

The School Lunch Tray: December 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.

Action Items

- None

Need to Know

- USDA Foods Cancellation of Further Processing Trucks
- USDA Foods Cancellation of Strawberry Slices
- Recent Salmonella typhimurium Outbreak Does Not Include USDA Department of Defense Fresh Products
- What's in a Meal Training Modules Updated for School Year 2024-25
- Charging Policy is Required for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools
- Resource Roundup: Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals in the School Nutrition Programs

Good to Know

- No Kid Hungry Webinar: Celebrating Students Through Equity: A Community Approach to School Breakfast, December 17, 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

USDA Foods Cancellation of Further Processing Trucks

Meal counts for school year 2023-24 have been finalized. Due to decreased meal counts and higher pricing on food, many individual Recipient Agencies (RAs) have exceeded their entitlement for this school year. As a result, some of the remaining processing trucks will be canceled. The Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP) team is working with all affected processors to redistribute the remaining pounds and cover many of the expected orders. Please have patience as the FDP works through these issues. RAs that have questions about a cancellation notice should contact their processor directly. As a reminder, orders should be considered a “request” until they are purchased status. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

USDA Foods Cancellation of Strawberry Slices

The two trucks below are canceled due to product unavailability.

- Strawberry Slices, Unsweetened, CTN- 6/5 LB, Material Code 110860
 - Sales Order numbers: 5000910599 – 100 and 5000910599 – 200
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Recent Salmonella typhimurium Outbreak Does Not Include USDA Department of Defense Fresh Products

An [ongoing investigation](#) of a Salmonella typhimurium outbreak is linked to cucumbers grown in Mexico. These are not domestic products, and, currently, USDA Department of Defense Fresh products are not implicated. The CSDE will notify SFAs if there are any substantial changes.

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Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Modules 1-5 and 14

The CSDE is in the process of updating [What's in a Meal: National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#) for school year 2024-25, to reflect the USDA final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), new content and resources, updated links, and the CSDE's new logo.

The updates are occurring in stages. The six What's in a Meal modules below are available now on the CSDE's [Meal Pattern Training for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. The CSDE will notify school food authorities as additional modules are released.

- 1: Introduction to Training
- 2: Introduction to School Meal Patterns
- 3: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Meal Pattern
- 4: School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern
- 5: Dietary Specifications
- 14: Water Availability During Meal Service

All updated modules indicate "Updated for School Year 2024-25" in the description.

Charging Policy is Required for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools

While CEP schools provide meals at no charge to students, a written, formal charging policy is still required to address the items below.

- A prohibition on publicly identifying or shaming a child.
- A statement to indicate that charging adult meals and a la carte foods and beverages is unallowable.
- A declaration of the right for any child to obtain a meal, which may exclude a la carte items.
- A procedure for communicating with the parent or legal guardian for the purpose of collecting unpaid meal charges.
- A procedure to refer the parent or guardian to the LEA's McKinney-Vento Act Homeless Education Liaison when unpaid meal charges reach 30 meals.
- A statement that by June 30 of each year, the unpaid meal debt must be reimbursed by board of education funds and not the nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA).

Additionally, the charging policy for CEP schools must also address second meals.

For more information, refer to the CSDE's [Checklist for Reviewing the Local Educational Agency's Unpaid Meal Charge Policy and Procedures for the School Nutrition Programs](#) and visit the "[Unpaid Charging Policy](#)" section of the CSDE's [Financial Management for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Resource Roundup: Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals in the School Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's [Nonprogram Pricing Worksheets for Adult Meals in the School Nutrition Programs](#) assists school food authorities (SFAs) with determining the unit price for adult meals. Adult meal pricing is the price charged to adults (such as teachers, staff, and visiting adults) who purchase a meal at a site participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP). The benefits of the NSLP and SBP are for enrolled children only. Revenues from the [nonprofit school food service account \(NSFSA\)](#) cannot subsidize adult meals.

SFAs must charge adults a higher price than students even if the meal is the same. SFAs have the option of charging adults a la carte prices or setting a unit price for the entire adult meal. The CSDE does not cap prices for adult meal prices or a la carte items; however, adult prices must at least cover the food cost at the same level as the school meals.

Good to Know

No Kid Hungry Webinar: Celebrating Students Through Equity: A Community Approach to School Breakfast, December 17, 2024

Breakfast is a critical opportunity to promote equity in school nutrition. This webinar will explore how centering community voices can enhance breakfast programs, ensuring they are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of all students. Participants will learn how to identify and address systemic barriers, recruit and retain employees, engage families and students in program design, and implement innovative solutions like alter-native breakfast models. Discover how prioritizing equity at breakfast can set students up for success, fostering healthier, more inclusive school communities. The slide deck and recording will be sent out afterwards for all registrants.

- *Date and time:* Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 3:00 pm.
 - *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_12_03_2024.pdf.

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