

## The School Lunch Tray: May 1, 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

- Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April 2024 Purchases due May 17, 2024

### Need to Know

- No Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, May 2, 2024
- Important Updates for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)
- USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- USDA Webinar on the Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Resource Roundup: Healthy Fundraising

### Good to Know

- Food Research & Action Center Webinar: Promoting School Breakfast: Tips and Tricks for Marketing Your Program, May 9, 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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## Action Items

### Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April 2024 Purchases due May 17, 2024

Districts that would like to receive reimbursement from their LFSIP funds allocation for purchases of locally grown or produced foods for the month of February 2024 must submit the [Monthly Local Foods for Schools Incentive Program \(LFSIP\) Reporting Form - Phase 1](#). Purchases made in April 2024 should be reported on the form by Friday, May 17, 2024.

## Need to Know

### No Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, May 2, 2024

Table Talk will not be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024. The next Table Talk will be on Thursday, May 16, 2024. To submit questions in advance, visit <https://forms.office.com/g/GWS7DCbbg0>.

### Important Updates for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)

- Phase 1 funds for LFSIP must be spent by April 1, 2025.
- 139 school food authorities (SFAs) have signed up for Phase 1 of the LFSIP.
- 53 SFAs have completed monthly reports for reimbursement (refer to the CSDE's [LFSIP Phase 1: Participating School Food Authorities for School Year 2023-24](#)).
- 86 SFAs have not submitted any reports for reimbursement. Check the CSDE's [LFSIP Phase 1: Participating School Food Authorities for School Year 2023-24](#). For listed SFAs, it is time to start making purchases.
- This season begins the best time of year to plan and start purchasing locally grown or produced items for the remainder of this school year and next school year. Reach out to [monica.pacheco@ct.gov](mailto:monica.pacheco@ct.gov), [jen.bove@ct.gov](mailto:jen.bove@ct.gov) or [fionnuala.brown@ct.gov](mailto:fionnuala.brown@ct.gov) for help getting started. A team from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg), University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension, and others is available to provide assistance.
- More funds will be available soon through a state funded incentive program, the Connecticut Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (CT LFSIP), which will be administered by the CT DoAg. More information about this program will be coming soon.
- Phase 2 applications for LFSIP will be announced later this month.

### USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

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On April 25, 2024, the USDA released the final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). This rule finalizes practical, science-based, long-term school nutrition requirements consistent with the goals of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 and based on extensive public input as well as lessons learned from prior rulemakings. These updates represent continued progress toward improving the nutritional quality of school meals, strengthening the Child Nutrition Programs, and the USDA's commitment to nutrition security. **Note:** The final rule does not require any changes to school menus until school year 2025-26 at the earliest.

The USDA's [Updates to the School Nutrition Standards](#) webpage includes resources to support implementation of the updated standards, including infographics, comparison charts highlighting changes to program requirements, implementation timelines, frequently asked questions, and more.

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### USDA Webinar on the Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

On May 9, 2024, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will host a webinar for school food authorities on the final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The webinar will be recorded and will be available the USDA's [Updates to the School Nutrition Standards](#) webpage.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
- **Registration:** [registration link](#)

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### Resource Roundup: Healthy Fundraising

The CSDE's newly updated [Healthy Fundraising](#) provides information on the consequences of unhealthy fundraising, the benefits of healthy fundraising, and ideas for healthy fundraising alternatives. The CSDE encourages school food authorities to share this resource with school staff.

### Good to Know

#### **Food Research & Action Center Webinar: Promoting School Breakfast: Tips and Tricks for Marketing Your Program, May 9, 2024**

Marketing campaigns and promotional events can create positive publicity for the school breakfast program. Schools and partners are using a variety of communication strategies to increase student and community awareness of the availability and benefits of school breakfast. Join the Food Research & Action Center to discover how school districts and partners are successfully promoting their breakfast programs.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
  - **Registration:** [registration link](#)
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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\\_05\\_01\\_2024.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2024/slt_05_01_2024.pdf).

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