

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2026

This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2026. 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 link in the "Link" column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and, if applicable, the corresponding Table Talk webinar.

Date	Link	Topics
02-04-2026	SLT Newsletter 02-04-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 03-26: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2026-27• CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 04-26: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2026-27: Due July 1, 2026 (Full Service) or August 30, 2026 (Vended)• Final Reminder: Mandatory CT Fresh Ed: Compass Training on Thursday, February 5, 2026• Need to Know• CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 05-26: CT Fresh Ed: Compass• Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern for Grades K-12• Updated Preschool Meal Patterns• USDA Foods Entitlement and Meal Counts Update for School Year (SY) 2026-27• Good to Know• National School Breakfast Week March 2-6, 2026: The Quest for School Breakfast

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01-28-2026	SLT Newsletter 01-28-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Reminder: Redistribution Application for Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Funds: Due February 2, 2026 Reminder: Mandatory CT Fresh Ed: Compass Training on Thursday, February 5, 2026 Reminder CT Fresh Ed: Buy Local Program application is open USDA Memo SP 01-2026: Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 – Implementation Requirements for the National School Lunch Program Updated School Year 2025-26 NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 Revised USDA Product Formulation Statement (PFS) Templates and Samples Updated CSDE Resources for Meal Pattern Crediting Documentation Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guidance Series for School Year 2025-26 Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for School Year 2025-26 Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway Deadline: February 28, 2026
01-21-2026	SLT Newsletter 01-21-2026 Table Talk 01-22-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join the CSDE for Table Talk Tomorrow Thursday, January 22, 2026 Redistribution Application for Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Funds: Due February 2, 2026 Mandatory CT Fresh Ed: Compass Training on Thursday, February 5, 2026 Need to Know Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2026-27 Local is Year Round
01-14-2026	SLT Newsletter 01-14-2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSDE Launches CT Fresh Ed: Buy Local Program Reminder: Save the Date: Table Talk Will Resume on Thursday, January 22, 2026 Onsite Monitoring for School Year 2025-26 Must be Completed by February 1, 2026

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01-07-2026	<u>SLT Newsletter 01-07-2026</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Save the Date: Table Talk Will Resume on Thursday, January 22, 2026• Updated for School Year 2025-26: CSDE's Offer versus Serve Guide for School Meals• Reminder About Offer versus Serve Resources and Training Materials• Reminder About Required Signage for School Meals in the NSLP and SBP• New CSDE Resource: Guidance for Using Meal Clickers to Count Reimbursable Meals for the School Nutrition Programs• The Health, Environmental, and Cost Implications of Providing Healthy and Sustainable School Meals for Every Child by 2030: A Global Modelling Study

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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/slts/2026/summary_slts_topics_2026.pdf.



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