

## The School Lunch Tray: February 24, 2021

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

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: Professional Standards Requirements for School Nutrition Programs
- COVID-19 Emergency School Meal Delivery Fund
- CSDE Webinar Series for Parents and Families on Supporting Children's Well-Being and Learning during COVID-19
- CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for March 2021
- Additional Processors for USDA Foods Ordering
- Reminder: Donating Excess USDA Foods
- Resource Roundup: Ordering and Managing USDA Foods for School Nutrition Programs

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



## Reminder: Professional Standards Requirements for School Nutrition Programs

The USDA requires annual training standards for directors, managers, and food service staff who manage and operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), including the Seamless Summer Option of the NSLP. The chart below summarizes the minimum annual training requirements for different job categories. NSLP sponsors are required to track annual training.

**Note:** Due to COVID-19, some NSLP and SBP sponsors are currently implementing the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for school year 2020-21. As a best practice, the CSDE encourages these sponsors to adhere to the professional standards training requirements for the NSLP and SBP.

Minimum Annual Training Requirements for School Nutrition Employees *	
Job Category	Continuing Education Hours
Directors	12
Managers	10
All Other Staff (other than the director or manager) who works an average of at least 20 hours per week	6
Part-time Staff (work less than 20 hours per week)	4
Mid-year Hires in All Categories (January 1 or later)	Half of training requirement for each job category

\* Annual requirements apply to the 12 months between July 1 and June 30.

The CSDE's [Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals](#) webpage includes helpful resources to assist sponsors with meeting the USDA's professional standards requirements, such as the USDA's [Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs](#) and different options for professional standards tracking logs. The "[Training](#)" section includes useful training resources, such as the Institute of Child Nutrition's S.T.A.R. webinar series.

### **COVID-19 Emergency School Meal Delivery Fund**

GENYOUth is providing grants of up to \$3,000 per school to supply much-needed resources for meal distribution and delivery efforts to get food to students during COVID-19. From soft-sided coolers, bags and containers for individual servings, to protective gear for food service sanitation and safety, this equipment will help ensure our children continue to receive the nutritious meals they need.

Deadline: Open

Funding Amount: \$3,000 per School

Department/Organization: GENYOUth Fund

Website: <https://covid-19.genyouthnow.org/>

Eligibility: School principal, school nutrition manager, district school nutrition director, and district superintendent

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### **CSDE Webinar Series for Parents and Families on Supporting Children’s Well-Being and Learning during COVID-19**

The CSDE is hosting a series of virtual conversations for parents and caregivers who are managing children’s learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This series is a follow-up to a December statewide town hall with families where over 400 attendees asked questions and offered comments and suggestions that were used to inform these new sessions. This conversation series is tailored for families; educators and community members are also welcome to attend. Interested individuals may register for any or all of the sessions. All sessions take place on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. See attached flier for more information and registration links.

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### **CSDE Child Nutrition Unit’s School Lunch Tray Table Talk for March 2021**

Join the CSDE Child Nutrition Unit for the March series of the “School Lunch Tray Table Talk” webinars on **Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

- Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 11, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Table Talk takes a deeper dive into the SLT, highlights the weekly Resource Roundup, and serves as the CSDE’s “office hours” for your questions about school nutrition programs. Participants may ask questions about the SLT topics or any other topics.

## The School Lunch Tray: February 24, 2021

Registration for the March Table Talk series is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8533924782955650575>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

To submit questions in advance, visit [https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND](https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND).

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### Additional Processors for USDA Foods Ordering

The processors and their material codes below are now available for school year 2021-22 orders.

Processor	BPID
International Food Solutions dba Asian Food Solutions/Comida Vida	
Material Code 100113 Chicken Leg	5005560
Material Code 100103 Chicken, Large	5005840
Material Code 100156 Beef, Special Trim	5005840
Material Code 100154 Beef, Course Ground	5005461
Material Code 100193 Pork Picnic	5005840
Cains Foods	
Material Code 100443 Oil \$.5074/# *	5005220
High Liner	
Material Code 110601 Pollock \$1.6467/# *	5002444
Material Code 110242 Cheese, Mozzarella	5002961
* Material Code 100443 Oil and Material Code 110601 Pollock are not included on the processing worksheets. Please note the price per pound to estimate the entitlement value for your calculations.	

For questions, please contact the [Food Distribution Program \(FDP\) staff](#).

### **Reminder: Donating Excess USDA Foods**

Recipient Agencies (RAs) should continue to review weekly HPC allocations reports, place orders, and assess inventory of USDA Foods. For proper utilization, RAs should already have received at least sixty percent of the district's USDA Foods. As a reminder, the FDP will continue to accept [Request To Donate USDA Foods](#) forms on an ongoing basis. Please bookmark this page as "HPC Donations" for easy access. This form is available in the "[Order and Donation Forms for COVID-19-related Excess Direct Delivery Inventory at HPC](#)" section of the CSDE's [FDP](#) webpage.

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### **Resource Roundup: Ordering and Managing USDA Foods for School Nutrition Programs**

This week's Resource Roundup highlights information to assist sponsors with ordering USDA Foods for school year 2021-22. The CSDE's [FDP](#) webpage has several resources to help RAs prepare and place USDA Foods orders, and manage USDA Foods throughout the year.

Join us for tomorrow's [Table Talk \(February 25, 2021, from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.\)](#) as we help you navigate the "Documents/Forms" and "Resources" sections of the FDP webpage to find the links and tools that can assist you with ordering and managing your USDA Foods.

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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\\_02\\_22\\_2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_02_22_2021.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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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# Connecticut State Department of Education Professional Support Series for Families

Please see below and join as we learn together and grow together.

