, gender identity or expression; marital status; national origin; ancestry; retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, intellectual disability; genetic information; learning disability; physical disability (including, but not limited to, blindness); mental disability (past/present history thereof); military or veteran status; status as a victim of domestic violence; or criminal record in state employment, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes. Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Attorney Louis Todisco, Connecticut State Department of Education, by mail 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1841; or by telephone 860-713-6594; or by email louis.todisco@ct.gov.