

# The School Lunch Tray: August 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

- Mandatory Tutorial for NSLP Sponsor and Site Application: August 31, 2023

## Need to Know

- Welcome Back to School: School Lunch Tray Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, August 24, 2023
- CSDE's Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12: School Year 2023-24
- What's in a Meal Training Modules Updated for School Year 2023-24
- CSDE's Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: School Year 2023-24
- Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Handbook for School Year 2023-24
- USDA Foods Update: Shortage of Diced Cling Peaches
- Countdown to the USDA Farm to School Census
- New Rudd Center LSWP Triennial Assessment Report
- Resource Roundup: USDA's Back to School Webpage

## Good to Know

- Rudd Center Webinar on the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Report: Thursday, August 24, 2023
- New Rudd Center LSWP Video: Connecting Nutrition Education and School Food Environment
- Institute of Child Nutrition Webinar on Procuring Local Foods: August 31, 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.



# The School Lunch Tray: August 23, 2023

## Action Items

### Mandatory Tutorial for NSLP Sponsor and Site Application: August 31, 2023

Please join the CSDE for a mandatory interactive training session on how to submit the NSLP application for school year 2023-24. This session will be held on **Thursday, August 31, 2023**, from 2:00– 3:30 p.m., and is required for all staff responsible for completing and submitting the annual NSLP application.

This training session assists sponsors with a speedy and successful application approval process. The CSDE will walk through each step of the application process to ensure that the sponsor and site application are completed accurately, and correct documentation is uploaded into the checklist summary. To prepare for this session, please be familiar with the documents and weblinks below and have them available during the training.

1. CSDE's instructions: [Updating the Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Program](#)
2. Applicable documents for the NSLP application, e.g., policy statement, public release, and parent/guardian notification letters. For a list of the required documents, refer to the CSDE's Instructions Checklist Summary: [Required Items for the Online Sponsor Application "Checklist Summary."](#)
3. Access to the [Online Application and Claiming System for Connecticut Child Nutrition Programs \(CNP System\)](#).

For a better Microsoft Teams experience, download the free app ahead of time.

### Microsoft Teams meeting

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

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 269 330 049 156

Passcode: 3nmns6

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

#### Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,,197143195#](#) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 197 143 195#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

# The School Lunch Tray: August 23, 2023

## Need to Know

### Welcome Back to School: School Lunch Tray Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, August 24, 2023

Mark your calendars for the return of School Lunch Tray Table Talk, starting on August 24, 2023. Table Talk will be held every other Thursday from 2:00-3:00 p.m. To submit questions in advance, visit [https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo](https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo).

To help start the school year with a focus on wellness, the CSDE will be joined by the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health on August 24, 2023, and September 7, 2023, for a two-part series on the triennial assessment of local school wellness policies. All Connecticut sponsors of the NSLP and SBP have now completed the first required triennial assessment, which was due June 30, 2022. The August 24 session will share the Rudd Center's findings from their triennial assessment report, [Evaluation of School Wellness Policies Using the WellsAT](#). The Rudd Center will discuss where sponsors excelled in their policies and practices, and where there is room for growth.

### Microsoft Teams meeting

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

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 225 840 614 443

Passcode: cXqMJX

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

#### Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,,55290261#](#) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 552 902 61#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

### CSDE's Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12: School Year 2023-24

The school year 2023-24 version of the CSDE's *Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12* (MPG) is now available on the CSDE's [Menu Planning Guide for School Meals](#) webpage. Bookmark this webpage for easy access.

The MPG contains comprehensive information and guidance on planning menus to meet the USDA 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, based on current USDA regulations and policy and Connecticut statutes and regulations. For an overview of the MPG sections, refer to the CSDE's [Overview of Contents for the Menu Planning Guide for School Meals](#).

---

### What's in a Meal Training Modules Updated for School Year 2023-24

## The School Lunch Tray: August 23, 2023

The CSDE's [What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#) are now updated for school year 2023-24. This series of 16 recorded training modules provides comprehensive guidance on complying with the meal patterns for grades K-12 in the NSLP, SBP, and SSO. These modules are intended for school food service professionals in the NSLP, SBP, and SSO, including food service directors, managers, and staff.

School nutrition personnel may use the *What's in a Meal* training program to count toward the annual training requirements of the USDA's professional standards requirements. For more information, refer to the CSDE's [Professional Standards Topics and Training Hours for the What's in a Meal Training Modules](#).

