

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
11-06-2024	SLT Newsletter 11-06-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of October 2024 Purchases Due November 18, 2024 • USDA SP 01-2025: Fluid Milk Requirements for School Meals • USDA SP 02-2025: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit Flexibility in the School Breakfast Program: Q&As for Program Operators • USDA SP 04-2025: Fees for Electronic Payment Services in the School Meal Programs • Student Confidentiality and Email • Updated List of Acceptable Food and Beverages Dated November 6, 2024 • List of Connecticut Sponsors of the NSLP and SBP for School Year 2024-25 • USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Civil Rights Division (CRD) Recorded Language Access Training: How to Bridge language and Cultural Barriers with FNS Support • Resource Roundup: Operational Memorandum No. 02-25: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program: Phase 2 • USDA Webinar: Kosher & Halal Foods in Child Nutrition Programs, November 14, 2024 • USDA Invests \$46M in Efforts to Address Food and Nutrition Security • Reminder: UConn Sustainability Survey: Assessing School Nutrition Sustainability Efforts in CT Schools
10-30-2024	SLT Newsletter 10-30-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Hours for Phase II of the federal Local Food for School Incentive Program (LFSIP), Wednesday, November 6, 2024 • Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guidance for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs: School Year 2024-25 • Resource Roundup: Guidance on Co-Mingled Meals and Afterschool Snacks

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10-23-2024	SLT Newsletter 10-23-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 02-25: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program: Phase 2 (LFSIP Phase 2 Application due Thursday, November 14, 2024) • 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 • 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
10-16-2024	SLT Newsletter 10-16-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Farm to School Month Continues: October 2024 • Updated CSDE Resource: Sample Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs • Reminder: Authorized Signers for Medical Statements • Mark Your Calendars! Schedule for Upcoming CSDE Office Hours • Reminder: CSDE Procurement 101 Webinar Series: October 23 and 24, 2024 • Resource Roundup: CT Grown for CT Kids Week Tasting Market Farmer & Recipe Guide • Positions Available for Regional Farm to School Coordinators • CT Grown for CT Kids Week Celebrations
10-09-2024	SLT Newsletter 10-09-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Due June 30, 2025 • Happy Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • Operational Memorandum No. 01-25: Schedule for Submitting Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Monthly Claims for Reimbursement in Fiscal Year 2025 • Updated CSDE Resource: Addendum C: Information on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) • Resource Roundup: CSDE’s Resource List for Special Diets in Child Nutrition Programs • New Training Series from Team Nutrition: The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals • Virtual House Calls for Parents and Families: A Three-Part Series

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10-02-2024	SLT Newsletter 10-02-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of September 2024 Purchases Due October 15, 2024 • Reminder Plan for Reducing Excess Operating Balance Due October 15, 2024 • Next Week is Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • CSDE Procurement 101 Webinar Series: October 23 and 24, 2024 • Updated USDA Resource: Whole Grain Resource for The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs • Updated Version of CSDE's Addendum A: Sharing Information with Other Programs • Revised USDA Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs • Resource Roundup: Key Information for Connecticut School Business Officials about School Nutrition Programs • UConn Sustainability Survey: Assessing School Nutrition Sustainability Efforts in CT Schools
09-25-2024	SLT Newsletter 09-25-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reminder: USDA Foods Update on Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) and Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) Login Transition to Login.gov by September 30, 2024 • Final reminder: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP): Due October 4, 2024 • Reviewing the Local Educational Agency's Unpaid Meal Charge Policy and Procedures for the School Nutrition Programs: Deadline October 31, 2024 • Schedule for Upcoming CSDE Office Hours • Two Weeks Until Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • Reminder: CSDE's Application Certification, Direct Certification, and Verification Trainings • Clarification Regarding Disclosure of a Child's Eligibility, the Addendum A and the Disclosure Release Form • Resource Roundup: CSDE's Updated Meal Pattern Resource Lists (Preschool and Grades K-12) • Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline November 8, 2024 • USDA's Spanish MyPlate Resources: MiPlato

