

## The School Lunch Tray: August 9, 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**

- CSDE Operational Memorandum 18-23: State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Attestation Statement Due August 18, 2023

### **Need to Know**

- STABLE Funds Information Session/Office Hours: Tuesday, August 15, 2023
- Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Information Sessions: August 15 and August 22, 2023
- Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2023-24
- New CSDE Webpage: Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs
- CSDE's What's in a Meal Offer versus Serve (OVS) Training Modules Now Available
- Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2023-24

### **Good to Know**

- USDA's Team Nutrition School Lunch Menu Poster: Today's Lunch
- Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: School Lunch: Practices & Policies That Promote Participation, Thursday, August 10, 2023

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

### **CSDE Operational Memorandum 18-23: State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Attestation Statement Due August 18, 2023**

[CSDE Operational Memorandum 18-23](#) provides information and guidance on the State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Attestation Statement, which is due **August 18, 2023**. Pursuant to Public Act No. 23-204 (Connecticut State Budget), \$16 million of federal American Rescue Plan Act (2021) funds has been allocated for “Free Meals for Students” to the CSDE for school year (SY) 2023-24. Through working with the Governor’s Office and legislative leadership, these funds will be used to support households by allowing the provision of 1) breakfast meals at no cost to all students in non-Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and 2) lunch meals at no cost for students eligible for reduced-price meals in non-CEP schools that are participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). For SY 2023-24, under the NSLP and SBP, free and reduced-price meal eligibility will be determined for each individual student. Meals will be reimbursed based on a student’s approved eligibility (free, reduced-price, and paid).

## Need to Know

### **STABLE Funds Information Session/Office Hours: Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

Please share with all pertinent staff: On Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., the CSDE is hosting an information session and office hours to discuss the recently announced State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) funds opportunity for school year (SY) 2023-24. Please join us and bring your questions. You may also submit questions ahead of time by using this link: [https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo](https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo).

Use the link below to join. Registration is not required.

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 253 899 187 231

Passcode: Mmxdgc

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

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 860-840-2075,591022737#](tel:+18608402075591022737) United States, Hartford

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### Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Information Sessions: August 15 and August 22, 2023

What's next for schools electing to participate in phase 1 of the LFSIP? The CSDE is providing an information session on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, and Tuesday, August 22, 2023, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., to provide guidance for LFSIP schools. The information will be the same for each session and will provide a brief review of the LFSIP, and discuss next steps, and resources. Representatives from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and Department of Agriculture (DoAg) will be available to answer questions.

Registration is not required Sign in using the links below.

- [Tuesday, August 15, 2023](#), 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- [Tuesday, August 22, 2023](#), 2:00-3:00 p.m.

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### Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2023-24

The CSDE's [Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities](#) is now available for school year 2023-24. This calendar helps school food authorities (SFAs) comply with the many requirements and due dates associated with operating the USDA's school nutrition programs. Please share this calendar with all staff members responsible for reporting and compliance in your school nutrition programs. **Note:** Schedules on this calendar are subject to change and do not represent all federal and state requirements for operating the USDA Child Nutrition Programs in schools and institutions.

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### New CSDE Webpage: Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's new webpage, [Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs](#), contains current information for operating the USDA's school nutrition programs. Information and guidance on applying for the [State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses \(STABLE\)](#) funds is available on this webpage. Additional information will be added throughout the school year. In addition to the direct link above, this webpage is also accessible under "[C](#)" on the CSDE's Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs webpage.

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### SDE's What's in a Meal Offer versus Serve(OVS) Training Modules Now Available

The CSDE's [What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#) is a series of 16 recorded training modules that provide comprehensive guidance on complying with the meal patterns for grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP. These modules are intended for school food service professionals in the NSLP, SBP, and SSO, including food service directors, managers, and staff.

The *What's in a Meal* modules on OVS are now available.

- **Module 15: Offer versus Serve (OVS) in the NSLP:** This module reviews the OVS requirements for the NSLP including the requirements for reimbursable lunches, menu planning considerations for the food components, identifying reimbursable meals, OVS with family-style meal service and salad bars, required signage, and OVS best practices and strategies for success. This module also describes resources for guidance and training on OVS and includes Meal or No Meal: Lunch Edition, a quiz on identifying reimbursable lunches with OVS.
- **Module 16: Offer versus Serve (OVS) in the SBP:** This module reviews the OVS requirements for the SBP. Topics include the requirements for reimbursable breakfasts, menu planning considerations, required signage, identifying reimbursable meals, and best practices for OVS. This module also describes resources for guidance and training on OVS and includes Meal or No Meal: Breakfast Edition, a quiz on identifying reimbursable breakfasts with OVS.

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### Resource Roundup: Updated CSDE Offer versus Serve (OVS) Summary Handouts for School Year 2023-24

The CSDE has updated the OVS summary handouts for school year 2023-24. These resources provide an overview of the requirements for implementing the USDA's OVS provision for grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP.

- [Overview of OVS in the National School Lunch Program](#)
- [Overview of OVS in the School Breakfast Program](#)

These resources are available on the CSDE's [Offer versus Serve for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Please discard any versions prior to the June 2023 revision.

## Good to Know

### **USDA's Team Nutrition School Lunch Menu Poster: Today's Lunch**

USDA's Team Nutrition recently announce the release of the new [School Lunch Menu E-Poster](#). This resource is designed for school nutrition programs to display daily lunch menu options and remind students to eat a variety of foods while building a reimbursable meal. The fillable pdf file can be used for electronic message boards, webpages, and social media or can be printed and displayed in sign holders.

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### **Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: School Lunch: Practices & Policies That Promote Participation, Thursday, August 10, 2023**

School lunch is critical to student health and well-being, and provides the nutritional foundation needed for academic achievement and lifelong success. Nearly 30 million children participated in the NSLP each day during the 2021-22 school year; however, far too many students, particularly those from low-income households, miss the benefits of a healthy school lunch.

Well-designed policies and practices can help engage students and reduce barriers to school lunch participation. Join the FRAC to learn from experts across the nation on how to promote participation in their school lunch programs.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, August 10, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
  - *Registration:* [https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sKCuVNNkSD-doCJFd5bS-w?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=23645c64-97a6-4783-b8de-554b03e0e499#/registration](https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sKCuVNNkSD-doCJFd5bS-w?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=23645c64-97a6-4783-b8de-554b03e0e499#/registration)
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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\\_08\\_09\\_2023.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2023/SLT_08_09_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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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