

The School Lunch Tray: August 14, 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

- CSDE Resources for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs
- CSDE Resources for Direct Certification
- 2024-25 Forms for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools
- Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of July 2024 Purchases Due August 21, 2024
- Coming Soon: Countdown to Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week 2024, October 7-11, 2024
- Resource Roundup: Common Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

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.



Need to Know

CSDE Resources for Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's resources below are updated for school year 2024-25 and assist school food authorities (SFAs) with determining children's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk in the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

- [Carryover versus Transfer of a Child's Eligibility](#)
- [Determining Foster Children's Eligibility for Free Meals or Milk in the School Nutrition Programs and SFSP](#)
- [Disclosure Release Request for Free or Reduced Eligibility Status](#)
- [Guidance for Notifying Parents of a Child's Free or Reduced-price Eligibility](#)
- [Procedures for Processing Free and Reduced-price Meal Applications Providing a SNAP/TFA Number](#)
- [Processing Applications for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in the School Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Requirements Before Implementing Web-based Applications](#)

These resources and additional guidance are available on the CSDE's [Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

CSDE Resources for Direct Certification

Direct certification is a process conducted by states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to certify eligible children for free meals without the need for household applications. The CSDE's direct certification resources below are updated for school year 2024-25 and assist school food authorities (SFAs) with meeting the direct certification requirements.

- [Considerations for Direct Certification with Medicaid](#)
- [Direct Certification with Medicaid: Steps to Consider when Working with Point-of-Sale \(POS\) Software Companies](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Direct Certification through SNAP, TFA and Medicaid](#)
- [Direct Certification Upload Process for Private Schools](#)
- [Important Reminders for Completing Direct Certification](#)

These resources and additional guidance are available in the "[Documents/Forms](#)" section of the CSDE's Direct Certification for School Nutrition Programs webpage.

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2024-25 Forms for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools

The 2024-25 CEP forms are available in the "[Documents/Forms](#)" section of the CSDE CEP webpage. These forms include the CEP Edit Check Worksheet, the CEP Sample Press Release and the Sample CEP Letter to Households.

Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of July 2024 Purchases Due August 21, 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 July 2024 must submit the Monthly Local Foods for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Form - Phase 1. Purchases made in July 2024 should be reported on the form by Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

Coming Soon: Countdown to Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week 2024, October 7-11, 2024

The start of the 2024-25 school year begins a weekly countdown to the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids (CTG4CTK) Week 2024. Whether you have worked closely with farmers and producers or are just starting out, tips, suggestions, and resources will be provided to gear up for October 7-11, 2024. Let's celebrate the delicious and nutritious foods being served to your students that are sourced locally in Connecticut. More information will be coming soon.

Resource Roundup: Common Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

Two CSDE documents include lists of common acronyms and abbreviations used in the school nutrition programs.

- [Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs](#) contains common acronyms and abbreviations used in the USDA's school nutrition programs.
 - [Common Acronyms and Abbreviations for Determining Eligibility in the School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program](#) contains common acronyms and abbreviations related to determining and verifying eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk in the school nutrition programs and free meals in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
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For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education'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/2024/slt_08_14_2024.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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