---

### CSDE's Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: School Year 2023-24

The school year 2023-24 version of the CSDE's [Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) is now available. This guide contains information and guidance on planning menus to meet the USDA's meal patterns for preschoolers (ages 1-4) in the NSLP, SBP, SSO, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP. For additional resources on the preschool meal patterns and crediting foods, visit the CSDE's [Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

---

### Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Handbook for School Year 2023-24

The updated [Afterschool Snack Program Handbook](#) for school year 2023-24 (dated August 2023) is now available. As a reminder, the current ASP resources and forms are available on the [ASP](#) webpage. Forms are available in the "[Forms for the ASP](#)" section. The 2023-24 ASP meal pattern for grades K-12 and ASP preschool meal pattern are available in the [Meal Patterns for the ASP](#) section.

---

### USDA Foods Update: Shortage of Diced Cling Peaches

USDA has provided an update on a Direct Delivery item that affects Connecticut orders: item #100220 – Peaches Cling Diced. There is a national shortfall on some orders due to an unforeseen peach shortage for one of the vendors (refer to the chart below).

Material	Material description	Trucks	
		Purchased	Shortfall
100220	PEACHES CLING DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	494	331

Recipient Agencies should run a Requisition Status Report in WBSCM to see if this affects your orders. For instruction on how to run a report, refer to the [WBSCM Training Guide](#). Instructions for the Requisition Status Report start on page 77.

### Countdown to the USDA Farm to School Census

In fall 2023, USDA will field the Farm to School Census, collecting information from school food authorities (SFAs) on their use of local food in school meals and participation in farm to school activities in school year 2022-23. Each SFA will receive a unique link to their own online survey portal this October. Now is a great time for SFAs to begin preparing to complete the Census by exploring the [Farm to School Census Partner Resources](#) webpage. Useful tools include a [Farm to School Census Sample Survey](#), a [Preparation Worksheet](#), [FAQs](#), and a [Checklist for Success](#). Past Farm to School Census results are available on the USDA's [Farm to School Census](#) webpage.

---

### New Rudd Center LSWP Triennial Assessment Report

All Connecticut sponsors of the NSLP and SBP completed their triennial assessment by June 30, 2022, as required by the USDA [Final Rule: Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the HHSFKA of 2010](#). The Rudd Center's triennial assessment report was created using information that schools input into the [Wellness School Assessment Tool \(WellSAT\)](#). The Rudd Center reviewed data from 110 NSLP and SBP sponsors. Each sponsor's individual item policy scores were matched and compared with its corresponding practice implementation scores. The results and recommendations are available in the Rudd Center's report, [Evaluation of School Wellness Policies Using the WellSAT](#).

---

### Resource Roundup: USDA's Back to School Webpage

The USDA's [Back to School](#) webpage provides links to a variety of resources for the school nutrition programs. Topics include strengthening school meal programs, energizing nutrition education and promotion, and renewing a healthy school environment.

---

## Good to Know

### **New Rudd Center LSWP Video: Connecting Nutrition Education and School Food Environment**

The Rudd Center recently released [Video 1 Implementing school wellness policies: Connecting nutrition education and school food environment](#). Does your district or school connect nutrition education with the school food environment? Many Connecticut sponsors have strong language in their wellness policies but do not have this practice fully in place. This 9-minute video, created by the UConn Rudd Center, explains the importance of connecting nutrition education and school food, the prevalence of districts in Connecticut that require this connection in policy and practice, the challenges that schools face implementing these practices, and strategies to help you overcome these barriers.

More guidance and resources on LSWPs are available in the “[How To](#)” section of the CSDE’s School Wellness Policies webpage.

---

### **Institute of Child Nutrition Webinar on Procuring Local Foods: August 31, 2023**

Join the Institute of Child Nutrition on August 31, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. for a webinar on procuring local foods. This webinar aims to equip school nutrition professionals with effective procurement practices for incorporating locally sourced foods into the school meal programs. It will feature strategies for sourcing local foods, establishing community partnerships, and addressing procurement challenges.

Registration:

[https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sUbroLN\\_S\\_mEVwnVoYA3Ew#/registration](https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sUbroLN_S_mEVwnVoYA3Ew#/registration)

---



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\\_23\\_2023.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2023/SLT_08_23_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, audiotape, 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](mailto: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](mailto:louis.todisco@ct.gov).