This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2023. The School Lunch Tray is the CSDE's weekly e-newsletter for Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP, Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).

Click the links in the "Links" column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and, when applicable, the corresponding Table Talk webinar and transcript.

School Lunch	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
Date 12-20-2023	SLT Newsletter 12-20-2023	 Last School Lunch Tray for 2023 Resource Roundup: Qualifications for Child Nutrition Programs Staff Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar on January 4, 2024: Produce Procurement: Understanding Availability and Specs, Determining What You Want, and the Importance of a Collaborative Relationship with Your Produce Distributor Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program: Fiscal Year 2024 Request for Application Open Applications Open for Innovation and Partnership in Rural School Food Systems! New Resource from International Fresh Produce Association, 	
		Communications Toolkit: Food Rooted in Better Health	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
12-13-2023	SLT Newsletter 12-13-2023	 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 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 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
12-06-2023	SLT Newsletter 12-06-2023	 Reminder-Participate in the 2023 Farm to School Census: Deadline December 15, 2023 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of November 2023 Purchases Due December 18, 2023 Announcing a New CSDE Training Program: Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs Clarification on the Preschool Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Criteria for Ready-to-eat Breakfast Cereals SNACT's Winter Warm Up Conference January 9, 2024 Resource Roundup: USDA's Taste-Testing Event Resources Enhanced Search Function Added to USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) Fruit-and-Veggie-Forward School Breakfast Recipes 	
11-29-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 11-29-2023	 Final Reminder: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Documentation for School Year 2023-24 Due November 30, 2023 No Table Talk for Thursday, November 30, 2023 USDA Foods Database & Product Information Sheet Update Resource Roundup: Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals 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 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
11-22-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 11-22-2023	 Operational Memorandum No. 05-24: Schedule for Submitting Child Nutrition Programs Monthly Claims for Reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2024 New CSDE Resource: Determining if Nondairy Beverages Meet the USDA's Nutrition Standards for Fluid Milk Substitutes in School Nutrition Programs Reminder: Optional Meal Modifications for Children without Disabilities Crediting Juice Blends in the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 Data on Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Participation for SY 2023-24 Resource Roundup: Completing the Verification Collection Report (FNS 742) Updated USDA Team Nutrition Resources for Schools 	
11-15-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 11-15-2023	 Reminder: Verification Deadline is November 15, 2023 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of October 2023 Purchases Due November 21, 2023 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Documentation for School Year 2023-24 Due November 30, 2023: Applies only to HFC Public Schools Reminder: Applications for the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Grants Due December 14, 2023 No Table Talk for Thursday, November 16, 2023 List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated November 15, 2023 Resource Roundup: Civil Rights Complaint Procedures for School Nutrition Programs 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
11-08-2023	SLT Newsletter 11-08-2023	 Reminder: Verification Deadline is November 15, 2023 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of October 2023 Purchases Due November 21, 2023 Operational Memorandum No. 04-2024: Community Eligibility Provision: Implementing the New Minimum Identified Student Percentage Next LFSIP Office Hours: November 21, 2023, with Department of Agriculture Representative Recordings Available for CSDE's Procurement 101 Webinar Training Reminder: Notify the CSDE Regarding Milk Supply Shortages Reminder: Link to Submit Questions to the CSDE Resource Roundup: CSDE Grant Payment Report Application Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Sodium Reduction Virtual Workshop Series Pilot Participant Interest Form ICN Child Nutrition on Demand for School Nutrition Professionals Topic Survey 	
11-01-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 11-01-2023	 Reminder for NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Applicants to Submit Purchase Orders Participate in the 2023 Farm to School Census 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 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 	

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
10-25-2023	SLT Newsletter 10-25-2023	 Financial Report for School Nutrition Programs Due October 31, 2023 Reminder: Food Safety Inspection Report for SY 2022-23 must be completed in the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Online Application and Claiming System by October 31, 2023 Nonprogram Foods in the School Nutrition Programs: Complete Documentation by December 31, 2023 Recording Available for CSDE Information Session: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year 2023-24 Only Next Table Talk on Thursday, November 2, 2023: Focus on Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Final Rule Reminder: Webinar for Applying for Next Round of Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids (CTG4CTK) Grants, Thursday, October 26, 2023 Resource Roundup: Dietary Specifications (Nutrition Standards for School Meals) USDA Report on Household Food Security in the United States in 2022

