

## Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2024

This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2024. The School Lunch Tray is the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) weekly e-newsletter for Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) of the NSLP, [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) of the NSLP, and [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\)](#).

Click the links in the “Links” column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and the corresponding Table Talk webinar.

Date	Links	Topics
04-24-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-24-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 09-24: Payment of Fiscal Year 2024-25 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Healthy Celebrations</li> <li>• Discover MyPlate Look and Cook Recipe: Garden Bite</li> <li>• Team Nutrition Cooks: Salad With Vinaigrette Dressing</li> <li>• Team Nutrition Resources for Fruits and Vegetables</li> </ul>
04-17-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-17-2024</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 04-18-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, April 18, 2024: Launch of Connecticut’s Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)</li> <li>• Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for school year 2024-25</li> <li>• Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Starts Summer 2024</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program</li> </ul>

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04-10-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-10-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest Survey for Summer Meals 2024 Sponsors: Due April 17, 2024</li> <li>• Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of March 2024 Purchases due April 19, 2024</li> <li>• Reminder for Public Schools: Schedule Board Meeting Now for the 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement</li> <li>• New Foods in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• USDA Child Nutrition Database, Release 27 (CN27)</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition’s (ICN) Shaking It Up: Small Changes Lead to Big Flavors Webpage</li> <li>• Shaping Tomorrow Together: School Nutrition Association (SNA) Annual National Conference, July 14-16, 2024</li> <li>• Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)</li> <li>• New Article Details the Process Used to Develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans</li> <li>• ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Effective Menu Planning Strategies: A Step-by-Step Approach</li> <li>• ICN Webpage: Shaking It Up: Small Changes Lead to Big Flavors</li> </ul>
04-03-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-03-2024</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 04-04-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate School Lunch Heroes in May 2024</li> <li>• Recording Available for CSDE’s SFSP 2024 Annual Sponsor Training Session 1: USDA Updates</li> <li>• Connecticut Summer Meals 2024 Outreach Materials Order Form</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA’s Indirect Costs Guidance Manual</li> <li>• Alliance for a Healthier Generation Webinar: Active &amp; Engaged Learning for Afterschool and Summer Programs, April 10, 2024</li> <li>• Food Research &amp; Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Maximizing Participation in Summer Meals and Summer EBT: April 11, 2024</li> <li>• Connecticut Farm to School Institute Applications for 2024-25: Deadline is April 12, 2024</li> <li>• USDA Team Nutrition Newsletter: School Meals Grab n’ Go: Quick Tips to Improve Your Meal Service</li> <li>• Alliance for a Healthier Generation Resource: Increasing Student Engagement Through Taste Tests</li> <li>• Alliance for a Healthier Generation Resource: Creating Collaborative Nutrition Education: Partnering with Educators and Nutrition Services</li> <li>• Alliance for a Healthier Generation On-demand Training: Fresh from the Farm: Farm to School and Out-of-School Time Programs</li> </ul>

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03-27-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-27-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 08-2024 Annual Notification Requirement for All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs): Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Due April 5, 2024</li> <li>• Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Encouraged to Attend Annual Summer Meals Training Webinars</li> <li>• USDA Foods Update on Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Login Transition to Login.gov</li> <li>• Revised Interschool Agreements for School Year 2024-25</li> <li>• Revised CSDE Resource Lists</li> <li>• University of Connecticut Training on Friday, May 17, 2024: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy</li> <li>• FoodCorp Service Member Applications for School Year 2024-25 due March 29, 2024</li> <li>• What Two Healthy People 2030 Objectives Indicate About the Nation’s Nutrition</li> <li>• Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024</li> </ul>
03-20-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-20-2024</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 03-21-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 08-2024 Annual Notification Requirement for All Local Educational Agencies (LEAs): Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Due April 5, 2024</li> <li>• Direct Certification Case Management Reminder</li> <li>• Review List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated March 18, 2024</li> <li>• Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Special Guest CSDE’s Deputy Commissioner Sone-Moyano and a listening session about student unpaid meal debt and charging policies</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Capital Expenditure Approved List for School Food Authority Equipment Purchases</li> <li>• Evaluation of the USDA Summer EBT Demonstrations: Lessons Learned from More Than a Decade of Research</li> <li>• Food Research &amp; Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into FRAC’s New School Meal Participation Reports, March 21, 2024</li> </ul>

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03-13-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-13-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Schools: Schedule Board Meeting Now for the 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement</li> <li>• USDA Memo SFSP 07-2024 and SP 13-2024: Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Questions and Answers</li> <li>• Reminder: How the State Statute Requiring Nutritious and Low-fat Foods Applies to Vending Machines in Public Schools (Section 10-221p of the Connecticut General Statutes)</li> <li>• New Resources: Requirements for Cafeteria A La Carte Foods and Beverages</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Crediting Foods Made from Scratch in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Ag Day at the Capitol: March 20, 2024</li> <li>• Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print</li> <li>• Food Research &amp; Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into the Community Eligibility Provision, March 14, 2024</li> <li>• Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition</li> </ul>

