

The School Lunch Tray: November 1, 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 for NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Applicants to Submit Purchase Orders
- Participate in the 2023 Farm to School Census

Need to Know

- Local Educational Agencies Experiencing Milk Supply Shortages or Other Milk Emergencies
- USDA Memo TA 01-2024: Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs
- Join the CSDE for Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, November 2, 2023
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Webpage

Good to Know

- Extended Deadline for Nominations for Farm to School Champions: November 6, 2023
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Webinar: A School Nutrition Professional Guide to Agriculture Topics, November 9, 2023
- New England Dairy Survey About Dairy in the School Meal Programs

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.



Action Items

Reminder for NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Applicants to Submit Purchase Orders

As a reminder, NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Applicants must email their signed purchase orders for equipment to sean.fogarty@ct.gov before starting a request within the Connecticut eGrants Management System (eGMS). The CSDE will issue the official award notifications for reimbursements through the eGMS. To initiate this process, successful applicants must provide a signed purchase order for their equipment and email to sean.fogarty@ct.gov.

Participate in the 2023 Farm to School Census

The USDA's Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program is conducting the fourth Farm to School Census (The Census). Surveys were emailed in early October. The Census is the only national survey that examines local food purchasing, gardens, and agricultural education in schools. USDA encourages all public, private, and charter schools operating the National School Lunch Program in all 50 states and territories, to participate and make sure #LocalCounts. Census data, including trends, economic impacts, and challenges, is often used to inform decisions made by local, state, and national decision leaders. Your participation will allow the Farm to School Program to showcase your work and grow the farm to school movement! Contact Monica Pacheco at monica.pacheco@ct.gov with any questions or if you need assistance completing the census.

Need to Know

Local Educational Agencies Experiencing Milk Supply Shortages or Other Milk Emergencies

The CSDE was recently notified about a shortage in milk cartons that may cause distributors to limit the milk that is delivered to schools. As a reminder, if there is an emergency with providing milk during breakfast or lunch service, local educational agencies (LEAs) must notify and receive approval from the CSDE's Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs before providing a meal that does not offer milk as part of the reimbursable meal. Under the current regulations for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) ([7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(2\)](#)), School Breakfast Program (SBP) ([220.8\(d\)](#)), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ([225.16\(f\)\(6\)](#)) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) ([226.20\(e\)\(1\)](#)), state agencies may allow LEAs experiencing emergencies involving milk to serve meals during an emergency period with an alternate form of fluid milk or without fluid milk.

Although LEAs are expected to meet the fluid milk requirements to the greatest extent possible, there may be circumstances that prevent LEAs from offering milk as part of the reimbursable meal including supply chain disruptions, such as disruptions that limit milk variety or affect serving size, milk delivery problems, or milk quality issues.

LEAs that are experiencing issues with offering milk should contact their school nutrition team member and copy Shannon Yearwood, Bureau Chief, Child Nutrition Programs. The email should include the information below.

1. The reason milk cannot be served.
2. The schools impacted.
3. The meal service impacted (i.e., breakfast, lunch, or both).
4. The estimated timeframe that milk will not be served.

For questions, please contact your [school nutrition team member](#).

USDA Memo TA 01-2024: Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs

Today, USDA released [TA 01-2024: Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs](#). This memorandum supersedes TA 01-2015: Child Nutrition Programs and Traditional Foods. It includes an updated and expanded list of traditional Indigenous foods, such as beaked hazelnuts, steamed lambsquarters, and wild raspberries, that credit the same as similar foods currently included in the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs \(FBG\)](#). This memorandum is part of the USDA's effort to promote serving traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs and will also be available on the USDA's previously released [Serving Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The FBG was updated in May 2023 with the addition of traditional Indigenous foods similar to foods already included in the FBG.

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Join the CSDE for Table Talk Tomorrow, Thursday, November 2, 2023

The next Table Talk will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. To submit questions in advance, visit <https://forms.office.com/g/GWS7DCbbgo>.

Registration is not required. Please use the link below to join Table Talk on Microsoft Teams.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Resource Roundup: CSDE's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Webpage

The CSDE's [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\)](#) webpage is the go-to resource for guidance on the CEP. This webpage provides information and resources on the CEP requirements, including USDA final rules and memos, the CEP application process, required forms, implementation guidance, and lists of approved districts and schools.

Good to Know

Extended Deadline for Nominations for Farm to School Champions: November 6, 2023

The Farm to School Champions nomination deadline is extended to November 6, 2023. Please [submit the nomination form](#) to recognize the hard work of your local Farm to School supporters. Nomination can be submitted in the four categories below.

- Local Food Team (Food Service Director/Staff and Farmer)
- Farm to School Legislator Champion
- Farm to School Educators
- Farm to School Community Supporters

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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) Webinar: A School Nutrition Professional Guide to Agriculture Topics, November 9, 2023

The School Nutrition Services, a Dietetic Practice Group of the AND, will be hosting a free webinar on November 9, 2023, A School Nutrition Professional Guide to Agriculture Topics. This webinar will cover the dramatic change in the farming landscape and how farmers are now utilizing technology and innovation to continue to produce safe, nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food. There will be a focus on Farm-to-School and new types of agriculture systems.

Date and time: Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegUxT-N7pkq6Salv8DsCSbehCEvZu42RySNnvAqtmUr2_g/viewform

New England Dairy Survey About Dairy in the School Meal Programs

New England Dairy is working with the National Dairy Council to better understand the current school milk landscape. Please consider providing information on your school district's school milk offerings by completing this [survey](#) by **November 17, 2023**. The information being collected in this survey is for research purposes only. Responses are confidential, Ratings or comments will not be directly attributed to participants. The responses from all participants will be combined and summarized as a group. Thank you in advance for your participation.



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_11_01_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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