Date	Links	Topics
10-18-2023	SLT Newsletter 10-18-2023	 Operational Memorandum No. 02-24: Fourth Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs, Survey Response Required by October 27, 2023 Operational Memorandum No. 03-2024: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year 2023-24 Only, PLE Exemption Request Due October 31, 2023 CSDE Information Session on New PLE Allowances for School Year 2023-24 Only: Thursday, October 19, 2023 No Table Talk on Thursday, October 19, 2023, Due to CSDE Procurement 101 Webinar Series Reminder: CSDE Procurement 101 Webinar Series: October 19 and 20, 2023 Operational Memorandum No. 03-2024: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year 2023-24 Only Reminder: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Office Hours on October 24, 2023 Reminder for NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Applicants to Submit Purchase Orders USDA Webinar Recording and Slides Available: Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools Final Rule Resource Roundup: PLE Section of CSDE's Financial Management for School Nutrition Programs Webpage Chop, Peel, Dice: Regional Farmer to School Food Service Networking and Training Events Encourage Healthy Habits for Kids and Teens with Professional Resources from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
10-11-2023	SLT Newsletter 10-11-2023	 Happy National School Lunch Week (October 9-13) Operational Memorandum No. 01-2024: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer - Local Level Administrative Cost Grant for Fiscal Year 2023 Updated CSDE Resource: Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the NSLP and SBP Updated CSDE Resources for the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP): ASP Meal Patterns and Menu Planning Forms for Preschoolers and Grades K-12 Updated versions of CSDE's Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers, NSLP Preschool Meal Pattern, and Preschool Menu Planning Forms Reminder: CSDE Procurement 101 Webinar Series on October 19 and 20, 2023 Application for Next Round of Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids (CTG4CTK) Grants New Spanish Versions of USDA's Offer versus Serve (OVS) Materials for School Nutrition Program USDA's Guide to Professional Standards Now available in Spanish Resource Roundup: CSDE's Lists of Resources for the School Meal Patterns New for 2023: Nominate Farm to School Champions by October 20, 2023 Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline November 11, 2023 	

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
10-04-2023	SLT Newsletter 10-04-2023	 Food Safety Inspection Report for School Year (SY) 2022-23 Due October 31, 2023 Happy Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week! No Table Talk on Thursday, October 5, 2023, Due to USDA Webinar on Final Rule, Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools USDA Memo SP 22-2023: Community Eligibility Provision: Implementing the New Minimum Identified Student Percentage USDA Webinar on Final Rule: Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Tool and Office Hours Now Available: USDA's 2024 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Participant Area Eligibility Data Updated CSDE Training Program: Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program, School Year 2023-24 Difference Between Addendum A: Sharing Information with Other Programs and the Disclosure Release Request for Free or Reduced Eligibility Status of Students in the School Nutrition Programs Updated CSDE Resource: Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs Two New USDA Training Modules for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Updated CSDE Resource: Professional Standards Topics and Training Hours for the What's in a Meal Training Modules Resource Roundup: Procedures for Processing Free and Reduced-price Applications with a SNAP or TFA Case Number Get Ready for National School Lunch Week Team Nutrition Resources to Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month Find School Meal Recipe Inspiration New MyPlate Instagram Account Team Nutrition Training Grants (TNTG) Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Highlights publication

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
09-27-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 09-27-2023	 Final Reminder: Complete Required Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training for HFC Public Schools by September 30, 2023 USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools Updated Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) CSDE Procurement 101 Webinar Series: October 19 and 20, 2023 USDA Foods Update on Beef Patties, 90/10, Frozen, Material Code 110346 Updated CSDE Resource: Servings for Grains/Breads in the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 Resource Roundup: County Assignments for School Nutrition Programs Reminder: USDA's Farm to School Census is coming in October USDA Spanish Food Safety Resources 	
09-20-2023	SLT Newsletter 09-20-2023	 Verification Must Be Completed by November 15, 2023 Updates for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) USDA Foods Update on Beef Fine Ground, Material Code #100158 UCONN Early College Experience (ECE) Fee Waiver Policy and Free and Reduced-price Eligibility Information Updated Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals for School Year 2023-24 Updated Pricing Worksheet for A La Carte Sales in School Nutrition Programs New CSDE Resource: A la Carte Food Cost and Price Charged Comparison Worksheet Clarification on the Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschoolers and Older Grades Eating Together (Co-mingling) Updated CSDE Resources for the Preschool Meal Patterns Governor Announces Special Issuance of Summer P-EBT Payments Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week: October 2-6, 2023 Resource Roundup: UConn Rudd Center's Implementing School Wellness Policies Video 3: Culturally inclusive wellness New Resources for Food Safety Education Month: USDA Food Safety Fact Sheets Food Research & Action Center Webinar: Advocates: A Key Ingredient to School Meal Success, September 21, 2023 	

