

The School Lunch Tray: July 3, 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.

Happy Fourth of July!



Action Items

- None

Need to Know

- Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Components, and Noncreditable Foods
- Resource Roundup: Portion Control and Weights and Measures

Good to Know

- National School lunch Week: October 14-18, 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.



Need to Know

Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Components, and Noncreditable Foods

The CSDE has updated the crediting resources for the meal patterns for grades K-12 and the preschool meal patterns (ages 1-4) to reflect the meal pattern changes effective July 1, 2024, implemented by the USDA final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). For an overview of these changes, refer to “Summary of Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2024-25: USDA’s final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans” in the [School Lunch Tray from June 19, 2024](#), and [USDA Memo SP 19-2024, CACFP 07-2024, and SFSP 12-2024](#): Initial Implementation Memorandum: *Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs*.

- The crediting resources for the NSLP and SBP meal patterns for grades K-12 are available on the CSDE’s [Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Refer to the “[Documents/Forms](#)” section for resources for each meal pattern components.
- The crediting resources for the preschool meal patterns are available in the “[Related Resources](#)” section of the CSDE’s Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage.
- The crediting resources for the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) meal patterns are available in the “[Meal Patterns for the ASP](#)” section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage.

The charts below list the documents by meal component or crediting category and indicate the grade groups they address. Please discard any previous versions downloaded prior to today and replace them with the updated versions date July 2024.

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Meats/Meat Alternates Component	Grades K-12	Preschool
Crediting Beans, Peas, and Lentils in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Crediting Commercial Meat/Meat Alternate Products in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Crediting Deli Meats in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Crediting Yogurt in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	X	
Crediting Yogurt in the Preschool Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs		X
Crediting Tofu and Tofu Products in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Requirements for Alternate Protein Products in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X

Vegetables Component and Fruits Component	Grades K-12	Preschool
Crediting Juice in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	X	
Crediting Juice in the Preschool Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs		X
Crediting Smoothies in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	X	
Crediting Smoothies in the Preschool Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs		X
Crediting Soups in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Vegetable Subgroups in the National School Lunch Program	X	

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Grains Component	Grades K-12	Preschool
Crediting Enriched Grains in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	X	
Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the Preschool Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs		X
Crediting Grain-based Desserts for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	X	
Crediting Whole Grains in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Calculating the Weekly Percentage of Whole Grain-rich Menu Items in the NSLP and SBP	X	
Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs		X
Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for the NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12	X	
Calculation Methods for Grains/Breads Servings for the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12	X	
Grain Ounce Equivalents for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12	X	
Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs		X
Guide to Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12	X	
Servings for Grains/Breads in the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12	X	
How to Identify Creditable Grains for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs		X
How to Use the Grain Ounce Equivalents Chart for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program	X	X

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Grains Component, continued	Grades K-12	Preschool
When Commercial Grain Products Require a Product Formulation Statement to Credit in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Worksheet to Calculate the Weekly Percentage of Whole Grain-rich Menu Items in School Lunch and Breakfast Menus for Grades K-12	X	

Noncreditable Foods	Grades K-12	Preschool
Noncreditable Foods in the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12	X	
Noncreditable Foods in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12	X	
Noncreditable Foods in the Preschool Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs		X

Product Documentation	Grades K-12	Preschool
Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Using Child Nutrition (CN) Labels in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs	X	X

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Note: The documents below were previously updated in June 2024 but have additional updates.

Crediting Summary Charts	Grades K-12	Preschool
Crediting Summary Charts for the ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12	X	
Crediting Summary Charts for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs	X	
Crediting Summary Charts for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs		X

Comparison Charts	Grades K-12	Preschool
Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	X	X
Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP	X	X
Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Grains Component in School Nutrition Programs	X	X
Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Milk Component in School Nutrition Programs	X	X

Resource Roundup: Portion Control and Weights and Measures

Links to resources on portion control and weights and measures are available in the “[Portion Control](#)” and “[Weights and Measures](#)” sections of the CSDE’s Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

Good to Know

National School lunch Week: October 14-18, 2024

Start planning now to celebrate National School Lunch Week. The theme for this year is *School Lunch Pirates: Find your Treasure!* For resources and more information, visit the [School Nutrition Association](#) website.

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_07_03_2024.pdf.

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