

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2025. The School Lunch Tray is the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) weekly e-newsletter for Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) of the NSLP, [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) of the NSLP, and [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\)](#).

Click the links in the “Links” column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and the corresponding Table Talk webinar.

Date	Links	Topics
03-05-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-05-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025</li> <li>• New USDA Foods Office Hours Session on March 5, 2025</li> <li>• Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership Training Survey: Due March 14, 2025</li> <li>• Product-based Limits for Added Sugars in Breakfast Cereals and Yogurt, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Product-based Limits for Added Sugars in Flavored Milk, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Updated List of Acceptable Food and Beverages Dated March 4, 2025</li> <li>• Connecticut School Recycling and Composting Laws: Effective July 1, 2026</li> <li>• Recording Now Available for Rudd Center's Webinar, Introduction to the Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT)</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Reminder About Rudd Center’s 2022 LSWP Triennial Assessment Report</li> <li>• Connecticut DEEP Webinar: Complying with School Recycling and Composting Laws in Connecticut</li> </ul>

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02-26-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-26-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025 - <i>USDA Triennial Assessment due June 30, 2025</i></li> <li>• Reminder: USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025; New Office Hours Session on March 5, 2025</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 03-25: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• New Federal LFSIP Reimbursement Request Form (Phase 1 and/or Phase 2)</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 03-25: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2025-26: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 07-2025 and CACFP 07-2025: Requirement to Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians for Schools and Child and Adult Care Institutions and Facilities</li> <li>• Updated "Medical Statements" Section of CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs Webpage</li> <li>• Data on HFC Participation for SY 2024-25</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Competitive Foods in Schools</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resources on State and Federal Laws for Competitive Foods</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Resources for Meeting the Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Schools</li> </ul>
02-19-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-19-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025-<i>USDA Triennial Assessment due 6/30/2025</i></li> <li>• Need to Know</li> <li>• Now Available: CSDE's List of Area Eligible Schools and List of Site Eligible Schools for School Year 2024-25</li> <li>• CSDE Summer Meal Programs Training on Area Eligibility: Thursday, February 20, 2025</li> <li>• Updated Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Competitive Foods in Schools</li> <li>• Posting of USDA Webinar on Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Foundation for Fresh Produce Have a Plant Influence Toolkit: Seasonality</li> </ul>

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02-13-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-13-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2025 Purchases Due February 14, 2025</li> <li>• Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Serving Breakfast on Days with Delayed Openings</li> <li>• New USDA Resource: Better Breakfast Tool Prototype!</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA On-Demand Training: Identifying Top Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps</li> <li>• Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) ICN Recorded Webinar: USDA: Menu Planning for NSLP Afterschool Snack Service</li> <li>• ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Reading and Understanding Food and Nutrition Facts Labels</li> <li>• The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series</li> <li>• FRAC Webinar: Summer Meals: Serving Kid-Friendly, High-Quality Meals: February 20, 2025</li> </ul>
02-05-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-05-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellsAT) Website, February 6, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2025 Purchases Due February 14, 2025</li> <li>• USDA 2024-25 School Food Authority (SFA) Survey on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation: Due March 10, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Proper Procurement of Capital Expenditures and Equipment</li> <li>• Reminder: Daily Alternate Lunch Choices for Grades K-12 Cannot Include Grain-based Desserts</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: School Wellness Policies</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: School Breakfast Outreach</li> <li>• Upcoming Farm to School Workshop: Culinary and Knife Skills Training, February 13, 2025</li> </ul>

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01-22-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-22-2025</a> <a href="#">Table Talk 01-23-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 6, 2025</li> <li>• Updates on USDA's "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Posters</li> <li>• Updated USDA Foreign Translation Free and Reduced Applications</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 6 Meal Pattern Documentation Part B - Crediting Commercial Processed Foods and Module 11 Grains Component</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guidance Series for the Preschool Meal Patterns</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Crediting Handouts for K-12 and Preschool</li> <li>• USDA Product Information Sheet and USDA Foods Database Survey: Deadline April 18, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes</li> <li>• USDA Team Nutrition Webinar: Reducing Sodium in School Meals, February 20, 2025</li> <li>• 2025-26 Connecticut Farm to School Institute: Application Deadline is February 12, 2025</li> <li>• March is National Nutrition Month</li> <li>• New England Dairy Webinar: Dairy Allergy versus Lactose Intolerance Webinar, February 27, 2025</li> </ul>

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01-15-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-15-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onsite Monitoring for School Year 2024-25 Must be Completed by February 1, 2025</li> <li>• Direct Certification Web Application is Not Operating</li> <li>• Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Phase 2</li> <li>• Save the Date: Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpages: Claim Submission Schedule, Income Guidelines, and Reimbursement Rates</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: CSDE's Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs webpage</li> <li>• USDA Webinar: Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting</li> <li>• Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway Deadline: February 28, 2025</li> </ul>

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01-08-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter</a> <a href="#">01-08-2025</a> <a href="#">Table Talk</a> <a href="#">01-09-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE 2025-26 Annual Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process Training for School Food Authorities (SFAs), January 30, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of December 2024 Purchases Due January 17, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE 2025-26 Annual Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process Training for SFAs, January 30, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of December 2024 Purchases Due January 17, 2025</li> <li>• Table Talk, Thursday, January 9, 2024: Focus on USDA Foods Available List for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Introducing the CSDE's New Connecticut Regional Farm to School Coordinators and Required Webinar on January 13, 2025</li> <li>• Important Update for USDA Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program</li> <li>• Updates to CSDE's Webpages for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• New CSDE Webpage: Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 6 Meal Pattern Documentation Part A - School Menus</li> <li>• Request for Proposal (RFP) for Chefs to Schools: Application Deadline February 5, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Using Cycle Menus in the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) peer Mentorship Program</li> </ul>

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For more information, visit the CSDE'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/summary\\_slt\\_topics\\_2025.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/summary_slt_topics_2025.pdf).

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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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