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
09-13-2023	SLT Newsletter 09-13-2023	 Final Reminder: School Year 2023-24 Sponsor Agreements Due Friday, September 15, 2023 Advanced Placement (AP) Testing and Access to a Student's Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price Meals Recording Available: CSDE's State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Funds Information Session Resources for National School Lunch Week: October 9-13, 2023 USDA Webinar: Meal Talk: Celebrate Lunch Trays Many Ways, October 12, 2023 USDA Webinar: Level Up Your Professional Standards Tracking, October 17, 2023
09-06-2023	SLT Newsletter 09-06-2023	 Reminder: School Year 2023-24 Sponsor Agreements Due Friday, September 15, 2023 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 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

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
08-30-2023	SLT Newsletter 08-30-2023	 Reminder: Mandatory Tutorial for NSLP Sponsor and Site Application: August 31, 2023 Updated CSDE Parent Video for School Year 2023-24: How to Fill Out the Application for Free and Reduced-price Meals or Free Milk Information for School Food Authorities (SFAs) Participating in the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Updated CSDE Offer versus Serve (OVS) Resources for School Year 2023-24 Reminder: Signage Requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program New CSDE Resource: Signage Requirements for the NSLP and SBP List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated August 30, 2023 New Products that Meet USDA's Requirements for Fluid Milk Substitutes for Children without a Disability Updated CSDE Guide: Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 Next Table Talk: Thursday, September 7, 2023 Important Reminder: Disaster Preparedness for School Food Authorities (SFAs) Resource Roundup: Fact Sheet: Direct Certification through SNAP, TFA and Medicaid SNACT's 74th Conference & Industry Show: Building the Future of Child Nutrition, October 13-14, 2023 Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Back to Basics with School Breakfast! A Deep Dive on Breakfast After the Bell, September 9, 2023 CSDE's Talk Tuesdays Training Sessions: Attendance and Engagement System of Support and Professional Communities 	

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
08-23-2023	SLT Newsletter 08-23-2023 Table Talk Webinar 08-24-2023: 2022 Triennial Assessments: Support for Connecticut school meal sponsors (Rudd Center)	 Mandatory Tutorial for NSLP Sponsor and Site Application: August 31, 2023 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 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

