

## The School Lunch Tray: September 15, 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.

- CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member to the Child Nutrition Programs Unit
- CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations
- Updated Comparison Charts for the Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12
- Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the Grains Component: Grades K-12 and Preschool
- New Team Nutrition Quizzes
- Resource Roundup: Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week 2021 – October 4-8

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



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### CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member to the Child Nutrition Programs Unit

The CSDE is pleased to welcome Flor Sprouse, the newest member of the Child Nutrition Programs unit! With more than 14 years of state service, Flor transferred to the CSDE from the Office of Early Childhood, where she served as a childcare licensing specialist. Her background is in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Flor is fluent in both Spanish and English and will be a great asset to the CSDE team!

### **CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations**

The CSDE is aware that school food authorities (SFAs) may be experiencing challenges with the supply chain and that this causes great concern about the ability to acquire needed items. In order to quantify the impact on operations throughout the state, please complete the [CSDE's brief survey to report supply chain issues impacting your program](#). This survey link can be used throughout the school year to report supply chain issues.

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### **Updated Comparison Charts for the Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12**

The CSDE has updated the meal pattern comparison charts for school year 2021-22. These documents summarize the meal pattern requirements and applicable resources for preschoolers and grades K-12.

- [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the Afterschool Snack Program of the NSLP](#)
- [Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP](#)

Both documents are available in the "[Comparison Charts](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

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### Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the Grains Component: Grades K-12 and Preschool

The chart below lists the updated crediting resources for the grains component (dated September 2021). The resources for the preschool meal patterns are available in the “[Grains Component for Preschoolers](#)” section of the CSDE’s Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage. The resources for the meal patterns for grades K-12 are available in the “[Grains Component for Grades K-12](#)” section of the CSDE’s Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

*Please discard any previous versions downloaded prior to today and replace with the updated versions.*

Crediting resource	Applies to
<a href="#">Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Grades K-12
<a href="#">Calculation Methods for Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Preschoolers
<a href="#">Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for the Grains Component in School Nutrition Programs</a>	Grades K-12 Preschoolers
<a href="#">Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Grades K-12
<a href="#">Crediting Breakfast Cereals for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Preschoolers
<a href="#">Crediting Enriched Grains in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Grades K-12 Preschoolers
<a href="#">Crediting Whole Grains in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Grades K-12 Preschoolers
<a href="#">Grain Ounce Equivalents for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Grades K-12
<a href="#">Grain Ounce Equivalents for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Preschoolers
<a href="#">How to Identify Creditable Grains for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP</a>	Preschoolers
<a href="#">Meeting the Whole Grain-rich Requirement for the NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12</a>	Grades K-12

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### New Team Nutrition Quizzes

Team Nutrition recently released a new fun and interactive web-based quiz on school lunch for parents, students, teachers, school nutrition professionals, SNAP-Ed educators, and anyone interested in school lunch. The 10-question quiz is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes/school-lunch>.

Team Nutrition will be releasing web quizzes on other topics soon. These interactive ten-question web quizzes are a fun way to introduce a variety of nutrition topics and can be used at trainings and other nutrition events. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion.

All quizzes will be available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes>. Each quiz is also available as a widget, so they can be easily embedded and displayed on other webpages.

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### Resource Roundup: Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week 2021 – October 4-8

October 4-8, 2021, is [CT Grown for CT Kids Week](#). This week celebrates and supports local agriculture in connection with public education to uplift the importance of nutritious and delicious Connecticut grown products in school meals. October is also [National Farm to School Month](#). Celebrations and events can continue all month long!

**Join in:** Select from the [menu of activities](#) for the classroom, cafeteria, and community. Find local farms for purchasing and U-pick farms for families to visit. The Social Media toolkit, a draft newsletter for families, fun educational materials, graphics for school menus and more are available on the [CT Farm to School Collaborative](#) webpage.

Additional resources are available on the CSDE's [Farm to School](#) webpage and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's [Connecticut Farm-to-School Program](#) 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\\_09\\_15\\_2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_09_15_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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