Series 22 – February 16, 2021

## A Virtual Conversation Series for Parents and Families on Supporting Children's Learning during COVID-19

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is hosting a series of virtual conversations for parents and other caregivers who are managing children's learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This series is a follow-up to a statewide town hall on December 8th where over 400 attendees asked questions and offered comments and suggestions that were used to inform the sessions below.

This conversation series is tailored to families, but educators and community members are welcome to attend. You may register for any or all of the sessions.

After registering for each session, you will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar. Sessions will be recorded and made available on the CSDE web site for those who are not able to attend in person. If you cannot attend but want to be notified when the recording is available, you can indicate that on the registration form.

**Sessions will be recorded and posted online with closed captioning in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic. Everyone registered for any session in the series will receive notice when sessions are posted.**

### Planning for Return to School in Fall 2021: Young Children in PreK, Kindergarten, and Grade 1

**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021

**Time:** 5:30–6:30 p.m.

It is not too early to start planning for young children's transition to school next fall. Along with the excitement of starting a new school year, remote learning during COVID-19 is presenting families with many questions. This session will focus on parents' concerns about supporting children's early learning, developmental skills, and social and emotional well-being. It will also feature new, free resources in CT to help families support young children's development at home, and some information to think about as your child transitions to school in the fall.

**Presenters:**

- Andrea Brinnel, Early Childhood Consultant & IDEA 619 Part B Manager, CSDE
- Jennifer Michalek, K-12 Math Education Consultant, CSDE
- Amanda Pickett, School Climate Consultant, CSDE
- Joanne White, Literacy/English Language Arts Consultant, CSDE

**Register:** <https://ctserc.net/families223>

### Special Education during COVID-19: Resources, Supports and Best Practice Strategies

**Date:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021

**Time:** 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Changes in instructional delivery models (In-person, Hybrid, Remote) have been particularly challenging for families whose children receive special education services. This session will provide answers to families' frequently asked questions about special education and educational programming for children with disabilities during COVID-19. The CSDE will be sharing information along with best practice strategies and resources from the CT Parent Advocacy Center.

**Presenters:**

- Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Division Director, CSDE
- Andrea Brinnel, Early Childhood Consultant & IDEA 619 Part B Manager, CSDE
- Jane Hampton-Smith, Co-Executive Director, CT Parent Advocacy Center

**Register:** <https://ctserc.net/families216>

# Connecticut State Department of Education

## Professional Support Series for Families

### Strategies for Parents and Families to Support Academic Success during Remote Learning

**Date:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021

**Time:** 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Parents and other caregivers have been navigating new models of in-person and remote learning during the pandemic. These disruptions in children's schooling have left many families with questions about issues such as learning loss, instructional time with teachers, engaging students and keeping them motivated, amount of screen time and navigating online platforms. This session will provide answers to these common questions and others about supporting student success in remote learning. New remote learning resources that are freely available to learners and families will also be featured.

**Presenters:**

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, and members of the CSDE Academic Office

**Register:** <https://ctserc.net/families309>

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### Auto-cuidado y el Aprendizaje Socio-Emocional para Padres y Cuidadores

*Taller sera solo en español. Repetido en inglés el 6 de abril. (Session will be presented only in Spanish. Repeated in English on April 6.)*

**Fecha:** Martes, 23 de marzo de 2021

**Hora:** 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Navegar el aprendizaje remoto durante la pandemia ha sido un desafío para los estudiantes y para sus familias. Muchos padres tienen que manejar las preocupaciones de sus hijos, y al mismo tiempo hacer malabares cambios de empleo y otras responsabilidades. Esta sesión apoyará a las familias ofreciéndole destrezas prácticas para manejar y modelar sus emociones en una forma saludable y como ayudar a sus hijos a ser exitosos.

**Presentadores:**

- Robert D. Keder, M.D., Pediatra del Desarrollo y el Comportamiento (Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, por sus siglas en Inglés), Profesor Auxiliar, del Departamento de Pediatría, Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Connecticut
- Gladys Labas, Directora de Equidad e Idiomas, CSDE

**Registración:** <https://ctserc.net/families0323>

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### Self-Care and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Parents and Caregivers

**Date:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021

**Time:** 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Managing in-person, hybrid and remote learning during the pandemic has been challenging for students but also for their families. In addition to handling their children's concerns, many parents and caregivers are also juggling multiple priorities including employment changes and other responsibilities. This session will support families by sharing practical skills to manage their emotions, model healthy coping strategies and help their children thrive.

**Presenters:**

- Robert D. Keder, M.D., Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics; Connecticut Children's Assistant Professor, Pediatrics; UConn School of Medicine
- Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer, CSDE

**Register:** <https://ctserc.net/families0406>

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### Una conversación virtual para padres y familias de estudiantes de aprendices de inglés

*Taller sera solo en español.*

*(Session will be presented only in Spanish.)*

*(A Virtual Conversation for Parents and Families of English Learners)*

**Fecha:** Martes, 27 de abril de 2021

**Hora:** 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Esta sesión proporcionará respuestas a preguntas comunes que los padres y las familias tienen sobre el aprendizaje a distancia. También contará con un nuevo documento informativo para los padres y tutores de los estudiantes de inglés sobre las leyes, reglamentos y políticas que afectan los programas y servicios de los estudiantes de inglés. Cuando los padres, las familias y las escuelas trabajan juntos en colaboración, los estudiantes del idioma inglés pueden alcanzar su máximo potencial.

**Presentadora:**

Gladys Labas, Directora de Equidad e Idiomas, CSDE

**Registración:** <https://ctserc.net/families427>