

The School Lunch Tray: April 30, 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: Registration Deadline is April 30, 2025, for University of Connecticut Rudd Center Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy on May 21, 2025
- Final Reminder: Attend CSDE's Training Session, Overview of the Final Rule Meal Pattern Changes for the School Nutrition Programs, on May 1, 2025
- Final Reminder: Attend CSDE's Information Session: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Program: May 5, 2025
- Agenda for the Connecticut Farm to School Conference on May 7, 2025
- CSDE Summer Meal Program Interest Survey Due May 8, 2025
- Next CSDE Office Hour for Triennial Assessment Using the WellSAT Website: Monday, May 12, 2025

Need to Know

- School Lunch Hero Day: May 2, 2025
- Resource Roundup: Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Good to Know

- None



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.

The School Lunch Tray: April 30, 2025

Action Items

Final Reminder: Registration Deadline is April 30, 2025, for University of Connecticut Rudd Center Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy on May 21, 2025

Are you part of a district wellness team in Connecticut? Join the Rudd Center for the third annual WSCC Academy, a day of free professional development to be held on May 21, 2025, at UConn Hartford. Select one of two professional learning tracks to meet your team's needs:

- Track A: Finalizing Triennial Wellness Assessments is designed for teams who have started their [LSWP triennial assessment](#) and want support generating their results.
- Track B: High-Quality Wellness Action Planning is designed for teams who have completed their LSWP triennial assessment and want support using their results to create high-quality action plans to strengthen the school health environment.

The WSCC Academy is hosted by the CT WSCC Partnership. Visit the [WSCC Academy website](#) for more information. [Registration](#) is open until April 30, 2025.

Final Reminder: CSDE Training Session: Overview of the Final Rule Meal Pattern Changes for the School Nutrition Programs, May 1, 2025

The USDA final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), required changes to the meal patterns for the school nutrition programs (grades K-12 and preschool) beginning July 1, 2024. Additional changes are effective with school year 2025-26, beginning July 1, 2025. This session will discuss the current and upcoming meal pattern changes for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal patterns for grades K-12, and the NSLP, SBP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) preschool meal patterns. Resources to assist SFAs with implementation will also be identified.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, May 1, 2025, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Registration is not required. Use the Teams link below to attend.

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

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

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

The School Lunch Tray: April 30, 2025

Phone Conference ID: 920 756 855#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Final Reminder: Attend CSDE's Information Session: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Program: May 5, 2025

The CSDE will be conducting an information session about the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) program on Monday, May 5, 2025, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. The S-EBT information session will provide general information, share resources, and walk through exciting new developments that may impact students' eligibility for free or reduced-priced school meals. Come to the information session ready to share your ideas about what S-EBT resources will be most useful to you and your students.

- **Date and time:** Monday, May 5, 2025, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Registration is not required. Use the Teams link provided below:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 292 234 008 557 0

Passcode: Hs9Bn7Zc

Dial in by phone

[+1 860-840-2075,,968777524#](#) United States, Hartford

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 968 777 524#

Agenda for the Connecticut Farm to School Conference on May 7, 2025

The agenda is attached for the Connecticut Farm to School Conference on May 7, 2025. Spots are filling up quickly, so register today! The CSDE highly recommends inviting a member of your team and your school business official to join us for this exciting first-time opportunity.

Increase farm to school programming in your cafeteria and learn about best practices in local procurement and network with farmers and food hub operators. This event will count toward professional standards requirements.

- **Location:** Auer Farm, 158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield, CT from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- **Cost:** \$20 (lunch is included)
- **Registration:** [registration link](#)

The School Lunch Tray: April 30, 2025

CSDE Summer Meal Program Interest Survey Due May 8, 2025

The CSDE sent a link this week to program year 2024 sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program regarding the Summer Meal Program Interest Survey. The purpose of the survey is to identify school districts interested in operating a Summer Meal Program in summer 2025.

Please reach out to your [Summer Meal Program Technical Assistance County Contact](#) immediately if you did not receive the survey link and your district is considering operating a Summer Meal Program in summer 2025. The survey and a spreadsheet of proposed Summer Meal sites must be submitted to the CSDE by May 8, 2025.

