

The School Lunch Tray: January 12, 2022

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.

Action Items

- Instructions for Completing the "USDA Waivers" Section of Connecticut's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System): Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program

Need to Know

- Change in Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Reimbursement Rates for the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program
- Reminder: CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations
- CSDE's Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, January 20, 2022
- Resource Roundup: School Nutrition Foundation Funding for Schools

Good to Know

- Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Webinar, January 13, 2022: Highlighting Success Stories in Supply Chain Disruptions - Part 1
- ICN Webinar, January 13, 2022: Kitchen Efficiency: Time-Saving Tips for Improving Workflow

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.



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Action Items

Instructions for Completing the “USDA Waivers” Section of Connecticut’s Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System): Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program

During the current COVID public health emergency, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has established nationwide waivers to support access to nutritious meals, while enforcing recommendations from public health experts with regard to social distancing measures. Connecticut sponsors of the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) that wish to use these waivers must indicate to the CSDE which waivers will be implemented at each school/site. All SSO sponsors must complete the required information for the USDA nationwide waivers in the CSDE’s CNP System no later than **January 31, 2022**. For instructions on how to enter this information in the CNP System, refer to the CSDE’s [Instructions for Completing the “USDA Waivers” Section of Connecticut’s CNP System: Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program](#).

Need to Know

CSDE’s Table Talk Resumes on Thursday, January 20, 2022

The CSDE’s Table Talk will resume on Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and will be scheduled every other Thursday. As a reminder, Table Talk takes a deeper dive into the School Lunch Tray and serves as the CSDE’s “office hours” for your questions. This session of Table Talk will also provide more information on the CSDE’s new *Instructions for Completing the “USDA Waivers” Section of Connecticut’s CNP System: Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program*.

Registration is not required. Please use the link below to join Table Talk on Microsoft Teams.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075..339267402#](#) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 339 267 402#

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Change in Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Reimbursement Rates for the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program

The Federal Register notified the public of the annual adjustments to the [reimbursement rates](#) for meals served in the SFSP. These adjustments address changes in the Consumer Price Index, as required under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The SFSP reimbursement rates were updated effective January 1, 2022. The current SFSP rate of reimbursement is **\$4.5625** per reimbursable lunch and **\$2.6050** per reimbursable breakfast. For school food authorities (SFAs) approved to operate the SSO, the adjusted rates will appear in the CSDE's Child Nutrition Program Online Application and Claiming System with the submission of the January 2022 SSO claim for reimbursement.

Reminder: CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations

The CSDE is aware that SFAs may be experiencing challenges with the supply chain and that this causes great concern about the ability to acquire needed items. In order to quantify the impact on operations throughout the state, please complete the [CSDE's brief survey to report supply chain issues impacting your program](#). This survey link can be used throughout the school year to report supply chain issues.

Resource Roundup: School Nutrition Foundation Funding for Schools

The [School Nutrition Foundation](#) (SNF) is offering [equipment grants](#). The SNF recently announced that they have teamed up with industry partners to offer six grants that will provide new kitchen equipment to deserving districts. If your school is looking to improve cafeteria operations by upgrading aging equipment in your kitchen, visit the SNF's website [2022 Collection Grant Program](#). The application deadline has been extended to **March 31, 2022**.

Good to Know

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Webinar, January 13, 2022: Highlighting Success Stories in Supply Chain Disruptions - Part 1

Program operators across the nation have faced several challenges this school year due to the supply chain disruptions. Many schools have identified good practices and successful strategies to combat those challenges and continue serving students nutritious meals. This two-part webinar series will highlight school success stories during the supply chain disruptions.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, January 13, 2022, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b5aqy0coTPOUYyHcIINr6Q
- *SNA Key Areas:* 2 – Operations, 3 – Administration
- *USDA Professional Standards Codes:* 2000 – Operations, 3000 – Administration
- *Learning Objective:* Recall successful strategies on how to address supply chain disruptions within school nutrition operations.

A continuing education certificate will be available 24 to 48 hours after completion of the webinar.

ICN Webinar, January 13, 2022: Kitchen Efficiency: Time-Saving Tips for Improving Workflow

School kitchens are busy and stress levels tend to rise without careful menu planning and advanced preparation. Panelists will share strategies for efficient production, serving methods, kitchen organization and layout, and other tips to help a kitchen team work efficiently.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, January 13, 2022, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TRdcDC63S2SP91Df1PQv1w
- *SNA Key Areas:* 1 – Nutrition, 2 – Operations
- *USDA Professional Standards Codes:* 1100 – Menu Planning, 2100 – Food Production, 2200 – Serving Food, 2400 – Purchasing/Procurement
- *Learning Objective:* Identify at least three organization strategies to help the kitchen team in a child nutrition program work more efficiently.

A continuing education certificate will be available 24 to 48 hours after completion of the webinar.



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_12_2022.pdf.

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- (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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