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
08-16-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 08-16-2023	 Reminder: State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Attestation Statement Due August 18, 2023 Updating the Child Nutrition Program Sponsor Agreement for School Year (SY) 2023-24, Due September 15, 2023 Reminder: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Information Session: August 22, 2023 USDA Foods Update USDA School Meal Programs Menu Certification Worksheets for SY 2023-24 Resource Roundup: Requirements for Production Records in School Nutrition Programs CT Farm to School Collaborative and FoodCorps Webinar: Invite your Legislators to CRUNCH!, August 17 and 29, 2023 New England Dairy's Adopt a Cow Program for Classrooms: Apply by September 15, 2023 Team Nutrition Resources for a Healthy Summer and School Year 2023-24 	
08-09-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 08-09-2023	 CSDE Operational Memorandum 18-23: State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) Attestation Statement Due August 18, 2023 STABLE Funds Information Session/Office Hours: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Information Sessions: August 15 and August 22, 2023 Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2023-24 New CSDE Webpage: Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs CSDE's What's in a Meal Offer versus Serve (OVS) Training Modules Now Available Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2023-24 USDA's Team Nutrition School Lunch Menu Poster: Today's Lunch Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: School Lunch: Practices & Policies That Promote Participation, Thursday, August 10, 2023 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
08-02-2023	SLT Newsletter 08-02-2023	 Required Training for Public Schools that Implement Healthy Food Certification (HFC): Complete by September 30, 2023 Operational Memorandum No. 16-23: Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two-cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in School Year 2023-24 Operational Memorandum No. 17-23: Federal Meal Reimbursement Rates for School Year (SY): July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 Direct Certification Rollover for SY 2023-24 Updated CSDE Civil Rights PowerPoint Presentation for School Year 2023-24 Updated CSDE Resources on State and Federal Laws for Competitive Foods Updated Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) Worksheets for Evaluating Foods for Compliance: School Year 2023-24 Reminder: State Regulation Prohibiting Selling and Giving Candy, Coffee, Tea, and Soft Drinks to Students while Child Nutrition Programs are Operating (Section 10-215b-1) Reminder: State Regulation for Accrual of Income from Sales of Competitive Foods to Students while Child Nutrition Programs are Operating (Section 10-215b-23) Reminder: State Statute Requiring Nutritious and Low-fat Foods in Public Schools (C.G.S. Section 10-221p) Reminder: State Statute For Permissible Use of Vending Machine Income by ADS-BESB (C.G.S. Section 17a-818) Release of Child Nutrition (CN) Database, Release 26 (CN26) USDA's Crediting Fruits, Meats/Meat Alternates, and Milk in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheets in Spanish 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
07-26-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 07-26-2023	 Reminder: CSDE Job Announcement: Education Services Specialist for School Nutrition Programs CSDE Job Announcement: Education Services Specialist for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Team New Food Yields Added to the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool and FBG Mobile App Resource Roundup: CSDE's School Lunch Tray and Table Talk Webpage August is Kids Eat Right Month® USDA's Focus on Nutrition Security Team Nutrition Recipe: Berry Medley and Quinoa Breakfast Bake CACFP Cooking Videos 	
07-19-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 07-19-2023	 Reminder: Submit USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) by July 28, 2023CSDE Job Announcement: Education Services Specialist for School Nutrition Programs Reminder: Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschoolers and Grades K-5 Eating Together in the NSLP or School Breakfast Program (SBP) Resource Roundup: CSDE Child Nutrition Programs Staff Contact Information for School Year 2023-24 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
07-12-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 07-12-2023	 Reminder: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Application and Attestation Statement Due July 14, 2023 Updated Addendum B for School Year 2023-24: Access Health CT HUSKY Health Insurance Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy: August 21, 2023 Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards for School Food Authorities (SFA) Resource Roundup: USDA's Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast National Farm to School Network Webinar: Advocating for Farm to School: How to Host a Site Visit, Wednesday, July 12, 2023 FRAC Webinar: Behind the Scenes with School Meals for All: What You'll Need to Be Successful: July 27, 2023 FRAC Webinar: Boosting Breakfast Participation in Grades 6-12: August 3, 2023 Enjoy Healthy Summer Activities from Team Nutrition's Summer Food, Summer Moves Resource Kit USDA Resources: Cook with Kids 	
07-05-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> <u>07-05-2023</u>	 Operational Memorandum No. 15-23: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Payment for School Year (SY) 2022-23 Updated Crediting Summary Charts for the School Nutrition Programs for SY 2023-23 Resource Roundup: Summer Meal Site Locator Map 	
06-28-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 06-28-2023	 Operational Memorandum No. 14-23: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program Reminder: Requesting an Exemption for the SY 2023-24 Paid Lunch Equity Requirement Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement School Nutrition Specialist Credential: Take the next step in your school nutrition career 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
06-21-2023	SLT Newsletter 06-21-2023	 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for School Nutrition Programs Updated CSDE Resources: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement 	
