

The School Lunch Tray: May 14, 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 to Attend the CSDE May 15, 2025, Training Session: Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2025-26 and ASP Operational Requirements

Need to Know

- USDA Memo SP 11-2025, CACFP 09-2025, SFSP 05-2025: Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods
- USDA Foods Timely Payment for Deliveries
- Final Deliveries for USDA Foods for School Year 2025
- Resource Roundup: Farm to School

Good to Know

- Farm to School Conference a Fresh Success



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.

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Action Items

Final Reminder to Attend the CSDE May 15, 2025, Training Session: Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2025-26 and ASP Operational Requirements

Effective with school year 2025-26 (beginning July 1, 2025), the USDA final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), makes significant changes to the current ASP meal pattern for grades K-12 by aligning it with the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) snack meal pattern for children. The first part of this session will review the new ASP meal pattern requirements for grades K-12 and highlight resources to assist SFAs with implementation. The second part of this session will discuss the USDA's operational requirements for the ASP.

- **Date and time:** Thursday, May 15, 2025, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Need to Know

USDA Memo SP 11-2025, CACFP 09-2025, SFSP 05-2025: Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods

[USDA memo SP 11-2025, CACFP 09-2025, SFSP 05-2025](#): Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods reminds schools, sponsors, and institutions participating in any U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Program (CNP) of the many ways they can purchase local foods to serve in Program meals. Sourcing and serving locally grown foods, and other farm to school activities, such as taste testing, gardening, and agriculture education, can infuse new energy and vision into CNP operations, support community health, create new opportunities for American farmers, invest Federal dollars in local economies, and strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices.

USDA Foods Timely Payment for Deliveries

As a reminder, USDA Foods delivery fees must be paid within 45 days of delivery. There is also an early payment discount of .75% if payment is received within 10 days of delivery. Failure to comply with these terms may result in suspension of USDA Foods delivery privileges.

Final Deliveries for USDA Foods for School Year 2024-25

Only one or two USDA Foods deliveries remain for this school year. All remaining cases of USDA Foods must be taken from the HPC warehouse by June. For assistance with scheduling an earlier June delivery, please contact Education Support Specialist Steve Cop at scop@hpcfs.com.

Resource Roundup: Farm to School

Visit the CSDE's [Farm to School](#) webpage for information and resources about using fresh, locally grown farm products in Connecticut schools.

Good to Know

Farm to School Conference a Fresh Success

On May 7, 2025, the CSDE, in partnership with UConn Extension, hosted its first-ever Farm to School Conference—and it was a resounding success. With beautiful weather setting the stage, the event featured a vibrant farmer's market showcasing local farmers ready and eager to supply fresh products

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to schools. Attendees were inspired by dynamic keynote speakers and engaging panel discussions focused on building stronger connections between schools and local agriculture. The CSDE is already looking forward to next year's conference and hope to see even more participants join us in nourishing Connecticut's future!



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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_05_14_2025.pdf.

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