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09-18-2024	SLT Newsletter 09-18-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP): Due October 4, 2024 • Verification Must Be Completed by November 15, 2024 • Three Weeks Until Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • Updated Resources for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs • New CSDE Resource: Overview of the Requirements for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs • New CSDE Resource: Sample Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Meal Modifications in the School Nutrition Programs • New CSDE Resource: Records Retention Requirements for the School Nutrition Programs • Reminder: Crediting Juice in Canned Fruit • Updated CSDE Resource: County Assignments for School Nutrition Programs • Updated USDA Resource: Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs • Revised USDA Resource: Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet series • Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Report Highlights Junk Fees Charged by School Lunch Payment Platforms • Resource Roundup: CT Farm to School Directory • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) School Nutrition Strategies, Trainings, Action Plans, and Resources (STAR) Webinar: Serving Safe Foods – From Receiving to Serving, September 26, 2024 • Open Café Day in Waterford, Connecticut on October 9, 2024 • SNACT Fall Conference, Show & 75th Anniversary Celebration: Picture the Possibilities, November 21-22, 2024 • USDA’s New Nationwide Campaign: #WhatsOnMyPlate • Team Nutrition's Spanish Language Resources • Printed Team Nutrition Materials Available to Order • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Back-to-School Toolkit: Support Schools, Empower Students

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Date	Links	Topics
09-11-2024	SLT Newsletter 09-11-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of August 2024 Purchases Due September 18, 2024 • Four Weeks Until Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • Table Talk will Resume in October • Disclosure Information Issued to Superintendents and AP Coordinators • Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guidance for the School Nutrition Programs: School Year 2024-25 • New CSDE Resource: Buy American Requirement for the School Nutrition Programs • New Foods Available in the USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs • Updated USDA Resource: Team Nutrition's Serving School Meals to Preschoolers training worksheet • Resource Roundup: New Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Section on CSDE's Farm to School Webpage • September is National Food Safety Education Month • Webinar from the Institute of Child Nutrition's Produce Safety University (PSU): Hidden in Plain Sight: Navigating Food Allergens, Intolerance, and Labeling Practices: September 25, 2024

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09-04-2024	SLT Newsletter 09-04-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Sponsor Agreements Due September 16, 2024 • Reminder: Annual Financial Report for School Nutrition Programs Due September 16, 2024 • Reminder: Food Safety Inspection Report for SY 2023-24 must be completed in the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Online Application and Claiming System by September 30, 2024 • Five Weeks Until Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • Using Free/Reduced Price Meal (FRPM) Eligibility for State Education Programs • USDA Foods Updates for School Year 2024-25 • Recorded USDA Webinar Available on Buy American Provision: Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans – Buy American Provisions • Resource Roundup: CSDE’s Professional Standards Tracker Log for School Nutrition Programs • Revised USDA Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet series • Team Nutrition's School Meals Grab n' Go newsletter: Reducing Added Sugars in School Breakfast
08-28-2024	SLT Newsletter 08-28-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for Summer EBT (S-EBT) Applications is August 31, 2024 • Save the Date: CSDE’s Training, Back to School with School Nutrition • Six weeks Until Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, October 7-11, 2024 • Updated CSDE Production Records for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the National School Lunch program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) for School Year 2024-25 • Reminder for Districts and Schools Using Electronic Production Records and Standardized Recipes • Important Reminder: Disaster Preparedness for School Food Authorities (SFAs) • Resource Roundup: USDA’s Farm to School Website and Resources • Food Research & Action Center Webinar: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Schools, Thursday, September 5, 2024 • New Resources from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: Food Sources of Select Nutrients

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08-21-2024	SLT Newsletter 08-21-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: State Transition Assistance for Reduced-price (STAR) Funds Attestation Statement due August 23, 2024 • Annual Financial Report for School Nutrition Programs Due September 16, 2024 • Important Update: Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Participants • Updated CSDE Civil Rights PowerPoint Presentation for School Year 2024-25 • Updated CSDE Resources for Financial Management for School Nutrition Programs for School Year 2024-25 • Updated Complying with Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Training Program for School Year 2024-25 • Updated List of Acceptable Food and Beverages Dated August 16, 2024 • Resource Roundup: CSDE's LFSIP Resources • USDA Webinar: How to Bridge Language and Cultural Barriers with FNS Support, September 4, 2024 • USDA Meal Talk Webinar: Reducing Added Sugars in School Meals to meet the Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Thursday, September 12, 2024 • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Shaking It Up: Small Changes Lead to Big Flavors • Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Culturally Inclusive Recipes Toolkit for School Nutrition Programs
08-14-2024	SLT Newsletter 08-14-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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08-07-2024	SLT Newsletter 08-07-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 15-24: Federal Meal Reimbursement Rates for School Year (SY): July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 • Reminder: USDA Foods Update on Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) and Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) Login Transition to Login.gov • New USDA Webinar: School Year 2024-25 Paid Lunch Equity Tool Walkthrough • Resource Roundup: School Nutrition Association (SNA) 2024-25 Promotion Calendar • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) 2024 Back to School Toolbox • New ICN Resource: Facility Design and Equipment Purchasing for School Nutrition Programs • Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Boosting School Budgets with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks: August 15, 2024 • FRAC Webinar: Expansion Strategies for Afterschool Suppers and Snacks: August 22, 2024 • ICN STAR Webinar: Strategies for Improving Lunch Line Efficiency: August 29, 2024 • FRAC Webinar: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Schools: September 5, 2024 • Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Recorded Webinar: Tools of the Trade - Exploring K-12 Market Trend Reports and Agriculture Marketing Tools to Build Menus for Flavor and Flexibility • ICN STAR Recorded Webinar: Incorporating Plant-Based Options in Schools
07-31-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-31-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated CSDE Resource: Menu Planning Guide for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs: School Year 2024-25 • Preschoolers Eating with Other Grades (Co-Mingled Meals) • Family Style Meal Service for Preschoolers • Resource Roundup: Cycle Menus for Preschoolers • Team Nutrition's Back-to-School webpage

