

The School Lunch Tray: March 17, 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.

- Thank You to all Child Nutrition Programs: One-year Anniversary of Connecticut Classes Cancelled due to COVID-19
- Cancelled: Table Talk for Thursday, March 18, 2021

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



Thank You to all Child Nutrition Programs: One-year Anniversary of Connecticut Classes Cancelled due to COVID-19

One year ago this week (March 15, 2020), Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7C, which cancelled all public school classes across Connecticut in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The operation of Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs) changed immediately and dramatically. CNP operators had to act swiftly and pivot their entire operations to continue serving nutritious meals during the school year in ways that had never been done before. CNP sponsors and staff did everything necessary to continue providing meals to Connecticut's children while maintaining social distance and adhering to strict public safety protocols. Because of your extraordinary and tireless efforts, Connecticut CNPs persisted without missing a beat, providing much-needed support to thousands of Connecticut families every day.

Some of your stories were included in the Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity's report released last fall, [*Feeding Connecticut Children during COVID-19: Stories of dedication.*](#)

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innovation, and collaboration from the field. This document is a reminder of the incredible innovations and best practices that Connecticut CNPs quickly developed to overcome the challenges of providing meals to children during a pandemic.

As we think back to where we were one year ago, we encourage you to reflect on these amazing accomplishments. The CSDE thanks all CNP sponsors and staff for their hard work, dedication, creativity, and perseverance during this challenging and difficult year; and throughout the year ahead as Connecticut, along with the rest of the country, continues its recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. You are truly our heroes.

Cancelled: Table Talk for Thursday, March 18, 2021

The CSDE is cancelling tomorrow's Table Talk (March 18, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.). Please join us next week, on Thursday, March 25, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Registration for the March Table Talk series is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8533924782955650575>. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND.



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_03_17_2021.pdf.

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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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