

## The School Lunch Tray: July 28, 2021

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.

- USDA Memo SP 16-2021 and CACFP 14-2021: Previously Issued Questions and Answers Relating to Operation of the Child Nutrition Programs: Updated for School Year 2021-2022
- P-EBT Guidance for New Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Districts
- Public School Information System (PSIS) Monthly Attendance Data for 2020-21 is Now Closed
- Summer Meals Promotional Materials Available from End Hunger Connecticut! Order Deadline: July 28, 2021
- Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Back to School: Completing Food Production Records the Best Way: Thursday, July 29, 2021
- Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline August 27, 2021
- 5 Ways to Add Fruits to Your Back-To-School Menus
- Back to School Water Safety
- Resource Roundup: Building Success: What You Need to Know about Processing Applications

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



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### **USDA Memo SP 16-2021 and CACFP 14-2021: Previously Issued Questions and Answers Relating to Operation of the Child Nutrition Programs: Updated for School Year 2021-2022**

This [USDA memo from July 14, 2021](#), includes consolidated questions and answers intended to provide clarification to state agencies and program operators as they operate the child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), during school year 2021-22. These questions and answers were previously issued in calendar year 2020 and have been updated for application to school year 2021-22. The memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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### **P-EBT Guidance for New Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Districts**

Over the past few weeks, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has received questions on the application process for P-EBT summer benefits in schools that have been newly approved to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in school year 2021-22. Specifically, states have asked whether those schools (or their school districts) may collect applications to establish the summer 2021 P-EBT eligibility for children in those schools after July 1. Unfortunately, the answer is no. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) regulations do not offer any flexibility. Please see below for additional information.

*Collecting NSLP applications to establish P-EBT eligibility in the summer of 2021 by schools newly approved to participate in the CEP on July 1:*

1. School food authorities (SFAs) with schools or school groups that have been newly approved to participate in the CEP cannot collect applications from households with children in those schools or school groups under the NSLP regulations as of July 1. That means that as of today, these SFAs are not permitted to collect school meal applications from households of children who wish to establish their income eligibility for P-EBT for summer 2021.
2. The affected population is limited to households with children in newly approved CEP schools who are not already certified eligible for free or reduced price school meals, and have not already submitted applications to establish their eligibility for P-EBT this summer. Since there are just a few weeks remaining in most states' summer P-EBT application periods, FNS expects that the number of affected households is small. Nevertheless, FNS understands that you need guidance on how to proceed, and suggests the following:
  - a. Applications already received from affected households, but not yet processed, can and should be processed by SFAs. Children determined eligible for free or reduced price meals through these applications are eligible for the state's full P-EBT summer benefit.

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- b. Applications received from these households after July 1 must be treated as non-NSLP applications. This means that the cost of staff time used to process these applications cannot be charged to the SFA nonprofit food service account. However, the cost of that staff time may be claimed as a P-EBT administrative expense under the process established by the USDA for federal reimbursement of state and local P-EBT administrative costs.
- c. If feasible, these schools should make alternative household income forms available to affected households for the remainder of the state's P-EBT summer application period.

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### Public School Information System (PSIS) Monthly Attendance Data for 2020-21 Now Closed

The CSDE has concluded the PSIS monthly membership and attendance data collection for the 2020-21 school year. The data have been transferred to the Department of Social Services (DSS) for issuance of Pandemic EBT benefits for the 2020-21 school year. No further revisions can be made to the PSIS monthly membership and attendance data for the 2020-21 school year.

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### Summer Meals Promotional Materials Available from End Hunger Connecticut! Order Deadline: July 28, 2021

The CSDE is excited to share that we have partnered with End Hunger Connecticut! for Summer Meals promotional materials. EHC! has new Summer Meals promotional materials. The new design features a QR code linked to [CTSummerMeals.org](https://www.ctsummermeals.org), has English and Spanish text, and is fully stocked in a variety of sizes. These materials are available to you at no cost!

Please complete the attached order form by **Wednesday, July 28, 2021**. Plan to pick up the materials at the EHC office in Hartford, located at 65 Hungerford Street, on Friday July 30, 2021, between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The order form is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XCCNHFB>.

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### **Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Back to School: Completing Food Production Records the Best Way: Thursday, July 29, 2021**

On Thursday, July 29, 2021, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., this webinar will provide an overview of what a production record is and why it is used to document the foods you plan, prepare, and serve. Join this webinar to hear good practices for completing production records and common errors to avoid when documenting. The webinar Speakers include Dominic Machi, Director of Food & Nutrition Services & Warehouse, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, and Shelli Boggess, Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Deer Lodge Public School District.

Registration is available at

[https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_CkDGrP78Tvyu9Tje3Bg46A](https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CkDGrP78Tvyu9Tje3Bg46A). A continuing education certificate will be available after completion of the webinar.

- Learning Objective: Attendees will identify good practices to complete production records accurately.
- Professional Standards Learning Objectives:  
SNA Key Areas: 2-Operations  
USDA Professional Standards Code: 2120-Food Production Records

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### **Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline August 27, 2021**

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy are pleased to announce a funding opportunity from Connecticut Dairy Farmers to eligible schools in Connecticut to support food service needs related to serving new dairy menu items or expanding school meal programs. Visit <https://www.newenglanddairy.com/school-meals/> for details. The application deadline is **August 27, 2021**. Funding for these grants was provided by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.

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### **5 Ways to Add Fruits to Your Back-To-School Menus**

The USDA Team Nutrition's [5 Ways to Add Fruits to Your Back-To-School Menus](#) provides a few quick tips on ways to incorporate fruits in school menus to improve meal service.

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### **Back to School Water Safety**

As schools prepare for school year 2021-22, ensuring water safety is an important part of back-to-school plans. When reopening a school building after any closure, it is important to check the safety of the water. The USDA's [Back to School Water Safety](#) webpage provides guidance and resources.

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### **Resource Roundup: Building Success: What You Need to Know about Processing Applications**

The CSDE's [Building Success: What You Need to Know about Processing Applications](#) webinar provides determining officials and direct certification contacts (and anyone wanting a review of the application certification process) with important information on how to process the free and reduced-price applications and conduct direct certification. The webinar transcript and questions and answers are also available from this webpage.

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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\\_07\\_28\\_2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_07_28_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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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