

The School Lunch Tray: October 23, 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

- Operational Memorandum No. 02-25: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program: Phase 2 (LFSIP Phase 2 Application due Thursday, November 14, 2024)

Need to Know

- Updated CSDE Resource: Guide to Menu Documentation for the School Nutrition Programs
- Updated CSDE Resource: Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs
- Resource Roundup: Using the USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

Good to Know

- No Kid Hungry Webinar: Student Voices on the Menu: Leading the Conversation on School Meals
- UConn Extension's Chop Peel Dice: Farm to School Training and Networking Opportunities

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

Operational Memorandum No. 02-25: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program: Phase 2 (**LFSIP Phase 2 Application due Thursday, November 14, 2024**)

[Operational Memorandum No. 02-2025](#) outlines important information and the funding allocation for phase 2 of the federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP). The LFSIP Phase 2 Application is due **Thursday, November 14, 2024**. This memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Need to Know

Updated CSDE Resource: Guide to Menu Documentation for the School Nutrition Programs

In September 2024, the CSDE released the *Guide to Menu Documentation for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12*, as part of the updated [menu planning guidance series for the school nutrition program meal patterns for grades K-12](#).

The meal documentation requirements are the same for all school nutrition programs and age/grade groups. Instead of having separate menu documentation guides for preschool and grades K-12, this guide now also includes the requirements for the NSLP, SBP, and ASP preschool meal patterns and the ASP meal pattern for grades K-12. The updated guide is renamed the [Guide to Menu Documentation for the School Nutrition Programs](#) and is available on the CSDE's webpages below.

- **NSLP and SBP meal patterns for grades K-12:** CSDEs' [Menu Planning Guidance for School Meals for Grades K-12 webpage](#)
 - **ASP meal patterns for grades K-12:** [Crediting for the ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12](#) ("Documents/Forms" section of CSDE's ASP webpage)
 - **NSLP, SBP, and ASP preschool meal patterns:** "[CSDE's Menu Planning Guidance Series for the Preschool Meal Patterns](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage
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Updated CSDE Resource: Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's [Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs](#) is updated to delete the reference to grain-based desserts in the paragraph below, which is located on page 4. Grain-based desserts do not credit in the preschool meal patterns.

- **Groups A-E (baked goods)** include foods like crackers, breads, rolls, taco shells, muffins, waffles, and pancakes, ~~and grain-based desserts, e.g., cookies, cake, granola bars, and pastries~~. The amount of a food that provides 1 oz eq varies from 22 grams (0.8 ounce) for foods in group A to 69 grams (2.4 ounces) for foods in group E.

Resource Roundup: Using the USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

If food service staff are experiencing challenges with using the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (FBG), consider incorporating the USDA's FBG webinars into staff training sessions. The USDA has five modules that cover all areas of using this tool, including an overview of the FBG, the FBG Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW), Product Formulation Statements, the Exhibit A Grains Tool, and the FBG Calculator. The training modules are in the "[Training Modules](#)" section of the USDA FBG website. These trainings also count toward the professional standards requirements for food service staff.

Good to Know

No Kid Hungry Webinar: Student Voices on the Menu: Leading the Conversation on School Meals

Child nutrition programs often face challenges in engaging students. This webinar features inspiring student leaders who have worked with their schools to create successful programs where student voices are not only heard but valued. Learn how students have shaped initiatives that meet their needs and promote healthier, more inclusive meal options and more.

- Data and time: Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.
- More information: <https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars/student-voices-on-the-menu>
- Registration: [Registration link](#)

UConn Extension's Chop Peel Dice: Farm to School Training and Networking Opportunities

The UConn Extension is offering networking and training to connect school food services workers directly with farmers. This event targets regional relationships to increase purchasing opportunities. Farmers will be attending and are ready to learn and connect regarding how to best meet schools' purchasing needs. While these are regionally focused, there is much to learn in conversation together.

- **Dates, times, and locations:**
October 30, 2024, CLiCK Inc., Willimantic, CT, 2:00-4:30 pm, in-person
November 6, 2024, Hunts Brook Farm, Quaker Hill, CT 2:00-4:30 pm, in-person
 - **Registration:** [Registration link](#)
Each person attending must register. School food services are encouraged to bring a cafeteria manager or other team partner.
 - **Questions:** Contact Shannon Raider, UConn Extension, at shannon.raider@uconn.edu.
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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_10_23_2024.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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