

## The School Lunch Tray: July 16, 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**

- Reminder: USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) Due July 25, 2025

### **Need to Know**

- None

### **Good to Know**

- Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2025-26
- 2025 Summer EBT Program Reminder
- Connecticut Foodshare: Summer Meals Outreach Partner
- Resource Roundup: USDA Training on School Lunch Menu Flexibilities: Beans, Peas, and Lentils



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

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### Reminder: USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) Due July 25, 2025

The CSDE is now accepting proposals for the USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants RFP. All SFAs participating in the NSLP are eligible to apply. Priority is given to schools that did not receive previous equipment grant funding under earlier USDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants. Total funds available are \$108,255. The CSDE will award grants of at least \$1,000 and up to \$15,000 per SFA. The RFP document is available on the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) [2025 Request for Proposals](#) webpage. The deadline is July 25, 2025.

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## Good to Know

### Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2025-26

The CSDE's [Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities](#) is now available for school year 2025-26. This calendar helps school food authorities (SFAs) comply with the many requirements and due dates associated with operating the USDA's school nutrition programs. Please share this calendar with all staff members responsible for reporting and compliance in your school nutrition programs. **Note:** Schedules on this calendar are subject to change and do not represent all federal and state requirements for operating the USDA Child Nutrition Programs in schools and institutions.

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### 2025 Summer EBT Program Reminder

A reminder that the 2025 Summer EBT program is in full swing, and benefits have begun to be issued this week from DSS to eligible students. If students or members of their household reach out to school officials with questions concerning the program, they can be referred to the resources in the [Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(S-EBT\) Program](#). **Note:** Students that have not been automatically issued benefits but believe they may qualify should be encouraged to submit an online application. Applications can be submitted on the Department of Social Services' [Summer EBT](#) website:

For more information on Summer EBT, refer to the CSDE's [S-EBT Information Session 2025](#).

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### **Connecticut Foodshare: Summer Meals Outreach Partner**

Connecticut Foodshare supports the Summer Meals Program as an outreach partner. Free outreach materials—including lawn signs, posters, and more—are available to help promote Summer Meals sites. To request materials, please contact Aubrey Roscoe at [strategy@ctfoodshare.org](mailto:strategy@ctfoodshare.org).

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### **Resource Roundup: USDA Training on School Lunch Menu Flexibilities: Beans, Peas, and Lentils**

The USDA's [School Lunch Menu Flexibilities: Beans, Peas, and Lentils](#) shows the school lunch menu flexibilities related to crediting of beans, peas, and lentils. It is part of the USDA's [Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals](#) training series.

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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\\_07\\_16\\_2025.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/slt_07_16_2025.pdf).

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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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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