

## The School Lunch Tray: October 20, 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.

- Operational Memorandum No. 01-2022: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Local Level Cost Grant
- Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: School Year 2021-22 Version
- USDA's MyPlate Quiz
- Survey for Topics for New England Dairy Webinar in March 2022
- Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Strategies for Farm to School Resilient Local Food Systems
- Resource Roundup: Updating the School Year 2021-2022 Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs Manual

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



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### **Operational Memorandum No. 01-2022: Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Local Level Cost Grant**

[CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 01-2022](#) contains important information about the additional funding awarded to the CSDE through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Local Level Cost Grant to be distributed to eligible school food authorities (SFA) to help offset the SFA's administrative costs incurred in support of P-EBT benefits.

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### **Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: School Year 2021-22 Version**

The CSDE's [Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#) for school year 2021-22 is now available. This guide contains information and guidance on planning menus to meet the USDA's meal patterns for preschoolers (ages 1-4) in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP.

The revised guide includes content revisions that reflect the preschool meal patterns for school year 2021-22 (through June 30, 2022). *Please discard any versions downloaded prior to today, and replace with the updated version dated October 2021.* For additional resources on the preschool meal patterns and crediting foods, visit the CSDE's [Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

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### **USDA's MyPlate Quiz**

Take the USDA's [MyPlate Quiz](#) to find your starting point and discover which MyPlate level you are. There are a total of six levels, ranging from "MyPlate Beginner" to "MyPlate Hall of Famer."

In addition to receiving MyPlate recommendations and personalized resources, you can save and download a PDF of your results and retake the quiz to view your progress overtime. MyPlate is here to help you with your eating habits as you work towards the next MyPlate level.

Are you making every bite count? Take the MyPlate Quiz today to find out.

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### **Survey for Topics for New England Dairy Webinar in March 2022**

New England Dairy will be hosting a webinar on dairy nutrition for school nutrition professionals on March 16, 2022. Please take a moment to complete this [brief survey](#) to share questions or topic area interest around dairy's role in diet and health.

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### **Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Strategies for Farm to School Resilient Local Food Systems**

The Institute of Child Nutrition will be hosting a S.T.A.R. Webinar in observance of National Farm to School Month. The webinar will feature the USDA Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS). OCFS will promote the Farm to School Grant Program and share some current resources that are available to help child nutrition operators incorporate local foods in their programs. The webinar will highlight the strength and resiliency of local food systems by providing insight into how communities are responding and adapting to current challenges while having strong local food infrastructure and relationships in place. Join the webinar to also hear strategies and tips on what works best for getting meals to students and families while supporting local producers.

The webinar will take place Thursday, October 28, 2021, 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

Webinar registration link: [https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4oU1daStT4aItUNpdarvZQ](https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4oU1daStT4aItUNpdarvZQ)

A continuing education certificate will be available after completion of the webinar.

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### **Resource Roundup: Updating the School Year 2021-2022 Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs Manual**

Did you know that your school year (SY) 2021-22 Sponsor Application was due by **October 15, 2021**? If you have not finished completing the Sponsor Application, please do so ASAP. The CSDE's [Updating the School Year 2021-2022 Sponsor Application for School Nutrition Programs Manual](#) is a great resource and **must** be reviewed prior to completing the [Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs \(CNP System\)](#). The manual also includes important instructions for completing the Food Safety Inspection Report and the annual Financial Report. **Note: Claims cannot be entered or submitted without an approved application.**

Instructions for applying for the SY 2021-2022 USDA Waivers will be sent to each sponsor after their SY 2021-22 Sponsor Application is approved.

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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\\_20\\_2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_10_20_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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