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07-24-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-24-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2024-25 • New CSDE Resource: Summary of Final Rule Updates to the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs • Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Handbook for School Year 2024-25 • Updated ASP Forms for School Year 2024-25 • Updated ASP Sample Menus for School Year 2024-25 • New “Snack Menu Ideas” section of the CSDE’s ASP webpage • Final Rule Changes to Meal Modifications for the School Nutrition Programs • New “Added Sugars” Section of the CSDE’s Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs Webpage • Resource Roundup: New USDA Resource on Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast
07-17-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-17-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Roundup: Summer Meals for Kids Site Finder • Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: Boosting School Budgets with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks, August 1, 2024 • Recorded Webinar Available: Produce Safety University (PSU) Webinar: Destination Specification • Recorded Webinar Available: Demystify the FBG: A Crash Course for Using the Food Buying Guide
07-10-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-10-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Funding for Reduced-price Meals for School Year 2024-25 • Operational Memorandum No. 13-24: State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant for School Year 2023-24 • Operational Memorandum No. 14-24: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Payment for School Year 2023-24 • New Culinary Training and Resources from Team Nutrition and the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN)
07-03-2024	SLT Newsletter 07-03-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs: Product Documentation, Meal Components, and Noncreditable Foods • Resource Roundup: Portion Control and Weights and Measures • National School lunch Week: October 14-18, 2024

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06-26-2024	SLT Newsletter 06-26-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Table Talk for the Summer • Updated Meal Patterns and Menu Planning Documents for SY 2024-25 Based on Final Rule Changes • Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 for SY 2024-25 • Updated Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12 for SY 2024-25 • Updated Preschool Meal Patterns for SY 2024-25: NSLP, SBP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) • Updated Preschool Menu Planning Forms for SY 2024-25 • Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern and Menu Planning Form for Grades K-12 for SY 2024-25 • Updated CSDE Resources: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP • Updated Smart Snacks Nutrition Standards Effective July 1, 2024 • Updated Connecticut Nutrition Standards for School Year 2024-25: Effective July 1, 2024 • Resource Roundup: “Upcoming Meal Pattern Changes” Section of CSDE’s Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs Webpage • USDA Listening Session on the USDA Foods Processing program at SNA Annual National Conference: July 16, 2024
06-19-2024	SLT Newsletter 06-19-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to Distribution of Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Benefits • Local Food for Schools Incentive Program Payments for Third Quarter 2023 • Reminder for USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Participants: Receipting Invoices • Summary of Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2024-25: USDA’s final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • Clarification on Potable Water Requirement: USDA’s final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • Updated Comparison Charts: Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 and Preschool in the School Nutrition Programs • Resource Roundup: New USDA Program Participation Dashboard • FRAC Webinar on June 27, 2024: Gearing Up for Back to School with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks

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06-12-2024	SLT Newsletter 06-12-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Alternate Lunch Time Outside the Timeframes of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Due July 1, 2024 • Food Safety Inspection Report for SY 2023-24 must be completed in the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Online Application and Claiming System by October 31, 2024 • No Table Talk on Thursday, June 13, 2024 • Operational Memorandum No. 12-24: Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2024-25 • Important Information for Districts Contracting with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Virtual Training: Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership: August 6-8, 2024 • USDA Webinar on Final Rule - Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • Resource Roundup: Crediting Grain-based Desserts in the School Nutrition Programs
06-05-2024	SLT Newsletter 06-05-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • Summer EBT Customer Service: 1-844-503-6871 • Reminder: Requirements for Water Sold in Schools (Plain Water, Sparkling Water, and Seltzer) • Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Recipes Using USDA Foods • Team Nutrition's School Meals Grab n' Go newsletter: May 2024 • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is Seeking School Meal Standards Resources • FRAC Webinar on June 27, 2024: Gearing Up for Back to School with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks • ICN Webinar Recording Available: Food Allergies: Ask Me Anything Webinar