Next CSDE Office Hour for Triennial Assessment Using the WellSAT Website: Monday, May 12, 2025

The next CSDE office hour on conducting the school wellness policy Triennial Assessment using the WellSAT website will be held on May 12, 2025, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 218 248 029 265 7

Passcode: WR9Mo3ca

Dial in by phone

[+1 860-840-2075,,295325641#](#) United States, Hartford

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 295 325 641#

As a reminder, the USDA's final rule, [Local School Wellness Policy \(LSWP\) Implementation Under the HHFKA of 2010](#), requires that each local educational agency (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.

Visit the "[Triennial Assessments](#)" section of the CSDE's School Wellness Policies webpage for many resources to assist Connecticut sponsors with navigating the Local School Wellness Policy and Triennial Assessment requirements. For questions, please contact Fionnula Brown at fionnuala.brown@ct.gov.

Need to Know

School Lunch Hero Day: May 2, 2025

It's time to celebrate [School Lunch Hero Day](#)! Friday, May 2, 2025, is School Lunch Hero Day. This is a great opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of the school nutrition team. Check out the [School Nutrition Association's collection of resources and fun activities](#) to help schools have the perfect celebration.

Resource Roundup: Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

Meals served in the classroom must meet specific requirements to be reimbursable. School food authorities (SFAs) must ensure that all school staff involved with classroom meals (including food service staff and non-food service staff such as teachers, teacher aides, substitutes, and other applicable classroom staff) understand and implement these requirements. The CSDE's [Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) provides guidance on allowable meal service methods for classroom settings and important tips for ensuring that meals are reimbursable, including point-of-service meal counts.

The School Lunch Tray: April 30, 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_04_30_2025.pdf.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race; color; religious creed; age; sex; pregnancy; sexual orientation; workplace hazards to reproductive systems, gender identity or expression; marital status; national origin; ancestry; retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, intellectual disability; genetic information; learning disability; physical disability (including, but not limited to, blindness); mental disability (past/present history thereof); military or veteran status; status as a victim of domestic violence; or criminal record in state employment, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes. Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Attorney Louis Todisco, Connecticut State Department of Education, by mail 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT 06103-1841; or by telephone 860-713-6594; or by email louis.todisco@ct.gov.



Connecticut Farm to School Conference

A professional training opportunity hosted by the Connecticut State Department of Education and UConn Extension, designed for school food directors and staff. This event counts toward professional standards requirements.

Monday, May 7, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Auer Farm, 158 Auer Farm Road, Bloomfield

Agenda

11:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. Registration/ Farmers Market

Community networking coffee sponsored by CT Farm to School Collaborative

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Welcome and Updates from CSDE

Update from CT Farm to School Collaborative

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch and Panel

Panel: Starting Small and Going the Distance in Farm to School

Panelists: Elizabeth Fisher & Susan Mitchell of Cloverleigh Farm.

Becky Tyrrell, and Renee Giroux of NWCT Food Hub. Moderated by Jiff Martin

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Workshops (choose one)

- **Workshop A: Using menu planning and cycle menus to incorporate local ingredients in school meals.** Guest presenters: Christine Wallace, Kate Murphy, and Fionnuala Brown. Facilitated by AnaAlicia Cruz.
- **Workshop B: Procurement strategies and procedures to bring more local ingredients into school cafeterias.** Guest presenters: Emily Doering, Monica Pacheco, Lisa Griffin, George Janssen, and Kimberly Hughes. Facilitated by Dawn Crayco.
- **Workshop C: Marketing your program through websites, social media, local news, take home menus, digital menus, and photography.** Led by Randall Mel, Ernie Koschmeider, Samantha Wilson, and Jen Bove. Facilitated by Abigail DuBois.

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

Panel: Connecting with Food Hubs

Learn about food hub services and how to buy from them.

Panelists: Renee Giroux of Northwest CT Food Hub, Rosemary

Ostfeld of Healthy PlanEat, Alessandra Cancalosi of Red Tomato, and Chelsea Cherrier of CLICK. Moderated by Becky Fahey.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.