

The School Lunch Tray: September 1, 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: Information Session about Operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22, Thursday, September 2, 2021**
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Vaccinations for Covered Workers in Schools**
- **USDA Foods Reminder for School Year 2021-22 Orders**
- **Required Survey for SFAs: Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program**
- **School Nutrition Association of Connecticut's (SNACT) 71st Conference: Planting Seeds for the Future: Staying out of the weeds, October 13-15, 2021**
- **New USDA Resource: Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12)**
- **USDA Team Nutrition's Back-to-School Meal Planning Tips**
- **Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) New iBites Digest Digital Quarterly Newsletter**
- **Updated Dietary Guidelines for Americans Toolkit Now Available**
- **Resource Roundup: Indirect Cost Guidance**

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



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Reminder: Information Session about Operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22, Thursday, September 2, 2021

Join the CSDE's Child Nutrition Programs team on Thursday, September 2, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. for an information session about operating the SSO in school year 2021-22. Learn about the key differences for operating the SSO this school year versus how it operated in the past. This session will also highlight the CSDE's document, [*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.*](#)

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 860-840-2075,689059329#](#)

Phone Conference ID: 689 059 329#

Note: Live questions will not be taken during the webinar. To submit questions in advance, please visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5px5YKVBdQNQZDo.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Vaccinations for Covered Workers in Schools

On August 25, 2021, the CSDE emailed superintendents a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document summarizing Executive Order No. 13D ("Protection of Public Health and Safety During COVID-19 Pandemic – Vaccinations Required for State Employees, School Employees and Childcare Facility Staff"). This information applies to all school staff, **including school food service employees**. Please review the FAQ document and consult with your school district counsel when making decisions based on the Order. The FAQ is a working document and may be updated as the school year progresses.

USDA Foods Reminder for School Year 2021-22 Orders

As a reminder, all USDA Foods orders are "requests" until they enter the purchased status. It is critically important this year to run your "Requisition Status Report" on a weekly basis until all of your orders are in a purchased status (or cancelled). As you are all aware, there are many issues with the food supply chain this year, and we have already had cancellations and trucks coming in short for our direct delivery USDA Foods Items. Due to these continuing issues, once the trucks are received at HPC or at a processor, your actual allocations may differ from the orders you placed in April.

Instructions for running the Requisition Status Report can be found in the [WBSCM Training Guide](#), starting on page 87. To view your report for the entire school year, enter the date range of 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022.

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Required Survey for SFAs: Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

On June 11, 2021, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #98: Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast](#) to provide local educational agencies (LEAs) with additional time to focus on wellness activities. The new deadline to complete a triennial assessment is **June 30, 2022**.

All SFAs are required to complete a [brief survey](#) by **September 10, 2021**. This survey will assist the CSDE with establishing a plan for providing technical assistance on school wellness policies to SFAs.

For more information on the triennial assessment requirements, visit the [“What’s Next”](#) section of the CSDE’s School Wellness Policies webpage.

School Nutrition Association of Connecticut’s (SNACT) 71st Conference: Planting Seeds for the Future: Staying out of the weeds, October 13-15, 2021

Virtual

Wednesday October 13 and Thursday October 14, 2021

Institute of Child Nutrition’s “Utilizing the Cafeteria as Classroom” with Instructor Lonnie Burt

In Person

Friday, October 15, 2021, at the Mystic Marriott, Groton CT

- Capitalizing on the Plant Forward Trend
- CSDE Update
- Food and Industry Trade Show

The in-person event will follow all state and city mandates and safety protocols.

To access the agenda, conference rates, registration, and more information, visit <https://snact.org/page/Annualconf>. For questions, contact execdir@snact.org.

New USDA Resource: Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12)

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative recently released a new publication, *Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12)*. Meats and meat alternates can be healthy and delicious options at breakfast. This 20-page training guide shows school nutrition professionals how they can offer these items as part of a reimbursable breakfast, and includes information on meal pattern requirements, tips for menu planning, sample menus, success stories and more. This publication is available in English and Spanish, online, and in print from www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offering-meats-and-meat-alternates-school-breakfast.

This resource is part of Team Nutrition's [Back-to-School Support Kit](#) to assist schools as they reopen for School Year 2021-2022.

USDA Team Nutrition's Back-to-School Meal Planning Tips

The USDA Team Nutrition's [Back-to-School Meal Planning Tips](#) webpage provides tips on ways to add more variety to school menus. The webpage includes tips for each of the five meal pattern components.

- 5 Ways to Add Veggies to Your Back-to-School Menus
 - 5 Ways to Add Fruits to Your Back-to-School Menus
 - 5 Ways to Add Whole Grain-Rich Foods to Your Back-to-School Menus
 - 5 Ways to Add Meats and Meat Alternates to Your Back-to-School Menus
 - 5 Ways to Add Milk to Your Back-to-School Menus *coming soon*
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Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) New iBites Digest Digital Quarterly Newsletter

The inaugural issue of the Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) digital newsletter, iBites Digest, is now available. The first issue features the ICN Back-To-School Toolbox. The newsletter is available at <https://icn.dcatalog.com/v/ICN-Fall-2021/>.

Updated Dietary Guidelines for Americans Toolkit Now Available

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) recently released an updated toolkit for health professionals, with consumer-friendly fact sheets based on the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020–2025](#). This edition of the Dietary Guidelines reflects the current body of nutrition science and serves as the foundation for nutrition policies and programs across the United States.

To access the fact sheets and sign up for email updates, visit the [ODPHP](#) webpage.

Resource Roundup: Indirect Cost Guidance

Indirect cost guidance provides assistance to school food authorities (SFA) and business officials to ensure the nonprofit school food service account (NSFSA) funds are limited to those expenses that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable to provide quality meals for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). In general, the full cost of the NSLP and SBP includes both direct and indirect costs. Direct costs are incurred specifically for the NSLP and SBP, and can be readily identified to a particular school food service objective. Allocation of indirect cost is necessary because it identifies the portion of the costs benefiting the school food service.

The guidance provides information to SFAs on program rules pertaining to the areas below.

- Definitions for both direct and indirect costs, including the proper classification of costs and discussion on the treatment of certain typical costs in the NSLP and SBP. Direct costs are discussed because direct and indirect costs are complementary.
- An overview of the federal cost principles and explanation that all costs (direct or indirect) paid with funds from the NSFSA must be allowable. The guidance provides criteria that will aid an SFA in determining allowable costs and includes relevant examples.
- Considerations for the SFA when assessing indirect costs charged to the NSFSA.

The USDA's policy memo and guide on indirect cost are available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/indirect-cost-guidance>.

- USDA Memo SP 60-2016: [Indirect Cost Guidance](#)
 - USDA Guide: [Indirect Costs: Guidance for State Agencies & School Food Authorities](#)
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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_09_01_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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