

The School Lunch Tray: August 4, 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.

- **Reminder: Comparison Chart: Operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for School Food Authorities in School Year 2021-22 through June 30, 2022**
- **USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update**
- **Request for Information: Buy American**
- **American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) Webinar: Stronger with School Meals: Back-to-School Resources from USDA's Team Nutrition, Thursday, August 12, 2021**
- **Team Nutrition Webinar: Master the Professional Standards Training Tracking Tool (PSTTT), August 25, 2021**
- **Resource Roundup: Guidance for Notifying Parents of a Child's Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price Meal**

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



Reminder: Comparison Chart: Operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for School Food Authorities in School Year 2021-22 through June 30, 2022

In the near future, all sponsors will be required to identify if they will be operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for school year 2021-22. For information regarding the each program, please refer to the CSDEs resource, [Comparison of Operating the National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\) and Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\) for School Food Authorities in School Year 2021-22 through June 30, 2022](#). **Note:** The rates of reimbursement for the

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SSO have been updated in the chart to include four decimal placements (\$4.3175 for lunch and \$2.4625 for breakfast).

USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update

HPC will resume the NSLP DoD Program on Monday, August 23, 2021. FFAVORS will be opened to all Recipient Agencies (RAs) for ordering on **Monday, August 16, 2021**, to allow lead time to place orders for the following week. The contacts at Hartford Provision Company will remain the same this year: Sherry Brzostowski at sbrzostowski@hpcfcs.com and Matt Ramos at mramos@hpcfcs.com. As a reminder, any RA using the NSLP DoD Program over the summer must provide the Connecticut Food Distribution Program with the amount used during the summer if you would like the dollars returned for the upcoming school year.

Request for Information: Buy American

On August 4, 2021, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the Request for Information: Buy American in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program to gather feedback from stakeholders on:

- how the Buy American provision and guidance are currently implemented;
- changes FNS should make to current regulations; and
- guidance and feedback on how FNS can better support local operators as they strive to purchase domestic foods and food products.

Please use [this link](#) to submit your responses. Responses are due by November 2, 2021.

American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) Webinar: Stronger with School Meals: Back-to-School Resources from USDA's Team Nutrition, Thursday, August 12, 2021

Join USDA's Team Nutrition on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. for an informative and interactive webinar on many multifaceted resources to help schools get off to the right start. This year, with schools transitioning back to normal, these helpful school meals resources may be just what you need.

Speakers:

- Sheldon E. Gordon, MS, RDN, Chief, Nutrition and Technical Assistance Branch, USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Child Nutrition Programs
- Erica Smith, MS, RDN, Nutritionist, USDA FNS Child Nutrition Programs

Resource Roundup: Guidance for Notifying Parents of a Child's Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price Meal

The CSDE's resource, [*Guidance for Notifying Parents of a Child's Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price Meals*](#), provides sponsors with important information on the different ways (such as email, postal service, and verbally) that parents/guardians may be notified of the availability of applications, direct certification, and verification. It also provides information regarding the carryover of eligibility period, denying applications, and adverse action. Please share this resource with all determining officials and direct certification contacts.

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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_08_04_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.

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