

Summary of School Lunch 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
12-24-2024	SLT Newsletter 12-24-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSDE 2025-26 Annual Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process Training for SFAs, January 30, 2025 • Last School Lunch Tray for 2024 • Update on School Transition Assistance for Reduced-priced (STAR) Funds • USDA Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs • Team Nutrition Resources to Help Implement the Final Rule • USDA Child Nutrition Database Now Available on FoodData Central. • USDA’s School Foodservice Supply Chain Challenges Dashboard • Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print • USDA Requests Public Comments on Pilot Projects for Tribes to Administer Child Nutrition Programs • U.S. Food and Drug Administration final rule, Food Labeling: Nutrient Content Claims; Definition of Term "Healthy"

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12-18-2024	SLT Newsletter 12-18-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on School Transition Assistance for Reduced-priced (STAR) Funds • Save the Date: CSDE 2025-26 Annual Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process Training for SFAs, January 30, 2025 • Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Modules 8 and 10 • Updated CSDE Resource: Buy American Requirement for the School Nutrition Programs • Updated CSDE Buy American Justification Form for the School Nutrition Programs • New CSDE Training Module: Buy American Requirement for the School Nutrition Programs • Reminder About Marketing Foods and Beverages in Schools • Resource Roundup: Updated Buy American Requirement section of the CSDE's Procurement for School Nutrition Programs webpage • New Recipes Available in the Child Nutrition Recipe Box (CNRB) • Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into Community Eligibility in the 2023–2024 School Year, December 19, 2024

Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2024

Date	Links	Topics
12-10-2024	SLT Newsletter 12-10-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Annual Verification Collection Report (FNS 742) Due December 16, 2024 • Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of October 2024 Purchases Due December 18, 2024 • Updated Guide to Meeting the Preschool Meal Patterns and Crediting Requirements for the School Nutrition Programs • Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Modules 7 and 9 • New Team Nutrition Resource: The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals • USDA Recorded Webinar Available: Kosher and Halal Foods in Child Nutrition Programs • USDA Memo SP 06-2025, National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants: Installation Expenditures • USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Civil Rights Division Training: Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) • Resource Roundup: Updated Professional Standards Tracker Log for School Nutrition Programs • Upcoming Farm to School Workshops: Farm to School in the Classroom, December 19, 2024 • Now Available: Scientific Report of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee
12-03-2024	SLT Newsletter 12-03-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • No Kid Hungry Webinar: Celebrating Students Through Equity: A Community Approach to School Breakfast, December 17, 2024

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Date	Links	Topics
11-27-2024	SLT Newsletter 11-27-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reminder for Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Public Schools: Annual HFC Documentation Due November 30, 2024 • Phase 2 Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Sign-Up Extended to Wednesday, December 4, 2024 • Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition’s (ICN) eLearning Portal
11-20-2024	SLT Newsletter 11-20-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder for Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Public Schools: Annual HFC Documentation Due November 30, 2024 • Annual Verification Collection Report (FNS 742) Due December 16, 2024 • USDA DoD Program: Ordering through the Holidays • USDA Memo SP 05-2025, CACFP 04-2025, and SFSP 02-2025: Guidance for Accepting Processed Product Documentation for Meal Pattern Requirement • Updated CSDE Resources for Meal Pattern Crediting Documentation • Updated CSDE Guide: Crediting Guide for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 • Vegetable Substitutions in the School Breakfast Program • Resource Roundup: Updated Team Nutrition Resource: Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast
11-13-2024	SLT Newsletter 11-13-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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

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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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Date	Links	Topics
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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Date	Links	Topics
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

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Date	Links	Topics
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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Date	Links	Topics
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

Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2024

Date	Links	Topics
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

Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2024

Date	Links	Topics
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

Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2024

Date	Links	Topics
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 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 Equivalent for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP, Grain Ounce Equivalent 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 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

Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2024

Date	Links	Topics
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 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 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 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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