

## The School Lunch Tray: February 13, 2025

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

The School Lunch Tray contains the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly email notifications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. This week's topics are listed below.

### Action Items

- Final Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2025 Purchases Due February 14, 2025
- Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025
- New Date for Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025 - *USDA Triennial Assessment due 6/30/2025*

### Need to Know

- Serving Breakfast on Days with Delayed Openings
- Resource Roundup: USDA On-Demand Training: Identifying Top Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps

### Good to Know

- Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) ICN Recorded Webinar: USDA: Menu Planning for NSLP Afterschool Snack Service
- ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Reading and Understanding Food and Nutrition Facts Labels
- The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series
- FRAC Webinar: Summer Meals: Serving Kid-Friendly, High-Quality Meals: February 20, 2025

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. For previous versions of the School Lunch Tray, visit the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage.



## Action Items

### **Final Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2025 Purchases Due February 14, 2025**

Districts that would like to receive reimbursement from their LFSIP funds allocation for purchases of locally grown or produced foods for the month of January 2025 must submit the [Monthly Local Foods for Schools Incentive Program \(LFSIP\) Reporting Form - Phase 1](#). Purchases made in January 2025 must be reported on the form by Friday, February 14, 2025. As a reminder, the following items are not allowed for reimbursement: fluid milk; baked goods including bread and rolls; or items that cannot be attributed to a specific farm or producer.

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### **Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025**

The Connecticut Food Distribution Program's (FDP) catalog for USDA Foods for school year (SY) 2025-26 opens on **Friday, February 14, 2025**, in Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM). The deadline to place orders in WBSCM is **Friday, March 7, 2025**. Recipient Agencies (RAs) that miss the ordering deadline will not receive USDA Foods.

Please carefully review and follow the CSDE's [Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26](#). This document and the [USDA Foods Ordering Worksheets for School Year 2025-26](#) are available in the "[WBSCM](#)" section of the CSDE's FDP webpage. For questions, please contact the [FDP staff](#).

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### **New Date for Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025- USDA Triennial Assessment due 6/30/2025**

On February 27, 2025, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., the University of Connecticut Rudd Center for Food Policy and Health will conduct a webinar on their new WellSAT website. Every NSLP sponsor is obligated to have someone attend.

As a reminder, the USDA's final rule, [Local School Wellness Policy \(LSWP\) Implementation Under the HHFKA of 2010](#), requires that each local LEA must complete an assessment of their LSWP at least once every three years. The second triennial assessment is due **June 30, 2025**, and is conducted using WellSAT.

This webinar will occur during the Table Talk time slot. Registration is not required. Please use the link below to join Table Talk on Microsoft Teams.

#### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 225 336 668 44

Passcode: muTuBy

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#### **Or call in (audio only)**

+1 860-840-2075,,920756855# United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 920 756 855#

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## Need to Know

### Serving Breakfast on Days with Delayed Openings

The CSDE has received questions regarding a school's responsibility for serving breakfast on days with delayed openings. The current USDA guidance addresses serving lunches on early dismissal days (refer to [Operational Memorandum No. 02-23 Requirements for Regular and Shortened School Days](#)), but does not impact the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

The CSDE expects school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the SBP to serve breakfast when school is in session. However, the CSDE understands that on days with a delayed opening, the time for breakfast may be impacted. Therefore, the local educational agency may decide whether breakfast will be served on days with delayed openings. Please note that the SFA must have a procedure in place to communicate with parents/guardians regarding the SFA's plan for serving breakfast when the start of the school day is altered. Questions may be directed to your [school nutrition consultant](#).

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### Resource Roundup: USDA On-Demand Training: Identifying Top Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps

The USDA's 15-minute on-demand training, [Identifying Top Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps](#), shows how to identify top sources of added sugars and simple menu-planning swaps. This information assist SFAs with preparing to meet the new weekly dietary specification for added sugars, which is effective July 1, 2026, as required by the USDA's final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#).

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## Good to Know

### **Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) ICN Recorded Webinar: USDA: Menu Planning for NSLP Afterschool Snack Service**

The “[Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals](#)” training series is a set of short, on-demand trainings developed by USDA Team Nutrition and designed to provide school nutrition professionals with quick tips, tools, and knowledge needed to meet the nutrition standards for school meals. This training from January 2025 reviews updates that were made to the NSLP afterschool snacks meal pattern and nutrition standards.

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### **ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Reading and Understanding Food and Nutrition Facts Labels**

This STAR webinar from January 2025, [Reading and Understanding Food and Nutrition Facts Labels](#), covered the essentials of food labels, strategies for evaluating products, and ensuring compliance with child nutrition program requirements. This session provides valuable insights to enhance participants’ understanding of food labels and provide practical tips for effectively communicating food label information with staff.

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### **The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series**

Join Team Nutrition and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) for [The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series](#), which includes free, live and recorded trainings on hot topics in school meals. This training series is designed to assist SFAs, state agencies, and others in implementing the current program meal pattern requirements and nutrition standards.

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### **FRAC Webinar: Summer Meals: Serving Kid-Friendly, High-Quality Meals: February 20, 2025**

Serving kid-friendly, high-quality meals is a key strategy for attracting children to summer meals sites and encouraging participation all summer long. Join this webinar to hear from speakers about developing strong menus, as well as opportunities to reduce food waste and boost quality and appeal.

- Date and time: February 20, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
  - Registration: [registration link](#)
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## The School Lunch Tray: February 13, 2025

For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/slt\\_02\\_13\\_2025.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/slt_02_13_2025.pdf).

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