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03-06-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-06-2024</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 03-07-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Orders for USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25 Due March 8, 2024</li> <li>• Happy National School Breakfast Week: March 4-8, 2024</li> <li>• Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, March 7, 2024</li> <li>• USDA Foods Update: Planning Remaining Deliveries for USDA Foods</li> <li>• Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of February 2024 Purchases due March 15, 2024</li> <li>• Recording and Slides Available for USDA Community Eligibility Provision 101 Webinar</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resources: Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP, Grain Ounce Equivalents for the NSLP and SBP Preschool Meal Patterns, and Servings for Grains/Breads in the Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12</li> <li>• Revised CSDE Crediting Summary Charts: Afterschool Snack Program Meal Pattern for Grades K-12, Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs, and Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</li> <li>• USDA Resources for School Breakfast</li> <li>• Ways to Celebrate School Breakfast</li> <li>• Apply for a Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Breakfast Trailblazer Award</li> <li>• Celebrate National Nutrition Month 2024: Beyond the Table</li> <li>• Food Research &amp; Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: School Breakfast 101: Implementing Innovative Breakfast Models, Thursday, March 7, 2024</li> </ul>
02-28-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-28-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 06-24: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2024-25: Due July 1, 2024 (Full Service) or August 30, 2024 (Vended)</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 07-24: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2024-25: Due July 1, 2024</li> <li>• USDA Resource: Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Manual</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Using Product Formulation Statements in the School Nutrition Programs</li> </ul>

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02-21-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-21-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Orders for USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25 Due March 8, 2024</li> <li>• No Table Talk for Thursday, February 22, 2024</li> <li>• Now Available: CSDE’s List of Area Eligible Schools and List of Site Eligible Schools for School Year 2023-24</li> <li>• New CSDE Resources on the Federal and State Requirements for A La Carte Foods and Beverages in School Cafeterias</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resources on Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Schools</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Allowable Beverages in Connecticut Public Schools</li> <li>• Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline March 15, 2024</li> <li>• Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Webpage: Information on Select Dietary Supplement Ingredients and Other Substances</li> </ul>
02-14-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-14-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25: Orders due March 8, 2024</li> <li>• Save the Dates: Summer Meal Programs Annual Training 2024</li> <li>• Crediting Hummus in the School Meal Patterns</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Crediting Legumes in the NSLP and SBP</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Afterschool Snack Program Handbook</li> <li>• National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is March 4-8, 2024</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Staff training with What's in a Meal Module 4 - School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Pattern</li> <li>• New look for USDA’s Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)</li> <li>• Recorded Webinar Available from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN): Produce Safety University (PSU) Keeping School Food Safe Starts with Science</li> <li>• Recorded Webinar Available from the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN): Optimizing School Nutrition Kitchens: A Guide to Efficient Facility Design and Equipment Selection</li> <li>• American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) Membership</li> </ul>

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02-07-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-07-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press Release for CSDE’s Summer Meal Programs</li> <li>• List of Connecticut Sponsors of the NSLP and SBP for School Year 2023-24</li> <li>• Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2024-25</li> <li>• Using Electronic Production Records</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Determining if Nondairy Beverages Meet the USDA’s Nutrition Standards for Fluid Milk Substitutes in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Allowable Milk Substitutes for Children without Disabilities in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Update CSDE Guide: Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• USDA Webinar: Community Eligibility Provision 101, February 21, 2024 (Second Training Date)</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Key Information for Connecticut Claims Preparers for School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps: Now Accepting Service Member Applications</li> <li>• Tyson K-12 Hunger Heroes: Due March 14, 2024</li> <li>• FoodCorps Free Download of Fruit and Veggie Valentines</li> </ul>
01-31-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-31-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USDA Memo SFSP 03-2024 and SP 05-2024: Implementation Guidance for the Rural Non-congregate Option Provisions of the Interim Final Rule, Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs</li> <li>• USDA Memo SFSP 04-2024 and SP 06-2024: Rural Designations in the Summer Meal Programs – Revised</li> <li>• Revised CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP, SBP, and ASP</li> <li>• USDA Webinar: Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meals Programs, February 13, 2024</li> <li>• Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2024 Purchases due February 16, 2024</li> <li>• New Features and Food Yields in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Sample Letter to Request Food Safety Inspection</li> <li>• USDA’s Investing in America Signage Guidelines Toolkit</li> <li>• New England Feeding New England Connecticut State Brief 2023</li> </ul>

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01-24-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-24-2024</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 01-25-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Onsite Monitoring Must be Completed by February 1, 2024</li> <li>• Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, January 25, 2024</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: CSDE’s Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs Webpage</li> <li>• Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline February 28, 2024</li> </ul>
01-17-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-17-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder for Selected NSLP School Food Authorities (SFAs): Complete USDA School Meals Operations (SMO) Study by January 19, 2024</li> <li>• Next Table Talk: Thursday, January 25, 2024</li> <li>• List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated January 17, 2024</li> <li>• Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of December 2023 Purchases due January 24, 2024</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Meal Counting and Claiming Process for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Safe Meals, Healthy Kids: Food Safety Tips for Safe Summer Meals Webinar: January 31, 2024</li> <li>• Food Solutions New England (FSNE) 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge</li> </ul>
01-10-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-10-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Partnerships for Local Agriculture &amp; Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS), Applications Due January 22, 2024</li> <li>• Reminder: Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems (Project SCALES), Applications for First Cohort Due January 26, 2024</li> <li>• USDA 2023-24 School Food Authority (SFA) Survey on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Monitoring Order Status of USDA Foods</li> <li>• Recording Available for Team Nutrition’s webinar: Level Up Your Professional Standards Tracking</li> <li>• School Nutrition Environment and Services: Policies and Practices That Promote Healthy Eating Among K-12 Students</li> </ul>



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01-03-2024	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-03-2024</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member to the Child Nutrition Programs Bureau</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Staff Contact Information</li> <li>• No Table Talk for Thursday, January 11, 2023</li> <li>• USDA Foods Update: Foods Available List for School Year 2024-25</li> <li>• SNACT's Winter Warm Up Conference January 9, 2024</li> <li>• Reminder: Water Availability During Meal Service</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Buy American Justification Form</li> <li>• New England Dairy Free 30-minute webinar: Chill Out with Cold Milk, Thursday, February 1, 2024</li> </ul>

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For more information, visit the CSDE'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/Summary\\_SLT\\_Topics\\_2024.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2024/Summary_SLT_Topics_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
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