

The School Lunch Tray: October 6, 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 22-2021, CACFP 17-2021 and SFSP 10-2021: Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-2022, Q&A #2
- COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #105: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022
- Providing Meal Components in Bulk Sizes
- Reminder: School Nutrition Association of Connecticut's (SNACT) 71st Conference: *Planting Seeds for the Future: Staying out of the weeds*, October 13-15, 2021
- Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Team Nutrition
- USDA's Stronger with School Meals Educational Materials
- Revised Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Preschool Meal Pattern for School Year 2021-22
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Resource Lists for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 and Preschool

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



USDA Memo SP 22-2021, CACFP 17-2021 and SFSP 10-2021: Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-2022, Q&A #2

[USDA Memo SP 22-2021, CACFP 17-2021 and SFSP 10-2021](#) includes 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, NSLP Seamless Summer Option and Child and Adult Care Food Program, during school year (SY) 2021-2022.

COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #105: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022

The USDA issued [COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #105: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022](#) on September 22, 2021. This waives the requirements at Section 13(c)(1) of the NSLA and [7 CFR 225.6\(d\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#) that limit the operation of the SFSP and SSO during an unanticipated school closure to non-school sites. Providing site location flexibility during unanticipated school closures will support community efforts to maintain children's access to safe and nutritious meals when schools unexpectedly need to close due to COVID-19. This waiver is effective October 1, 2021, and remains in effect through April 30, 2022.

Providing Meal Components in Bulk Sizes

This is a reminder that sponsors may elect to provide meal components in bulk sizes at non-congregate meal service sites. Although schools are back to in-person learning, there may be instances where providing bulk meal components is necessary when take home meals (i.e., breakfast) are provided by the school. This may be due to accommodating staffing capacity, a lack of storage in the food service facility, decreasing the frequency of meal distribution, or dealing with increased costs of unitized, individual packaging.

Sponsors that elect to provide meals in bulk sizes will need to complete the applicable waivers (i.e., non-congregate meal service, mealtimes requirements, and parent/guardian pick-up) when the waivers are updated for school year 2021-22. More information regarding the waivers will be issued shortly. For information regarding providing meal components in bulk sizes, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Considerations for Providing Meal Components in Bulk Sizes at Non-congregate Meal Service Sites](#).

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

Don't miss out on the upcoming SNACT conference! There is still space available but don't delay. There will be a virtual workshop given by **Lonnie Burt** on October 13 and 14 entitled "*Utilizing the Cafeteria as Classroom.*"

On Friday, October 15, 2021, the conference will be in-person at the beautiful Mystic Marriott, Groton CT. The focus of this conference will be *Capitalizing the Plant Forward Trend*, the **CSDE's presentation** on important information and updates about Connecticut's Child Nutrition Programs (including upcoming USDA waivers, updates on reporting requirements, civil rights, and food safety) and the annual **Food and Industry Trade Show**.

We hope to see you all there! To access the agenda, conference rates, registration, and more information, visit <https://snact.org/page/Annualconf>. For questions, contact execdir@snact.org.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Team Nutrition

Team Nutrition has more than 100 Spanish language materials that support healthy eating and physical activity. Some of the Team Nutrition materials for Child Nutrition Program operators, students, and families are listed below.

- [Infant Nutrition Quiz \(New\)](#) (Cuestionario acerca de la nutrición para bebés)
- [Nibbles for Health Newsletters](#) (Mordiscos para la salud: boletines de nutrición)
- [Emergent Reader Mini Books](#) (Descubre MiPlato: lectores principiantes)
- [Multicultural Child Care Recipes](#) (Recetas multiculturales para sitios de cuidado infantil)
- [Mealtimes with Toddlers](#) (La hora de la comida con los niños de 1 a 2 años)
- [Look and Cook Recipes](#) (Descubre MiPlato: tarjetas de receta mira y cocina)
- [MyPlate Guide to School Breakfast](#) (MiPlato para el desayuno escolar)
- [MyPlate Guide to School Lunch](#) (MiPlato para el almuerzo escolar)
- [MyPlate at Home Handouts](#) (MiPlato en casa)

Visit Team Nutrition's [Spanish Materials Available from Team Nutrition](#) website for more information.

USDA's Stronger with School Meals Educational Materials

The [Stronger with School Meals](#) educational materials are fun and colorful resources to support the reopening of schools in school year 2021-22. These materials are designed to be used by teachers and other school staff, parents, and students. The materials include one infographic for teachers/parents, one activity booklet for elementary-aged students, five stickers for elementary-aged students, two buttons for school nutrition professionals, and two Thank You cards for school nutrition professionals.

Revised Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Preschool Meal Pattern for School Year 2021-22

The [ASP Meal Pattern for Preschoolers](#) dated September 2021 was missing the information for ready-to-eat (RTE) breakfast cereals. It has been revised to include this information. Please discard the previous version and replace with the revised version dated October 2021.

Resource Roundup: CSDE's Resource Lists for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 and Preschool

The CSDE has recently updated the resource lists for the meal patterns for grades K-12 and preschool.

- **Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 (September 2021):** The CSDE's [Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#) includes resources and websites to assist SFAs with meeting the USDA meal pattern and crediting requirements for grades K-12 in the NSLP, SBP, SSO, and ASP. Links to this document are also available on the CSDE's [Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage (under "Menu Planning") and the "[Related Resources](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs webpage (under "Resources for Menu Planning").
 - **Resources for the Preschool Meal Patterns (September 2021):** The CSDE's [Resources for the Preschool Meal Patterns](#) includes resources and websites to assist SFAs with meeting the USDA's preschool meal pattern and crediting requirements for the NSLP, SBP, SSO, and ASP. Links to this document are also available on the CSDE's [Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage (under "Menu Planning") and the [Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs](#) 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_10_06_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.

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