

The School Lunch Tray: April 28, 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.

- Time Change for April 29 Table Talk: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Updated Resources for Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)
- Governor Lamont Declares May 7, 2021, Connecticut School Nutrition Hero Day
- Revised Authorized Signatures Change Form and Instructions
- Summer Enrichment Program Applications Now Open: April 26, 2021
- Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research Act of 2021 (FASTER Act)
- CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for May 2021
- RecycleCT Announces New Grant Opportunity: Due June 30, 2021
- Resource Roundup: USDA's New Nationwide Waivers for Child Nutrition Programs

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



Time Change for April 29 Table Talk: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

The time for the April 29, 2021, Table Talk webinar has been changed to **1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**, instead of the originally scheduled time of 2:00-3:00 p.m. Registration for the April Table Talk series is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7940814127249762576>. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND.

Updated Resources for Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) frequently updates the resources and guidance for P-EBT, including the updated [P-EBT frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) resource](#). For more information, visit the [DSS P-EBT webpage](#), and watch the section on “Pandemic Electronic Benefits (P-EBT) for Children in Schools” in the CSDE’s [Table Talk webinar from March 25, 2021](#).

Governor Lamont Declares May 7, 2021, Connecticut School Nutrition Hero Day!

School Nutrition Hero Day is an outstanding way to finish the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut’s (SNACT) first annual School Nutrition Recognition Week, **May 3-7, 2021**. This week will showcase the wonderful things school nutrition has achieved over the past year working together to feed the children.

SNACT will be celebrating the accomplishments of school nutrition professionals all week on social media. Check back often to see what SNACT has in store nx remember to share and like SNACT’s posts! **SNACT Tags:** SNACT (@SNACT on Facebook, @MySnact on Twitter, @snaofct on Instagram)

Share the posts and pictures of your community’s celebrations with SNACT! Celebrate with your school community! Share this exciting news with your superintendent, business manager, and principals. Ask them to share the information with your school community.

Another way to celebrate School Nutrition Hero Day in your community is to make a yard sign. You can download SNACT’s [graphic](#). Your local office store can make into a yard sign for about \$20.

The Governor’s Official Statement proclaiming School Nutrition Hero Day is available as a [PDF](#) and [jpeg](#) (picture). To learn more about the inspiration behind School Lunch Hero Day visit <https://schoolnutrition.org/schoollunchheroday/>.



Summer Enrichment Program Applications Now Open: April 26, 2021

Following last Wednesday's announcement by Governor Ned Lamont regarding his vision to dedicate up to \$11 million in federal funding Connecticut has received for COVID-19 recovery efforts toward the expansion of summer programs, the CSDE has launched the related links for programs to apply for these funds.

This competitive grant application will award Expansion Grants and Innovation Grants to eligible organizations to provide students and families with engaging summer enrichment and learning experiences. Grant application materials were created in collaboration with dozens of key stakeholders across the state – including leaders of summer programs – and will enable the state to identify and support high-quality programs that are able to expand capacity for summer 2021.

Providers are encouraged to collaborate with local school districts and municipalities in order to maximize funding and school districts and municipalities are encouraged to leverage the state's investment as appropriate, to serve even more students.

- *Applications* and additional details can be accessed here:
<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment>
- An *informational webinar* will be held for applicants on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 from 11:00 - 12:00 p.m.
 - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_McjsF3_oT9qtzfdmQcGAQ

Revised Authorized Signatures Change Form and Instructions

Updated versions of the CSDE's *Authorized Signatures Change Form* and *Instructions for Completing the Authorized Signatures Change Form* are available at the links below

- [Authorized Signature Change Form](#)
- [Authorized Signature Change Form Instructions](#)

As a reminder, sponsors of the Child Nutrition Programs must complete the Authorized Signatures Change Form and submit to the CSDE **whenever there is a change** to either of the two authorized signers.

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Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research Act of 2021 (FASTER Act)

On April 23, 2021, President Biden signed the [Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research Act of 2021 \(FASTER Act\)](#) into law. This Act includes sesame in the definition of “major food allergen.” Foods defined as a major food allergen account for about 90 percent of all food allergies and require food labeling under the [Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act \(FALCPA\)](#).

Sesame will be the ninth major food allergen for which labeling is required under FALCPA, which currently includes peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, dairy, eggs, and wheat. Sesame will be the first new allergen to be added since FALCPA took effect on January 1, 2006.

The FASTER Act requires that sesame be labeled on packaged goods by January 1, 2023; requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a comprehensive research report on food allergies; and establishes a scientific, risk-based process for adding new allergens to be labeled.

For information and resources on food allergies, visit the [“Food Allergies”](#) Section of the CSDE’s Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

CSDE Child Nutrition Unit’s School Lunch Tray Table Talk for May 2021

Join the CSDE Child Nutrition Unit for the May series of the “School Lunch Tray Table Talk” webinars on the dates below.

- Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST
- Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST

Table Talk takes a deeper dive into the weekly topics of the School Lunch Tray, 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. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND.

Anyone who registered for the April series will automatically be registered for the two Table Talk webinars in May. Registration for the May Table Talk series is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7940814127249762576>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

RecycleCT Announces New Grant Opportunity: Due June 30, 2021

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the RecycleCT Foundation are pleased to announce a new grant opportunity, the Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant, which supports waste reduction and reuse in addition to recycling and composting efforts. The RecycleCT Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the importance of managing materials more sustainably through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting that encourage people, government entities, businesses, schools, and organizations to adopt these practices as part of their everyday lives or operations. RecycleCT provides statewide promotion of recycling; creates educational materials available for printing that can be co-branded by municipalities, haulers and others; conducts research, including a recent recycling economic information study; and offers grant programs.

Nonprofit organizations and municipalities are eligible to respond to this competitive Request for Proposals requesting funds from \$1,000-\$15,000. Applicants can pursue funds in two categories, the first category for waste reduction or reuse projects; or the second for recycling or composting projects. Proposals for the Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant are due **June 30, 2021**.

Interested applicants can find the [Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant RFP](#) and link to the [online Lee Sawyer CWRR Grant Application](#) on RecycleCT's webpage <https://www.recyclect.com/grants>. A webinar will be scheduled in late May/early June to review the grant, help applicants understand the different categories, and how to submit their project budgets.

Resource Roundup: USDA's New Nationwide Waivers for Child Nutrition Programs

This week's Resource Roundup focuses on the 12 USDA's nationwide waivers for school year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022), which were released on April 20, 2021. Connecticut has opted in to all of these waivers.

- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #84: Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #85: Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #86: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #87: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #88: Nationwide Waiver of Meal Times Requirements for School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #89: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #90: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #91: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #92: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #93: Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #94: Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meal Programs – Revised – Extension 3
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #95: Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – Extension 3
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #96: Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – Extension

These memos are available in the “[USDA Nationwide Waivers for School Year 2021-22](#)” section of the CSDE’s [Operation of Child Nutrition Programs during Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreaks](#) webpage.



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_04_21_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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