

The School Lunch Tray: May 26, 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.

- CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for June 2021
- Reminder: School Year 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2021
- USDA Foods Update
- USDA Memo SP 11-2021, CACFP 10-2021 and SFSP 06-2021: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs
- USDA Memo SP 12-2021: Department of Education Information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program
- Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) S.T.A.R. Webinar: Webinar on Thursday, May 27, 2021: Strategies for School Nutrition Marketing Plans Success
- iLearn: ICN's eLearning Portal
- Celebrate MyPlate's 10th Birthday
- Resource Roundup: Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

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



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CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for June 2021

Join the CSDE Child Nutrition Unit for the June series of the "School Lunch Tray Table Talk" webinars on the dates below.

- Thursday, June 3, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. EST
- Thursday, June 17, 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 May series will automatically be registered for the two Table Talk webinars in June. Registration for the June 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.

Note: When you add Table Talk to your calendar from the confirmation email, it may not automatically add all dates. Use the link from the previous Table Talk to join the webinar.

Reminder: School Year 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2021

As indicated in [Operational Memorandum No. 03-21: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\) Statement for School Year 2020-21](#), all public school sponsors of the NSLP must complete the annual HFC Statement and upload the board of education's meeting minutes by **July 1, 2021**, using the CSDE's [Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (CNP System). **Please read the important information below before beginning this process.**

- Before accessing the CNP System, please **read the instructions**, [Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2021-22](#). This document provides important information and specific steps for completing the 2021-22 HFC Statement in the CNP System.
- **There are two steps for completing the 2021-22 HFC Statement.**
 1. The sponsor's **claims preparer** first **enrolls** the district in the 2021-22 application process for school nutrition programs. **Sponsors cannot access the online HFC module until this step is complete.**
 2. After the claims preparer enrolls the sponsor, the sponsor's **authorized signer 1 or 2** must complete, certify, and submit the HFC Statement. **The claims preparer cannot**

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complete this process. The instructions in the first bullet above provide detailed information on this process.

- The HFC application requirements are summarized in the “[Apply](#)” section of the HFC webpage and [CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 03-21: Process for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification \(HFC\) Statement for School Year 2020-21](#). For additional guidance, review the CSDE’s presentation, [Application Procedures for HFC](#).
- **Complete the HFC module only:** Do **not** begin the application process to participate in the USDA school nutrition programs for school year 2021-22. The CSDE will notify sponsors when it is time to start the online application process for school nutrition programs.

For questions about the HFC application process, please contact Susan Fiore at susan.fiore@ct.gov.

USDA Foods Update

As the school year continues to wind down, please schedule final deliveries of any remaining USDA Foods at the HPC warehouse. USDA Foods are intended for use during the school year they are ordered. However, due to the COVID-19 waiver for this year, it is allowable to continue to use USDA foods from school year 2021-21 over the summer. If you unexpectedly have extra inventory of USDA Foods, the Food Distribution Program (FDP) will continue to accept [Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods forms](#) through the first week of June. For questions, please contact Allison Calhoun-White at allison.calhoun-white@ct.gov.

USDA Memo SP 11-2021, CACFP 10-2021 and SFSP 06-2021: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs

[USDA Memo SP 11-2021, CACFP 10-2021 and SFSP 06-2021](#) provides notice to Child Nutrition Program operators regarding Sections 743, 764, 767, and 789 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), which:

- allows the substitution of all vegetables (including potatoes and other starchy vegetables) for fruits in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) for school years 2020-21 and 2021-22;
- prohibits funds from being used to procure raw or processed poultry products from the People’s Republic of China for use in Child Nutrition Programs, through September 30, 2021;
- provides guidance related to pricing of paid lunches for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during school year 2021-22; and
- allows low-fat (1%) *flavored* milk in the NSLP and SBP, through September 30, 2021.

USDA Memo SP 12-2021: Department of Education Information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

[USDA Memo SP 12-2021](#) provides information about the Federal Communication Commission's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB). The EBB is a new, temporary Federal program to help eligible families pay for internet service during the pandemic. Eligibility for the EBB Program includes households with a child who was approved to receive free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) during school year 2019-20 or 2020-21, including children who attend schools participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) S.T.A.R. Webinar: Webinar on Thursday, May 27, 2021: Strategies for School Nutrition Marketing Plans Success

Are you looking for fresh, new ways to create or revamp existing school nutrition marketing plans for the upcoming year? The pandemic has created marketing challenges that still affect many operators to date. In this webinar, fellow program operators share their experiences with overcoming challenges and adopting good practices to develop strategic marketing plans. This webinar will be presented on Thursday, May 27, 2021, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET. Registration is available at https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f-47aLsPQ_WN8QBN4xQ6Fg

- SNA Key Areas: 4-Communications and Marketing
- USDA Professional Standards Code: 4100
- Learning Objective: Attendees will be able to identify strategies for school nutrition marketing plans success.

iLearn: ICN's eLearning Portal

[iLearn](#) provides free, self-paced online learning for Child Nutrition professionals and offers the flexibility to complete courses in multiple sessions on desktops, laptops, or mobile devices. ICN has added new features below to enhance the eLearning experience.

- **Personalized Profiles:** Users can select English or Spanish and their Child Nutrition Program to complete their personalized profile. Courses are organized to align with USDA's Professional Standard Codes and SNA Key Areas, allowing users to find what is needed to complete their professional development goals. Users will be required to update their profile, language, and area of emphasis in the new iLearn platform when first logging in.
- **Online Courses in Spanish:** iLearn includes ICN's first Spanish online course, Nutrición 101 4ta Edición. Users can also select Español in their profile for a translated online experience.
- **iLearn @ ICN Mobile App:** Child Nutrition Professionals can download the app and iLearn @ ICN on the go! The iLearn mobile app is available in [Google Play](#) and in the [Apple App Store](#).
- **Live Webinars (coming soon):** Child Nutrition professionals can register and attend ICN's scheduled live webinars on iLearn and keep all information and certificates in one location.

Celebrate MyPlate's 10th Birthday



Ten years ago, the USDA updated the Federal nutrition symbol to become [MyPlate](#), a simple graphic that serves as a general healthy eating guide on what and how much to eat from each of the five food groups – fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy or fortified soy alternatives.

Over the last ten years, MyPlate has grown to provide consumers, health professionals, and nutrition educators with free print materials, digital tools, and other resources that can be personalized to meet an individual's need. Join in the birthday fun by helping USDA celebrate throughout the month of June.

- Check out the [10 Ways to Celebrate MyPlate's Birthday](#): Follow along as USDA highlights ten fun activities to do throughout the month with MyPlate.
- Join the [Start Simple with MyPlate App Challenge](#): Download the free app to set simple food group goals. Complete ten food group goals of your choice within the month of June and earn a MyPlate birthday badge.
- [Share your MyPlate Moments](#) from the last 10 years: Tell USDA on social media about fun MyPlate activities or how MyPlate has helped you or others over the years. Tag @MyPlate and use the hashtag #MyPlateTurns10.
- Use [MyPlate Birthday Graphics](#): Wish MyPlate Happy Birthday by updating your virtual teleconference background or sharing a birthday graphic on social media.

Resource Roundup: Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

This week's Resource Roundup highlights the CSDE's resource, [Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs](#). This document includes a list of the acronyms and abbreviations that are commonly used in the USDA's school nutrition programs.



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_05_26_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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