06-14-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 06-14-2023	 Now Available: Updated Free and Reduced-price Eligibility Forms for School Year (SY) 2023-24 Operational Memorandum No. 13-23: Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for SY 2023-24 Data on Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Participation for SY 2022-23 Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 for SY 2023-24 Updated Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12 for SY 2023-24 Updated Preschool Meal Patterns for SY 2023-24: NSLP, SBP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Updated Preschool Menu Planning Forms for SY 2023-24 Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 for SY 2023-24 Updated ASP Sample Menus for Grades K-12 and Preschoolers Sesame: The Ninth Major Food Allergen Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 11: Grains Component 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
06-07-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> <u>06-07-2023</u>	Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars	
		 Request to Extend the NSLP and/or SBP into the Summer Months (July and August): Due June 10, 2023 	
		 Final Reminder: 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2023 	
		 Final Reminder: 2023-24 Full-service Interschool Agreement Due July 1, 2023 	
		 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Opportunity: Due July 28, 2023 Table Talk is Taking a Summer Vacation 	
		 Operational Memorandum No. 12-23: State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant for School Year 2022-23 	
		Summer Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)	
		 Reminder: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program 	
		UConn Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health Survey of Best Practices for Summer Meals Programs Outreach	
		 Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 10: Vegetables Component 	
		Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Summer Learning Hub	
		USDA Research Report: Child Nutrition Program Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic, March Through September 2020	
		New Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten Videos	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
05-31-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 05-31-2023	 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Updates to School Year 2022-23 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Application Packets: Due June 12, 2023 Reminder: 2023-24 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 9, 2023 USDA Foods Reminder: Wrapping Up School Year 2022-23 Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, June 1, 2023 Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 9: Fruits Component Team Nutrition's Child Nutrition Label Quiz New USDA Tip Sheets: Crediting Grains in the Child Nutrition Programs New Features of USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool 	
05-24-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> <u>05-24-2023</u>	 Reminder: CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 11-23: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): Notification Due June 1, 2023 School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds 2.0 March 2023 Payments Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, June 1, 2023 Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 8: Meat/Meat Alternates (MMA) Component USDA Bulletin: School Meals Grab n' Go: Quick Tips to Improve Your Meal Service Transforming the U.S. Food System: Making It Better for Farmers and Families 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
05-17-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> <u>05-17-2023</u>	 CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 11-23: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): Notification Due June 1, 2023 2023-24 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications Due June 9, 2023 Reminder: 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2023 Agency Information Collection Activities: USDA Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT): Comments Due July 10, 2023 USDA Foods Update on State Contracted Warehouse Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 7: Milk Component Tips for Offering School Meals Trays, Many Ways 	
05-10-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 05-10-2023	 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Sodium Target 1A Transitional Standard Effective July 1, 2023 Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced Price Meals and Free Milk: Comments Due July 7, 2023 No Table Talk for May 11, 2023, and May 18, 2023 Operational Memorandum No. 10-23: Payment of Fiscal Year 2022-23 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program Two New What's in a Meal Modules Available: Module 12: Whole Grain-rich (WGR) Requirement and Module 13: Grain Ounce Equivalents Connecticut Farm to School Study (2022-23) Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
05-03-2023	SLT Newsletter 05-03-2023 Table Talk Webinar 05-04-2023 Table Talk Transcript 05-04-2023	 Reminder: Deadline for Comment Period for the Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans is May 10, 2023 Celebrate School Lunch Hero Day: May 5, 2023 Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, May 4, 2023 USDA Memo SP 13-2023: Best Practices for Contracting with Food Service Management Companies USDA's Summer Meals Site Finder Starts May 4, 2023 Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 6: Meal Pattern Documentation 	
04-26-2023	<u>SLT' Newsletter</u> 04-12-2023	 CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) is Now Open to Submit Annual HFC Statement: Due July 1, 2023 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) Module 11: Grains Component Now Available for CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 New Chapters Feature Added to What's in a Meal Training Modules New CSDE Resource: How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the NSLP and SBP New CSDE Resource: How to Use the How to Use the Grains/Breads Servings Chart for Grades K-12 in the ASP Updated Versions of CSDE's Grain Crediting Resources (April 2023) Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 5: Dietary Specifications 	