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05-29-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-29-2024 Table Talk 05-30-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Operational Memorandum No. 10-24: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year (SY) 2023-24 Only – Offsetting Unpaid School Meal Charges • Reminder: Operational Memorandum No. 11-24: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) • Reminder: 2024-25 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 7, 2024 • Reminder: USDA Foods Update on Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Login Transition to Login.gov • Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, May 30, 2024 • Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Information Session, Tuesday June 4, 2024, 2:00-3:00 p.m. • Reminder: New Connecticut Local Food for School Incentive Program • Resource Roundup: Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs
05-22-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-22-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 10-24: New Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Allowances for School Year (SY) 2023-24 Only – Offsetting Unpaid School Meal Charge • Operational Memorandum No. 11-24: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision • USDA Foods Reminder: Processing Sweeps on June 30, 2024 • Information Session on Tuesday, May 21, 2024: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Program • CSDE Summer Meals Training on May 23, 2024: Local Foods, USDA Foods, and Food Safety • New Production Records for the Optional K-8 Meal Pattern for the NSLP and SBP • Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Ideas for Using Excess USDA Foods Inventory • Join Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition • Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print

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05-15-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-15-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024-25 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 7, 2024 • No Table Talk for Thursday, May 16, 2024: Replaced by Summer Meals Training • Summer Meals Training on May 16, 2024: Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program • Information Session on Tuesday, May 21, 2024: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Program • New Connecticut Local Food for School Incentive Program • USDA Foods Reminder: Guidance on Complaints • Reminder: University of Connecticut Training on Friday, May 17, 2024: Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy • Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Managing an Excess Operating Balance
05-08-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-08-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2024 • Reminder: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2024-25 Due July 1, 2024 (Full Service) or August 30, 2024 (Vended) • Reminder: USDA Webinar Tomorrow (May 9, 2024) on the Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • Summer Meals Training for Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors on May 16, 2024: Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program. • Reminder: USDA Foods Transfer Request Forms • Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week 2024: October 7-11 • Resource Roundup: Food Safety for Child Nutrition Programs • School Meals Grab n' Go Newsletter: Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals • FRAC Webinar: Boosting Breakfast in Older Youth: May 23, 2024 • Institute of Child Nutrition (UCN) Recorded Webinar: Recognition of School Culinary Professionals – Spotlight on School Meal Innovations

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05-01-2024	SLT Newsletter 05-01-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April 2024 Purchases due May 17, 2024 • No Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, May 2, 2024 • Important Updates for the Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) • USDA Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • USDA Webinar on the Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans • Resource Roundup: Healthy Fundraising • Food Research & Action Center Webinar: Promoting School Breakfast: Tips and Tricks for Marketing Your Program, May 9, 2024
04-24-2024	SLT Newsletter 04-24-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 09-24: Payment of Fiscal Year 2024-25 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program • Updated CSDE Resource: Healthy Celebrations • Discover MyPlate Look and Cook Recipe: Garden Bite • Team Nutrition Cooks: Salad With Vinaigrette Dressing • Team Nutrition Resources for Fruits and Vegetables
04-17-2024	SLT Newsletter 04-17-2024 Table Talk 04-18-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Talk Tomorrow: Thursday, April 18, 2024: Launch of Connecticut's Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) • Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for school year 2024-25 • Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) Starts Summer 2024 • Resource Roundup: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

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

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

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03-13-2024	SLT Newsletter 03-13-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Schools: Schedule Board Meeting Now for the 2024-25 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement • USDA Memo SFSP 07-2024 and SP 13-2024: Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Questions and Answers • 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) • New Resources: Requirements for Cafeteria A La Carte Foods and Beverages • Resource Roundup: Crediting Foods Made from Scratch in School Nutrition Programs • Ag Day at the Capitol: March 20, 2024 • Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print • Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into the Community Eligibility Provision, March 14, 2024 • Free Training Webinars from the Institute of Child Nutrition

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2024

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

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2024

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

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

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2024

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

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2024

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

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2024

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.

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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
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