

The School Lunch Tray: September 6, 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: School Year 2023-24 Sponsor Agreements Due Friday, September 15, 2023

Need to Know

- Reminder: Join Table Talk on Thursday, September 7, 2023
- New CSDE Resource: STABLE Funds Forecaster and Tracker
- CSDE Resource Updated for School Year 2023-24: Overview of Meal Counting and Claiming Process for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs
- Important Information from the Defense Logistics Agency for the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Now Available: USDA's Revised Menu Planner for School Meals
- USDA Training: Civil Rights 101 – CACFP and SFSP, September 11, 2023
- Resource Roundup: UConn Rudd Center's Implementing School Wellness Policies Video 1: Connecting Nutrition Education and School Food Environment

Good to Know

- ICN's Back to School Toolbox
- September is Food Safety Education Month
- Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar Series: Seafood to Schools: September 7, 2023
- Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) Application Period Began September 1, 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

Reminder: School Year 2023-24 Sponsor Agreements Due Friday, September 15, 2023

The school year 2023-24 Sponsor Agreements must be completed and submitted by Friday, September 15, 2023. **Note:** National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Afterschool Snack Program, and Special Milk Program claims for July and/or August cannot be entered or submitted without an approved agreement.

Applications that have been submitted and are ready for approval will have a **Packet Submitted Date** and will show “The Application Packet is currently under review by the State and is unavailable for changes” on the 2023-24 Application Packet dashboard. The school nutrition programs staff urge SFAs to review the CSDE’s resources, [Updating the Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs](#) and [Required Items for the Online Sponsor Application “Checklist Summary,”](#) to troubleshoot application issues before contacting their school nutrition team member.

2023 - 2024 Application Packet

Packet Submitted Date: 09/05/2023
 Packet Approved Date:
 Packet Original Approval Date:
 Packet Status: Submitted for Approval

Type of Agency: Educational Institution
Type of SNP Organization: Public

The Application Packet is currently under review by the State and is unavailable for changes.

Packet Assigned To: Susan Alston

Action	Form Name	Latest Version	Status
View Revise	✓ Sponsor Application	Original	Approved
View Admin Revise	✓ Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schedule	Rev. 1	Approved
Details	Meal Pattern Compliance Dashboard		Pending Validation
Details	➔ Checklist Summary (12)		
Details	Application Packet Notes		

Site Applications	Approved	Pending	Return for Correction	Denied	Withdrawn/Closed	Error	Total Applications
School Nutrition Program	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Seamless Summer Option	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Show Packet History

Need to Know

Reminder: Join Table Talk on Thursday, September 7, 2023

On Thursday, September 7, 2023, the CSDE will be joined by the UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health for the second webinar in the two-part series on the triennial assessment of local school wellness policies. This session will introduce three new videos on wellness policy implementation.

- [Video 1 Implementing school wellness policies: Connecting nutrition education and school food environment](#)
- [Video 2 Implementing school wellness policies: Not using food as a reward](#)
- [Video 3 Implementing school wellness policies: Culturally inclusive practices in wellness activities](#)

This webinar will discuss the importance of these practices, the prevalence of these topics in policies and practice in Connecticut, the challenges that schools face implementing these practices, and strategies to overcome these barriers. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Phone Conference ID: 552 902 61#

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CSDE Resource Updated for School Year 2023-24: Overview of Meal Counting and Claiming Process for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's [Overview of Meal Counting and Claiming Process for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs](#) is updated for school year 2023-24. This document summarizes the requirements for the meal counting and claiming process in local educational agencies (LEAs) and assists LEAs with meeting the USDA regulations for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast

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Program (SBP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), and Special Milk Program (SMP).

New CSDE Resource: STABLE Funds Forecaster and Tracker

The CSDE has a new resource for local educational authorities participating in the State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Funds opportunity. The [STABLE Funds Tool](#) allows districts to forecast the STABLE Funds reimbursement amount and track the STABLE Funds reimbursement payment amount.

Important Information from the Defense Logistics Agency for the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

As a reminder, schools cannot take credits on their receipts without either marking their bill of lading at delivery or contacting the vendor, Gargiulo, within 24 hours of delivery. Otherwise, USDA is billed by Gargiulo for that returned item and the school's account will still be charged.

Now Available: USDA's Revised Menu Planner for School Meals

The USDA recently revised the [Menu Planner for School Meals](#) to reflect the 2022 final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium. This technical resource is designed to help school nutrition professionals plan, prepare, provide, and market great tasting, nutritious, and safe meals. The content covers information on the following topics: nutrition, food safety, Farm to School, USDA Foods, seasonal foods, marketing, and the administrative review. The resource consists of seven chapters intended to stand on their own in addition to the introduction, quiz answer key, glossary, and appendixes sections.

USDA Training: Civil Rights 101 – CACFP and SFSP, September 11, 2023

On September 11, 2023, The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Civil Rights Division will provide a web-based training, Civil Rights 101 – CACFP and SFSP. This webinar will last approximately 2 hours and may include a Q&A opportunity at the conclusion of the training.

- *Date and time:* Monday September 11, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* Registration is required for this event. Please register using the [Webex registration link](#) no later than 24 hours in advance to ensure you receive an attendee link.

Please log on at least 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the training as access to the training will be restricted 15 minutes into the training.

Resource Roundup: UConn Rudd Center's Implementing School Wellness Policies Video 1: 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 overcome these barriers.

Good to Know

ICN's Back to School Toolbox

ICN is making back to school as easy as ABC, with resources to prepare for the upcoming school year. The ICN's [Back-to-School Toolbox](#) includes a Back-to-school video and checklist, resources, and an extensive list of self-paced, no-cost online courses.

September is Food Safety Education Month

Food safety is an integral part of successful Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). The ICN's [Food Safety Resources](#) webpage provides many resources to assist with ensuring food safety in the CNPs. Resources for Food Safety Education Month are also available at the links below.

- [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)
 - [Partnership for Food Safety Education \(fightbac.org\)](http://fightbac.org)
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Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar Series: Seafood to Schools: September 7, 2023

This Seafood to Schools webinar presents success stories from school meal programs serving fish on their menus. Join presenters Chef Michael J. Flynn and Chef Richie Wilim to learn more about their processes from purchasing to preparation and service.

- Date and time: Thursday, September 7, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
 - Registration: https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_taUo_632QiKw-LXR2GlFfQ#/registration
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Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) Application Period Began September 1, 2023

As colder months loom on the horizon, Connecticut is preparing to help its residents stay warm. On September 1, 2023, the [Connecticut Energy Assistance Program \(CEAP\) opened its application period](#) for the 2023-24 winter season. The program is designed to support Connecticut homeowners and renters who may struggle with the financial burden of heating their homes. Districts may want to consider providing this information in their communications to households.



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_09_06_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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