

## The School Lunch Tray: November 26, 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**

- Important Reminder: Receipt Invoices in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Ordering and Receipting System (FFAVORS) Before End of Day Wednesday, November 26, 2025
- Final Reminder: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) for Public Schools Due November 30, 2025

### **Need to Know**

- Resource Roundup: Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the School Nutrition Programs

### **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.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

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### Action Items

#### **Important Reminder: Receipt Invoices in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Ordering and Receipting System (FFAVORS) Before End of Day Wednesday, November 26, 2025**

All FFAVORS invoices must be receipted within two business days, including during holiday breaks. The Food Distribution Program (FDP) team continues to see a high number of late receipts that require follow-up because they exceed the two-day requirement. Please plan ahead to ensure this does not happen during the upcoming holidays.

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#### **Final Reminder: Healthy Food Certification (HFC) for Public Schools Due November 30, 2025**

The annual HFC documentation for school year 2025-26 is due by November 30, 2025. All HFC districts must submit the online HFC Compliance Survey. In addition, the districts listed in the document below must also submit lists of foods and beverages from all sources.

- [Districts Required to Submit Food and Beverage Lists for School Year 2025-26](#)

For detailed guidance on the HFC documentation requirements, refer the CSDE email from November 7, 2025, which was sent to the district's HFC contact person, food service director, and business manager. For more information, visit the "[Annual HFC Documentation](#)" section of the CSDE's HFC webpage and refer to the guidance below.

- [Guidance for Completing the HFC Compliance Survey](#)
- [Guidance for Submitting Lists of Foods and Beverages for HFC Documentation.](#)
- [Completing the Documentation Requirements for HFC](#) (CSDE training module): This training is 9 minutes for districts that are not required to submit lists of foods and beverages and 24 minutes for districts that are required to submit lists of foods and beverages.

For questions, please contact [susan.fiore@ct.gov](mailto:susan.fiore@ct.gov)

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### Need to Know

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#### **Resource Roundup: Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the School Nutrition Programs**

Nuts, seeds, and nut/seed butters may credit as the meats/meat alternates (MMA) component at any meal or afterschool snack in the meal patterns for the school nutrition programs. One ounce equivalent (oz eq) of MMA equals 1 ounce of nuts/seeds or 2 tablespoons of nut/seed butter. The CSDE's resource, [Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the School Nutrition Programs](#), provides guidance on crediting these foods in the meal patterns for grades K-12 and preschool. Topics include serving sizes and considerations, noncreditable nuts and seeds, considerations for reducing choking risks for young children, and required crediting documentation for commercial processed products.

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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\\_11\\_26\\_2025.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/slt_11_26_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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