School Lunc	School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics	
04-19-2023	SLT Newsletter 04-12-2023	 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars Reminder: No Table Talk for Thursday, April 20, 2023 USDA Foods Update: Wrapping Up School Year 2022-23 Summer Training for New School Nutrition Directors: August 8-11, 2023 New Food Buying Guide Yields: Apple Bananas, Chokecherries, Taro, and Fresh Apples USDA Webinar Recording Available: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 4: School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern 	
04-12-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 04-12-2023	 Reminder: Comments Due May 8, 2023, for USDA's Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools Reminder: Comments Due May 10, 2023, for USDA's Proposed Rule: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guideline for Americans Reminder: Buy American Requirement Graham Crackers and Animal Crackers Cannot Be Served with Daily Lunch Choices for Grades K-12 USDA Webinar Recording Available: Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools Proposed Rule Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal Module 3: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern Request for Applications: Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and/or Rural School Food Authorities (SFAs) 	

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Date	Links	Topics
04-05-2023	SLT Newsletter 04-05-2023 Table Talk Webinar 04-06-2023 Table Talk Transcript 04-06-2023	 Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, April 6, 2023 Use of Emergency Procurement Method When Public Health Emergency Ends USDA Foods Transferring "Whole Bird" Pounds (White and Dark Meat) USDA Foods Update on Orange Juice Cups, Material Code 110651 USDA Memo SP 07-2023, CACFP 06-2023 and SFSP 04-2023: Unique Entity Identifier Transition Webinar Recording Available: Navigating the USDA Foods Database No Table Talk on Thursday, April 20, 2023 Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) iBites Digest CICN Webinar Series: What a Chef Can Do for You: Promotion of Culinary Professionals in School Nutrition Programs, April 6, 2023 No Kid Hungry Summer Webinar Series: School's Out, Food's In: Spread the Word: Summer Meals and Summer Pandemic EBT Outreach and Promotion, April 25, 2023 No Kid Hungry Webinar: Hot Breakfast in the Classroom: How to Transition Your Breakfast in the Classroom Program from Cold to Hot, April 27, 2023

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Date	Links	Topics
03-29-2023	SLT Newsletter 03-29-2023	 CSDE Operational Memorandum No.09-2023 Annual Notification Requirement for All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs):

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
03-22-2023	SLT Newsletter 03-22-2023 Table Talk Webinar 03-23-2023 Table Talk Transcript 03-23-2023	 Reminder: Summer Meals 2023 Interest Survey: Due March 24, 2023 Reminder: Join the CSDE for Table Talk on Thursday, March 23, 2023 Summer Meals 2023 Outreach Materials: Due April 1, 2023 Resource Roundup: CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 Presentations and Resources Available on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans Reminder: 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge: April 3-23, 2023
03-15-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 03-15-2023	 Summer Meals 2023 Interest Survey: Due March 24, 2023 Comment Period for Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans: Deadline is April 10, 2023 Table Talk will Resume on Thursday, March 23, 2023 Reminder of USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Receipting Procedures Updated CSDE Guide: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2023-24 New USDA Resource Available for Community Meals Program Operators on the Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans New Section Added to CSDE's Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs webpage: USDA Proposed Rules for Child Nutrition Programs to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Developing Policies for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs Resource Roundup: USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Resource Roundup: USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge: April 3-23, 2023

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
03-08-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 03-08-2023	 Final Reminder: Orders for USDA Foods for School Year 2023-24 Due March 10, 2023 USDA Memo SFSP 01-2023, SP 05-2023: Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas USDA Memo SP 06-2023, CACFP 05-2023, SFSP 02-2023: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs Serving Lunches During Connecticut Summative Assessment Days Revised CSDE Guide and Resources on Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs Updated CSDE Form and Instructions: Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs USDA Webinar Recording Available: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Proposed Rule Resource Roundup: List of Connecticut Sponsors of the NSLP and SBP for School Year 2022-23 Team Nutrition Resources for National School Breakfast Week: March 6-10, 2023 FDA Launches New Directory of Ingredients Used in Products Marketed as Dietary Supplements

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
03-01-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 03-01-2023	 Reminder: Orders for USDA Foods for School Year 2023-24 Due March 10, 2023 Operational Memorandum No. 07-23: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2023-24: Due July 1, 2023 (Full Service) or August 30, 2023 (Vended) Operational Memorandum No. 08-23: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2023-24: Due July 1, 2023 Recording Available: CSDE's Information Session for School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds 2.0 USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) March Menu Madness Event: March 15, 2023 Resource Roundup: Using Excess Funds to Improve Programs with Farm to School March is National Nutrition Month Available in Print: USDA School Breakfast Photo Props Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals Deadline March 31, 2023
02-22-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 02-22-2023	 School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) Funds 2.0 Opt-in Survey Due February 24, 2023 Survey about Events for National School Breakfast Week: March 6-10, 2023: Due February 28, 2023 Revised Link for USDA's Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form Where to Find USDA Foods in Schools Product Information Resource Roundup: Key Information for Connecticut School Business Officials about School Nutrition Programs New Feature Alert for USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool Lessons That Matter: Strategies to Translate Pandemic-Era School Meal Innovations to Common Practice

