

The School Lunch Tray: March 4, 2026

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. 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: March 4, 2026

Action Items

- Join the CSDE for Table Talk Tomorrow Thursday, March 5, 2026
- Limited Amount of Additional USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Funding Available for School Year 2025-26: Respond by March 6, 2026
- Reminder: Deadline to Place USDA Foods Order for School Year 2026-27 is March 11, 2026
- Save-the-Date: Summer Meals Annual Training March 31, 2026

Need to Know

- None

Good to Know

- None

The School Lunch Tray: March 4, 2026

Action Items

Join the CSDE for Table Talk Tomorrow Thursday, March 5, 2026

Table Talk will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. This session is dedicated to brief updates and listening to sponsor's questions that are top of mind. Join the CSDE team ready with questions from the field. Use the Teams link below to join.

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

Phone Conference ID: 920 756 855#

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

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

Limited Amount of Additional USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Funding Available for School Year 2025-26: Respond by March 6, 2026

Limited additional funds are available for the school year 2025-26 USDA DoD Fresh Program. Recipient Agencies (RAs) may request additional funds if they have used over 80 percent of their current DoD Funding and would spend additional dollars. Please email the information below to Allison.Calhoun-White@ct.gov or Monica.Pacheco@ct.gov by Friday, **March 6, 2026**.

- DoD Allocation for 2025-26
- Remaining DoD Balance
- Average Monthly DoD Usage for District
- Amount Requested for 1 Month of Deliveries

Priority will be given to RAs that have experienced cancelations of USDA Direct Delivery Foods for school year 2025-26. Due to the limited funding available, RAs may receive all, some, or none of their request. RAs receiving funding will see the dollars loaded in FFAVORS by Friday March 20, 2026.

The School Lunch Tray: March 4, 2026

Reminder: Deadline to Place USDA Foods Order for School Year 2026-27 is March 11, 2026

The Connecticut Food Distribution Program's (FDP) catalog for USDA Foods for school year (SY) 2026-27 is currently open in the Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) online system. Refer to the [February 11, 2026, School Lunch Tray](#) for ordering links and details. The deadline to place orders is **Wednesday, March 11, 2026**. For questions, please contact the [FDP staff](#).

Save-the-Date: Summer Meals Annual Training March 31, 2026

The CSDE's mandatory annual Summer Meal Programs training will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at 450 Columbus Boulevard in Hartford, CT. At least one individual from each Summer Food Service Program sponsoring organization **must** attend for the organization to be eligible to participate in SFSP. CSDE strongly encourages Seamless Summer Option sponsors to participate as well. More information will be coming soon.

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/2026/slt_03_04_2026.pdf.

The School Lunch Tray: March 4, 2026

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.