

The School Lunch Tray: December 13, 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

- None

Need to Know

- Table Talk on Break Until the New Year
- Reminder: USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order Cancellation
- USDA Memo SP 01-2016, CACFP 01-2016, and SFSP 01-2016: Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Game, and Eggs for Child Nutrition Programs – REVISED
- USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, and SFSP 02-2024: Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program
- Revised CSDE Resource: Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program
- Revised CSDE Crediting Summary Charts: Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12, Revised CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP, SBP, and ASP
- Revised CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12
- Revised CSDE Crediting Summary Charts: Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12, Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs, and Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs
- Revised Module 4: Test Your Knowledge About Processing Applications of CSDE's training program, Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program
- Resource Roundup: USDA's Seasonal Produce Guide

Good to Know

- National Dairy Council Update: School Milk & Supply Chain Challenges School Year 2023-2024
- Free 30-minute webinar: Dairy Nutrition in School Meals: Thursday January 18, 2024

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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Need to Know

Table Talk on Break Until the New Year

Table Talk is on break for the remainder of 2023 and will resume in the new year. Watch the School Lunch Tray for reminders.

Reminder: USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order Cancellation

Per contract, any DoD order that must be cancelled due to holiday schedules or weather-related school closings must be cancelled **no less than 24 hours prior to delivery**. If the Recipient Agency (RA) does not cancel their order, they will be charged for the order, and must receipt it in FFAVORS as if the RA received it. RAs should keep contact information for all vendors at home in case of unexpected closures. DoD orders may be cancelled by contacting the DoD staff at Garguilo's at dodcustomersupport@gargiuloproduce.com.

USDA Memo SP 01-2016, CACFP 01-2016, and SFSP 01-2016: Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Game, and Eggs for Child Nutrition Programs – REVISED

On November 29, 2023, the USDA released [USDA Memo SP 01-2016, CACFP 01-2016, and SFSP 01-2016: Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Game, and Eggs for Child Nutrition Programs – REVISED](#). This memo clarifies the regulatory requirements related to food safety and includes a series of questions and answers for specific questions related to these products. Links to this memo and other USDA memos are available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, and SFSP 02-2024: Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program

On November 29, 2023, the USDA released [USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024](#): Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program. This memo explains how to credit tofu and soy yogurt in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program, and clarifies that tofu and soy yogurt now credit for infants ages 6-11 months. This memo supersedes USDA Memo SP 53-2016 and CACFP 21-2016: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meal Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, dated August 8, 2016. Links to this memo and other USDA memos are available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Revised CSDE Resource: Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

A revised version (dated December 2023) of the CSDE's [Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) is available. This document has been updated to reflect the USDA's revised guidance for tofu in [USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024](#).

Revised CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP, SBP, and ASP

A revised version (dated December 2023) of the CSDE's [Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP, SBP, and ASP](#) is available. This document has been updated to reflect the following: 1) the USDA's revised guidance for tofu in [USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024](#) (added to section 3 of the guide); 2) additional guidance on co-mingled meal service (added to section 1 of the guide); 3) and links to the CSDE's new [Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs](#).

Revised CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12

A revised version (dated December 2023) of the CSDE's [Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12](#) is available. This document has been updated to reflect the USDA's revised guidance for tofu in [USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024](#) (added to section 3 of the guide).

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Revised CSDE Crediting Summary Charts: Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12, Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs, and Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs

Revised versions (dated December 2023) of the CSDE's Crediting Summary Charts below are available. These documents have been updated to reflect the USDA's revised guidance for tofu in [USDA Memo SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024](#) (added to "Chart 3 – How to Credit the Meat/Meat Alternates Component").

- [Crediting Summary Charts for the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12](#)
- [Crediting Summary Charts for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Crediting Summary Charts for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs](#)

Revised Module 4: Test Your Knowledge About Processing Applications of CSDE's training program, Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program

The CSDE has revised the video and worksheet for Module 4: Test Your Knowledge About Processing Applications of the CSDE training program, [Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program](#). The updates to the video include correcting the total household income in application 2. The updates to the Module 4 worksheet include adding missing information for applications 1-6. The answer key for the Module 4 worksheet is correct.

Resource Roundup: USDA's Seasonal Produce Guide

The USDA encourages sponsors of the school nutrition programs to serve a variety of fruits and vegetables to help students select foods they will consume. The USDA's [Seasonal Produce Guide](#) helps menu planners explore different fruits and vegetables that are available throughout the year.

Good to Know

National Dairy Council Update: School Milk & Supply Chain Challenges School Year 2023-2024

The National Dairy Council created the [Update: School Milk & Supply Chain Challenges School Year 2023-2024](#) to help schools and processors dealing with milk shortages related to the national paperboard shortage.

Free 30-minute webinar: Dairy Nutrition in School Meals: Thursday January 18, 2024

Join Kristen Ricklefs-Johnson, PhD, RDN, Director, Nutrition Research, National Dairy Council and New England Dairy for the upcoming webinar, Dairy Nutrition in School Meals, on Thursday January 18, 2024, from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. Dairy foods play an important role in Child Nutrition Programs due to their unique nutrient package; however, many students are not meeting the recommended dairy servings. This webinar will explore the nutritional contributions of dairy foods to student health and answer common questions related to dairy foods. All attendees who work in school nutrition programs in Connecticut and complete the evaluation survey will receive a novelty cow spot apron. For details and registration information, visit <https://www.newenglanddairy.com/class/dairy-nutrition-in-school-meals-supporting-student-health-and-development/>.



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_12_13_2023.pdf.

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