

The School Lunch Tray: January 6, 2021

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

Happy New Year!

The School Lunch Tray contains the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly e-mail notifications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. This week's topics are listed below.

- Reminder: CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's New School Lunch Tray Table Talk
- Reminder: USDA Foods Webinar on Friday, January 8, 2021
- USDA Foods Update on Refrigerated Cheeses: Please help the FDP transfer unused products to other districts
- Financial Report for School Year 2020-21 for Reporting Period of 2019-20: Due January 31, 2021
- Reminder: Meal Distribution during District Changes to Learning Models
- Connecting Connecticut: SNACT Virtual Conference, Thursday January 14, 2021
- Release of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025
- USDA's New MyPlate Website and Resources
- New User-requested features available on Team Nutrition's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)
- New USDA Training Videos: Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. Thank you.



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Reminder: CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's New School Lunch Tray Table Talk

Join the CSDE Child Nutrition Unit for the "School Lunch Tray Table Talk" on Friday mornings through the month of January. The CSDE is hosting Table Talk to review the topics and information contained in each week's School Lunch Tray. Table Talk is a great opportunity to submit your questions to the CSDE. To submit questions in advance of each session, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND.

The registration links for each session are below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- January 8, 2020 from 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/770507374144247822>
- January 15, 2020 from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6505207081391439630>
- January 22, 2020 from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6946486177594692622>
- January 29, 2020 from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4551814723484608526>

Reminder: USDA Foods Webinar on Friday, January 8, 2021

Please join the CSDE Food Distribution Program (FDP) team on Friday, January 8, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for a virtual New Year's celebration of all things USDA Foods! Monica Pacheco and Allison Calhoun-White will provide important updates on USDA Direct Delivery Foods, Further Processed USDA Foods, The USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and other important topics. There is no charge to attend this session. Registration is available at <https://snact.org/page/USDAseminar>.

USDA Foods Update on Refrigerated Cheeses: Please help the FDP transfer unused products to other districts

All refrigerated cheeses have a limited shelf life, and should be ordered and used as soon as possible once received into the HPC warehouse. Some of the current products at HPC are listed below.

- Shredded Cheddar, best by 2/18/21
- Shredded Pepper Jack, packed 10/3/20
- String Mozzarella Sticks, best by 2/6
- Sliced Yellow Cheddar, best by 2/17/21

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If you currently have any of these products, please immediately evaluate your inventory and consider taking additional cases if possible. Recipient Agencies (RAs) can freeze these cheeses after the district receives them, but the FDP must discard them if they are left at HPC past their shelf life. When cheese is past date, the FDP staff must determine the RAs from which to remove the cases.

If you have an excess of any of the USDA Foods listed above, and will not be able to use or store them, please fill out a [Request to Donate USDA Foods Form](#) by **Friday, January 8, 2021**. This will allow the FDP sufficient time to transfer the product to another district. **Note:** As a last resort, RAs that are unable to use USDA Foods may donate them locally after the district receives them.

With the current need in our state, the FDP greatly appreciates your assistance in preventing the discard of usable USDA Foods products. Please contact the [FDP staff](#) with any questions.

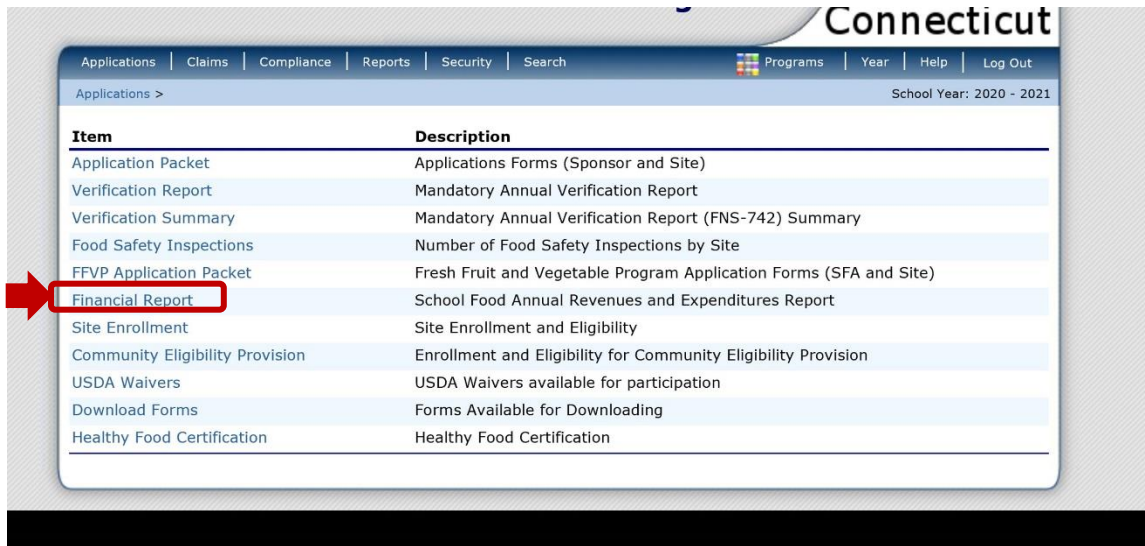
Financial Report for School Year 2020-21 for Reporting Period of 2019-20: Due January 31, 2021

All sponsors operating the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) in SY 2019-20 must submit a SNP Financial Report by **January 31, 2021**. The CSDE requested sponsor financial data as part of the online sponsor agreement renewal process for school year 2020-21. Please access the “Financial Report” section (see below) of the [Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs \(CNP System\)](#) to ensure that the Financial Report has been completed and submitted. If the sponsor submitted the Financial Report, the status will indicate “Pending Approval” or “Approved.”

