

The School Lunch Tray: April 17, 2024

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 Tomorrow: Thursday, April 18, 2024: Launch of Connecticut's Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)
- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for school year 2024-25
- Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Starts Summer 2024
- Resource Roundup: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Good to Know

- None

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 Tomorrow: Thursday, April 18, 2024: Launch of Connecticut's Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)

Join the CSDE's school nutrition programs staff tomorrow from 2:00-3:00 p.m. for this week's Table Talk. This week, the CSDE will be joined by staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to discuss the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP). To submit questions in advance, visit <https://forms.office.com/g/GWS7DCbbg0>.

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for school year 2024-25

The CEP Annual Notification of LEAs for school year 2024-25 is now available on the [Eligibility](#) section of the CSDE's [CEP webpage](#). The data used to generate these lists may not be fully reflective of the number of identified students and are intended only for informational purposes. The data do not confer final LEA eligibility for participation in the CEP. LEAs are eligible to participate in the CEP if the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for the entire district, groups of schools, or individual schools meets or exceeds 25 percent.

- [List of Eligible and Near-eligible Connecticut LEAs \(Districts\)](#)
- [List of Eligible and Near-eligible Connecticut Schools](#)

The CSDE would like to thank all LEAs that submitted data to inform the eligibility lists. Information regarding the CEP application process for SY 2024-25 will be issued later.

Resource Roundup: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Meals served on field trips must meet specific requirements to be reimbursable. School food authorities (SFAs) must ensure that all school staff involved with field trips (including food service staff and non-food service staff such as teachers, teacher aides, and other applicable staff) understand and implement these requirements for off-site reimbursable meals. The CSDE's [Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) provides guidance on allowable meal service methods for field trips and important tips for food safety and ensuring that meals are reimbursable, including point-of-service meal counts.

Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Starts Summer 2024

The CSDE and Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) are launching Summer EBT (SEBT) for summer 2024. SEBT will provide households of children who are eligible for free or reduced-priced school meals with \$120 per child in grocery benefits over the summer months. The CSDE will use the Public Student Information System (PSIS) to determine which students are “streamline eligible” for SEBT. Streamline eligible means that households with students eligible for free or reduced-priced students, as indicated in PSIS, will automatically receive the SEBT benefits without taking further action. Therefore, it is critically important that each student’s eligibility determinations and mailing addresses are current and correct. Additionally, all schools participating in the NSLP must ensure that the Direct Certification WebApp is matched weekly as required.

Direct Certification Weekly matching is also required and critical for SFAs participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Although weekly matching does not impact the SFA’s current claiming percentage, it will allow the CSDE to automatically issue SEBT benefits to all students who are directly certified for free or reduced-price meals and entitled to the SEBT benefits. The more children the CSDE and DSS can streamline certify, the less emails and phone calls districts will receive inquiring about SEBT.

The CSDE sent a notification out to PSIS District Coordinators on April 8, 2024, regarding the CSDE collecting the most updated student mailing addresses for all students through PSIS in May. The timeframe to make these updates is May 3, 2024, through May 24, 2023. SFAs must also work with their PSIS District Coordinators to ensure that the correct and current student eligibility determinations are reported in PSIS.

More information about SEBT will be coming soon.

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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/2024/SLT_04_17_2024.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
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3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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