

The School Lunch Tray: November 29, 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

- Final Reminder: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Documentation for School Year 2023-24 Due November 30, 2023

Need to Know

- No Table Talk for Thursday, November 30, 2023
- USDA Foods Database & Product Information Sheet Update
- Resource Roundup: Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals

Good to Know

- Informational Webinar on Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools Sub-Grants (PLANTS): November 29, 2023
- Center for School and Community Partnerships Informational Webinar: Project SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture & Local Education Systems): December 6, 2023 (English) and December 13, 2023 (Spanish)
- FoodCorp CT Accepting Applications for Program Year 2024-25

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

Final Reminder: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Documentation for School Year 2023-24 Due November 30, 2023

A final reminder that the submission deadline for the annual HFC documentation is tomorrow, **Thursday, November 30, 2023**. The HFC documentation forms and guidance for school year 2023-24, including a 21-minute recorded training module, are available in the [Documents/Forms](#) section of the CSDE's HFC webpage. For questions, please contact susan.fiore@ct.gov.

Need to Know

No Table Talk for Thursday, November 30, 2023

Table Talk will not be held on Thursday, November 30, 2023. Schools may still submit questions for future Table Talks at <https://forms.office.com/g/GWS7DCbbgo>.

USDA Foods Database & Product Information Sheet Update

The USDA Foods resources below provide information about USDA Foods direct delivered products.

- [USDA Foods in Schools Product Information Sheets](#): Provide a general compilation of vendor product information, but do not include specifics such as allergens, ingredients, and kosher or halal certifications, as those can vary from vendor to vendor.
- [USDA Foods Database](#): Provides similar information to the Product Information Sheets and includes nutrient, allergen, ingredient, and certification information that is unique to each vendor.

These resources provide access to product information for USDA Foods to help schools meet the meal pattern requirements and make accommodations for students with dietary needs.

Reminder: Complete the 2023 Farm to School Census

On October 2, 2023, SFAs received a personal link to the 2023 Farm to School Census survey from Decision Information Resources (DIR) inviting them to complete the census. For help with the Census, call the toll-free help line for support at 866-986-2230 or email Farm2Schoolcensus@dir-online.com. For more information, visit the [2023 Farm to School Census Resource](#) webpage. This site includes a Census FAQ, checklist for success, preparation worksheet, survey reference copy, and presentation materials. For questions, contact Monica Pacheco at monica.pacheco@ct.gov

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Resource Roundup: Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals

When was the last time the district checked their adult meal prices to ensure they are charging enough to cover all costs of producing adult meals? Assessing adult meal prices should not just occur when a sponsor is having an administrative review. This process should occur annually, ideally before the start of the school year. The CSDE's [Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals](#) assists school food authorities with determining the appropriate prices for adult meals.

Good to Know

Informational Webinar on Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools Sub-Grants (PLANTS): November 29, 2023

Chef Ann Foundation (CAF), one of the four cooperators for the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants, is hosting an [informational webinar](#) on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 12 noon for the [Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools Sub-Grants \(PLANTS\)](#). The webinar will provide an overview of the Request for Applications (RFA) and information on who is eligible to apply, the application process, application requirements, and evaluation and scoring criteria. The RFA was posted on November 27, 2023, and will close on January 22, 2024. More information on this webinar and grant opportunity is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/healthy-meals-incentives>.

Center for School and Community Partnerships Informational Webinar: Project SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture & Local Education Systems): December 6, 2023 (English) and December 13, 2023 (Spanish)

The Center for School and Community Partnerships at Boise State University, one of the four cooperators for FNS's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants, is hosting an [informational webinar](#), on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. An additional webinar in Spanish will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The webinars will be for [Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems Sub-Grants \(Project SCALES\)](#) and will provide an overview of the Request for Applications (RFA) and information on who is eligible to apply, the application process, application requirements, and the evaluation and scoring criteria. The RFA was posted on November 27, 2023, and will close on January 26, 2024. More information on these webinars and grant opportunity is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/healthy-meals-incentives>.

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FoodCorp CT Accepting Applications for Program Year 2024-25

FoodCorp is accepting applications for Connecticut FoodCorps Service Members for the 2024-25 program year. To review application materials go to [foodcorps.org/apply](https://www.foodcorps.org/apply). Questions may be directed to Thalia Perez, CT Program Coordinator, thalia.perez@foodcorps.org, 860-949 5475. For more information on FoodCorp visit www.FoodCorps.org.



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_29_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

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