Note: This report must be completed by someone who has access to the CNP System. If you do not have access, please work with the appropriate person to get this information entered. For instructions on how to enter the information, please review the CSDE’s [Instructions for Submitting the Financial Report for School Nutrition Programs](#). **Please read the instructions and have your financial data available prior to completing the report.**

Please direct any questions to Fionnuala Brown at fionnuala.brown@ct.gov or 860-807-2129.

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Item	Description
Application Packet	Applications Forms (Sponsor and Site)
Verification Report	Mandatory Annual Verification Report
Verification Summary	Mandatory Annual Verification Report (FNS-742) Summary
Food Safety Inspections	Number of Food Safety Inspections by Site
FFVP Application Packet	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application Forms (SFA and Site)
Financial Report	School Food Annual Revenues and Expenditures Report
Site Enrollment	Site Enrollment and Eligibility
Community Eligibility Provision	Enrollment and Eligibility for Community Eligibility Provision
USDA Waivers	USDA Waivers available for participation
Download Forms	Forms Available for Downloading
Healthy Food Certification	Healthy Food Certification

Reminder: Meal Distribution during District Changes to Learning Models

As schools' learning models and nutrition services continue to fluctuate in response to changing circumstances due to COVID-19, sponsors should review their meal distribution methods and evaluate plans to support students' continued access to meals. If any of the following apply, please notify your CSDE consultant:

- the district's learning model changes and **the change impacts meal service;**
- the district engages in full remote learning and the food service program might need to reevaluate making their closed enrolled sites into open sites to make it more feasible for households to access nutritious meals;
- the district wants to expand SFSP or SSO meal service to seven days a week; or
- the district wants to open additional SFSP or SSO community sites.

For the NSLP or SSO, please contact your [school nutrition program consultant](#). For the SFSP, please contact caroline.cooke@ct.gov or terese.maineri@ct.gov.

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Connecting Connecticut: SNACT Virtual Conference, Thursday January 14, 2021

SNACT's conference and food show will be held on Thursday January 14, 2021, from 1:00- 4:00 p.m. The agenda is below.

- Don't Throw Tomatoes at my Field of Dreams
Jane Jenkins Herlong will make us laugh, but there is an underlying lesson of how to increase peak performance for your ultimate harvest to grow personally and professionally.
- Virtual Food Show
- CSDE Update: The Pandemic and Beyond
Feeding during a pandemic is complicated and constantly changing. The CSDE will provide updates on regulations and waivers, and ideas to help increase participation and revenue during this challenging time.

The conference is free to SNACT members and \$25 for non-members. Registration is available at

<https://snact.org/Login.aspx?optional=1&store=1&returl=%2fstore%2fRenewMembership.aspx>

. Three CEUs will be provided.

Release of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025

On December 29, 2020, the USDA and Health and Human Services (HHS) released the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*. Updated jointly by the USDA and HHS every five years, the *Dietary Guidelines* provides science-based advice on what to eat and drink to promote health, help reduce risk of chronic disease, and meet nutrient needs. The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025* are the first set of guidelines that provide guidance for healthy dietary patterns by life stage, from birth through older adulthood, including pregnant and lactating women.

Visit the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#) webpage to access the *Dietary Guidelines* and the companion resources below.

- [Executive Summary](#) of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*
- [Top 10 Things You Need to Know About the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025](#)
- Video: [Make Every Bite Count with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025](#)
- Consumer Brochure: [Start Simple with MyPlate Today](#)
- Dietary Guidelines [infographic series](#)

USDA's New MyPlate Website and Resources

The USDA's MyPlate translates and packages the principles of the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025](#) in a way that is handy and accessible. To share these messages broadly, the USDA offers the [Start Simple with MyPlate](#) campaign and a new [MyPlate](#) website to help individuals, families, and communities make healthy food choices that are easy, accessible, and affordable, in addition to helping prevent chronic disease.

New User-requested features available on Team Nutrition's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)

Team Nutrition's [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool](#) has further enhanced the capability for directors and managers to edit the names and emails for those employee profiles that are not associated with an eAuthorization account. Additionally, user profiles now have a new field for an employee identification number. This feature is designed to make logging and tracking training easier for districts whose employees have the same or similar names.

Note: *The resources below may be useful for sponsors that serve preschool meals. The NSLP and SBP preschool meal patterns for ages 1-4 follow the CACFP meal patterns.*

New USDA Training Videos: Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP

Children's nutritional needs and developmental abilities change and evolve dramatically in the first few years of life. The CACFP meal patterns reflect the changing nutritional needs of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Team Nutrition initiative recently released new training videos about mealtimes with toddlers (ages 1-2) in the CACFP. These videos complement Team Nutrition's resources, *Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP Operator Booklet* and [Mealtimes with Toddlers Family Handout](#), and help CACFP operators increase understanding of the meal pattern requirements for this age group.

The 2-3 minute videos are available in English and Spanish and address the following hot topics:

- assisting toddlers in learning how to feed themselves;
- encouraging toddlers to try new foods; and
- types of milk to serve children in the CACFP.

The videos, booklet, and family handout are available on the Team Nutrition's website, [Mealtimes With Toddlers in the CACFP](#). The videos include audio descriptions to promote access for those who have low vision or are blind.



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [School Lunch Tray Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_01_08_2021.pdf.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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