

The School Lunch Tray: July 29, 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.

Action Items

- None

Need to Know

- USDA Foods Update: Change to Hartford Provision Company (HPC) Ordering Platform for USDA Foods

Good to Know

- Order USDA Team Nutrition Materials

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Need to Know

USDA Foods Update: Change to Hartford Provision Company (HPC) Ordering Platform for USDA Foods

In the upcoming weeks, HPC will be reaching out via email to all HPCnet users to switch their current ordering system for USDA Foods to the new Pepper Ordering System. Please follow the instructions provided by HPC to access the new system prior to the start of school so there will be no interruption of service. Refer all questions to Matt Ramos at mramos@hpcfs.com.

Good to Know

Order USDA Team Nutrition Materials

The USDA's Team Nutrition encourages schools, summer meal sites, and child care organizations to [place orders for print materials](#) by August 14, 2026, to ensure they are stocked and ready for a successful start to the school year. Please note that several print materials will be retired after August 17, 2026. It is uncertain which items will remain available for printing going forward. Ordering now helps programs prepare for fall activities and ensures they have the resources they need for the upcoming season.

For all bulk orders, please email Team Nutrition at TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.

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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/2026/slt_07_22_2026.pdf.



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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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