

The School Lunch Tray: November 13, 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

- Correction to Nondiscrimination Statement in CSDE's Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs
- Grant Applications Open for 2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program
- Resource Roundup: Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12

Good to Know

- New Resource: Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) Food Allergy Management in Schools (FAMS): Expert Recommendations for K-12
- FARE Webinar: New 2024 Expert Recommendations for Managing Food Allergy in Schools, November 21, 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

Correction to Nondiscrimination Statement in CSDE's Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs

The nondiscrimination statement in the September 2024 English version of the [Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs](#) was incorrect. The correct version has been added and the updated form (dated November 2024) is available in the "[Medical Statements for School Nutrition Programs](#)" section of the CSDE's [Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Grant Applications Open for 2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program

The USDA continues its support for local foods in schools by opening applications for the [2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants](#). For the first time, USDA is allowing organizations to select the type of Farm to School Grant that best fits their needs by offering three different requests for applications. Each organization can only submit one application for one grant:

- The [Implementation Grant](#) (\$50,000 to \$500,000) supports the establishment or expansion of comprehensive farm to school projects.
- The [State Agency Grant](#) (\$50,000 to \$500,000) helps state-level agencies implement local sourcing and agricultural education activities.
- The [Turnkey Grant](#) (\$5,000 to \$50,000) is for organizations interested in projects related to launching or enhancing farm to school activities; agricultural education; or edible gardens.

Applications are due by **January 10, 2025**.

Resource Roundup: Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12

Updated versions of the CSDE's [Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12](#) are available for school year 2024-25. These checklists assist school food authorities with planning menus to meet the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal patterns. Checklists are available for five-day and seven-day weeks for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12, and the optional grade group for K-8.

Good to Know

New Resource: Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) Food Allergy Management in Schools (FAMS): Expert Recommendations for K-12

In September 2024, FARE published the [Food Allergy Management in Schools \(FAMS\): Expert Recommendations for K-12](#), developed by FARE in close collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and an Advisory Council of school nurses, physicians in allergy/immunology, food allergy patient advocacy groups, legal experts, and dietitians. These expert recommendations have also been endorsed by 15 school and allergy-related organizations. This document is available in English and Spanish and is a supplemental update to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2013 [Voluntary Guidelines for Managing Food Allergies In Schools and Early Care and Education Programs](#).

FARE Webinar: New 2024 Expert Recommendations for Managing Food Allergy in Schools, November 21, 2024

About two children in every classroom in the United States have a food allergy. Every school needs a plan for protecting students with food allergy—whether they are in the classroom, in the cafeteria, at events, or at out-of-school activities. This live educational program will provide information and tools you can use right now to make any school a supportive, safer environment for those living with the disease of food allergy. Presenter Christine Creter will review the recommendations from the recently published [Food Allergy Management in Schools \(FAMS\): Expert Recommendations for K-12](#).

- *Date and time:* Thursday, November 21, 2024, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* [registration link](#)

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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_11_13_2024.pdf.

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