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
02-15-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 02-15-2023	 Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2023-24: Orders due March 10, 2023 Governor Lamont Signs Legislation Extending Free School Meals and Protecting Connecticut's Fiscal Guardrails Charging of Meals and A la Carte by Adults is Not Acceptable Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12 Resource Roundup: Signage Requirement for School Meals School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) Equipment Grant Applications: Due March 31, 2023 New Resources from the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN)
02-08-2023	SLT Newsletter 02-08-2023	 USDA Foods DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update: DoD allocation Amount Due February 13, 2023 Last Distribution of School Year 2021-22 Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Benefits USDA Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans USDA Webinar for School Food Authority (SFA) Staff on Proposed Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Revision to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, February 21, 2023 Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Pattern Components, and Noncreditable Foods Resource Roundup: Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs Producer Training for Farmers, February 23, 2023 Celebrate National School Breakfast Week: March 6-10, 2023 Updated Nibbles for Health Newsletters Now Available Alliance for a Healthier Generation Webinar: Fueling Minds and Bodies: Best Practices for Increasing School Meal Participation, February 15, 2023

School Lunch Tray 2023		
Date	Links	Topics
02-01-2023	SLT Newsletter 02-01-2023	 Response Required for Operational Memorandum No. 05-23: Third Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs: Deadline February 3, 2023 Now Available: What's in a Meal Module 14: Water Availability During Meal Service USDA Direct Delivery Foods Update Change in SNAP Benefits Beginning in March 2023 Resource Roundup: CSDE Webpage: Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar: Menus of Flavor: Culinary Training with a Focus on Flavor Profiles, February 2, 2023 Virtual Discussion with USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack: Driving Improvements in Child Health through School Meals: February 3, 2023 Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Summer Meals: Recruiting and Retaining Meal Sites, February 9, 2023 Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Summer Meals: Planning and Partnerships, February 23, 2023 USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Webinar: Navigating the USDA Foods Database, March 2, 2023 New and updated USDA Materials: Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten
01-25-2023	<u>SLT Newsletter</u> 01-25-2023	 Modules 6-10 Now Available for CSDE's Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 Reminder: Completion of Complying with Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training Modules Required for HFC Public Schools Resource Roundup: Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program USDA Request for Applications: Cooperative Agreement for the Development and Implementation of the Healthy Meals Incentives School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants: Due February 1, 2023 Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) Webinar: FASTER Act in Action: Understanding Sesame Legislation in 2023, February 15, 2023 Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline: February 28, 2023 Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps: Now Accepting Service Member Applications: Due March 27, 2023

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Date	Links	Topics
01-18-2023	<u>SLT</u> <u>Newsletter</u> <u>01-18-2023</u>	 New CSDE Training Program: What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 CSDE Training Announcement: Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process: Friday, January 27, 2023 Table Talk on Break Resource Roundup: USDA's Offer versus Serve (OVS) Tip Sheets USDA Webinar Recording Available: Become a Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) Pro: A Review of the PSTTT
01-11-2023	SLT Newsletter 01-11-2023	 Reminder: Plan to Reduce Excess Operating Balance Must be Submitted Using the CSDE's Form USDA Foods Update: Foods Available List for School Year 2023-24 USDA Fall 2022 Regulatory Agenda Published Resource Roundup: Noncreditable Foods for the School Nutrition Programs New USDA Web Quiz: Test Your Knowledge About Whole Grains
01-04-2023	SLT Newsletter 01-04-2023	 Operational Memorandum No. 04-2023: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer - Local Level Administrative Cost Grant USDA Foods Update Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Basics at a Glance Public Comment on USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative Recognition Awards



For more information, visit the CSDE's 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/Summary_SLT_Topics_2023.pdf.

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 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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