

The School Lunch Tray: July 10, 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

- State Funding for Reduced-price Meals for School Year 2024-25
- Operational Memorandum No. 13-24: State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant for School Year 2023-24
- Operational Memorandum No. 14-24: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Payment for School Year 2023-24

Good to Know

- New Culinary Training and Resources from Team Nutrition and the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN)

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

State Funding for Reduced-price Meals for School Year 2024-25

The Connecticut General Assembly and Governor Lamont passed legislation in the 2024 legislative session that enables the CSDE to pay participating schools in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program for the household share of costs for one breakfast and one lunch per student per day who is determined eligible for reduced-priced school meals in school year 2024-25. The CSDE will be issuing additional guidance on how schools may participate in this initiative soon.

Operational Memorandum No. 13-24: State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant for School Year 2023-24

The CSDE's [Operational Memorandum No. 13-24](#) outlines the criteria for payment of the State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant and includes the list of school food authorities (SFAs) with sites that qualify for this grant. SFAs will receive approximately \$2,652 per eligible site. For questions about this information, please contact Susan Alston at susan.alston@ct.gov.

Operational Memorandum No. 14-24: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Payment for School Year 2023-24

The CSDE's [Operational Memorandum No. 14-24](#), Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Payment for School Year 2023-24, indicates the calculation criteria for the HFC payments for SY 2023-24 for eligible public schools. This memorandum also includes a list of SFAs that qualify for the HFC payment for SY 2023-24.

Resource Roundup: Child Nutrition Staff and Responsibilities

Looking for who to contact in the CSDE's Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs? The recently updated CSDE's [Child Nutrition Staff and Responsibilities](#) document includes a list of all CSDE Child Nutrition Program staff and their areas of responsibility.

Good to Know

New Culinary Training and Resources from Team Nutrition and the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN)

The new resources and training opportunities below are offered by Team Nutrition, in partnership with the CICN.

- **[Culinary Quick Bites](#)**: This short format (15-minute) training series is intended to be facilitated on-site by school nutrition professionals overseeing food production. Each lesson focuses on a specific culinary-related training topic and includes the lesson objective, a facilitator guide, an instructional video demonstrating the skill or task (featuring a CICN chef), and an activity to help staff practice their culinary skills. Featured lessons include Knife Skills, Developing Flavor, Basic Food Prep Skills, and Basic Cooking Techniques.
 - **[Recipe Standardization Guide for the CACFP](#)**: This comprehensive guide is designed to facilitate recipe standardization within the CACFP. This “how-to” manual serves as a complete resource, outlining the benefits of standardized recipes and detailing the recipe standardization process, including recipe verification, product evaluation, and quantity adjustment.
 - **[CICN Culinary Training Series](#)**: This training series focuses on culinary skills and production methods, illustrating techniques and recipes for implementing scratch cooking in school meals. The target audience includes directors, managers, menu planners, dietitians, cooks, and food service assistants who are thinking about gradually implementing more scratch-based recipes in their program.
 - **[Let’s Cook! Culinary Training](#)**: This training series is designed to provide school nutrition professionals with information and culinary techniques to prepare fresh and flavorful foods for school meal programs. There are seven lessons that make up the entire online culinary training course. The interactive lessons are a combination of step-by-step instructions, images, videos, and an “Apply What You Learned” section allowing operators to practice what they learned in their own school kitchens.
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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_07_10_2024.pdf.

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2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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