

The School Lunch Tray: October 27, 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
- USDA Memo SP 23-2021 and CACFP 18-2021: Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions
- Congressional Flexibility Extended through December 3, 2021: Low-Fat (1%) Flavored Milk in the National School Lunch program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Ban on Purchase of Raw or Processed Poultry Products Imported from China
- Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 to Reflect the Flexibilities of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for School Year 2021-22
- USDA Foods Update on the DoD Program
- DoD Receipting Update
- New USDA Tip Sheets: Planning for a Dynamic School Environment During School Year 2021-2022: A School Food Authority's Guide to School Meals
- Upcoming Webinar Series on Federal Supports to Address School Labor Shortages: October 27 and 28, 2021
- Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar: Leveraging USDA Foods to Alleviate Food Supply Shortages, November 4, 2021
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Schools Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): CDC-RFA-DP22-2203, National Initiative to Advance Health Equity in K-12 Education by Preventing Chronic Disease and Promoting Healthy Behaviors
- School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) Equipment Grants
- Resource Roundup: New CSDE Webpage Section with Resources for Supply Chain Issues in Child Nutrition Programs

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



The School Lunch Tray: October 27, 2021

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 (CACFP), during school year 2021-2022.

Note: Regarding question #20, the USDA has provided additional guidance that in order to continue meal service for quarantined students who attend a school that remains open, the district will need to operate Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sites. Those SSO sites can be either open or closed enrolled. The applicable national waivers include non-congregate meals, mealtime restrictions, and might also include parent/guardian pick-up.

USDA Memo SP 01-2022 and CACFP 01-2022: Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs Emergency Procurement Due to Supply Chain Disruptions

[USDA Memo SP 01-2022 and CACFP 01-2022](#) provides clarification on questions related to Child Nutrition Programs use of emergency procurements due to supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 and details further instructions and administrative procedures for utilizing the noncompetitive procurement method in 2 CFR 200.320(c). The guidance applies to the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. The memo is available on the CSDE's [Operational Memoranda for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.

Congressional Flexibility Extended through December 3, 2021: Low-Fat (1%) Flavored Milk in the National School Lunch program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Ban on Purchase of Raw or Processed Poultry Products Imported from China

In Section 789 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Congress provided that none of the funds made available by the Appropriations Act or any other act may be used to restrict the offering of low-fat (1% fat) flavored milk in the NSLP and SBP as long as such milk is not inconsistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines. Due to recent Congressional action, this flexibility allowing low-fat flavored milk in the NSLP and SBP is now effective through **December 3, 2021**. This provides additional flexibility in planning school breakfast and lunch menus but does not require schools to make any menu changes.

Congress also provided that funds made available by the Appropriations Act cannot be used to procure raw or processed poultry products imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China for use in the child nutrition programs. This prohibition is also extended through **December 3, 2021**.

The School Lunch Tray: October 27, 2021

For more information, refer to [USDA Memo SP 11-2021, CACFP 10-2021 and SFSP 06-2021: Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs – REVISED](#). **Note:** While the expiration date for these provisions is listed as **September 30, 2021** in the memo, they have both been extended to **December 3, 2021**. USDA will provide additional guidance if these provisions are further extended. As stated in the memo, flexibility related to paid lunch equity and serving potatoes and other starchy vegetables in the SBP remains in effect through school year 2021-2022.

Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 to Reflect the Flexibilities of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for School Year 2021-22

The 2021-22 NSLP and SBP meal patterns for grades K-12 have been updated to reflect the flexibilities of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 noted above. The revised meal patterns are dated October 2021 and are available in the “[Documents/Forms](#)” section of the CSDE’s [Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage. Please discard any earlier versions and replace with the October 2021 versions.

USDA Foods Update on the DoD Program

As of October 13, 2021, HPC subcontracted with a delivery company in New York (Fischer Foods) to make some deliveries in the southwestern part of the state. As a result, deliveries should resume normally for those Recipient Agencies (RAs).

The Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP) currently participates in the Unprocessed Fruit and Vegetable Produce Pilot. The USDA has agreed to conditionally increase the number of RAs participating in that pilot.

Fresh Point is the largest approved vendor for the Produce Pilot. RAs that already have Fresh Point as their commercial vendor, and were under a 25% threshold for receiving DoD deliveries for the July-September quarter, were contacted and given the opportunity to move DoD allocated funds from HPC to Fresh Point. Since Fresh Point is focusing on best serving their current customers, this option was not available for RAs not under contract with Fresh Point.

These two changes should allow HPC to make more frequent deliveries to the remaining RAs. Please continue to contact the FDP staff regarding any issues with receiving DoD Deliveries. Alternative Direct Delivery or Processing options for utilizing unused DoD entitlement may be possible.

The FDP staff is committed to continue supporting all districts in the best way possible. Please feel free to reach out with your questions, ideas, or concerns.

DoD Receipting Update

We know that deliveries have been very unpredictable this year. Please keep the following in mind if your delivery is rescheduled:

1. Any deliveries not received should be receipted in FFAVORS as “not delivered.”
2. If you receipt a delivery as “not delivered” and you get the same delivery within the next week, you must go back into FFAVORS to edit the receipt and resubmit it.
3. If you receipted a delivery as “not delivered” and got the same delivery and did not change it within one week, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will need to manually change the receipt for you.
4. As always, if you receive produce that is not acceptable and you reject the delivery, you must note it on the invoice, and adjust the receipt as appropriate.
5. If you find damaged or expired product after the truck leaves, you must contact HPC first so they can make their adjustment, then go into FFAVORS and adjust the receipt as appropriate.

Please contact the FFAVORS help desk at FFAVORS@fns.usda.gov with questions about receipting. The FFAVORS ordering manual is available on the FFAVORS platform and at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/FDP/FFAVORS_USDAFoods.pdf.

New USDA Tip Sheets: Planning for a Dynamic School Environment During School Year 2021-2022: A School Food Authority’s Guide to School Meals

USDA’s Team Nutrition initiative has developed several tip sheets to help SFAs navigate meal service flexibilities and supply chain issues during this dynamic school year:

- Summary of Flexibilities: <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/schoolmeal-flexibilities-summary.pdf>
- Table of Flexibilities: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/schoolmeals_flexibilities_chart.pdf
- Flexibilities in Practice: https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/schoolmeal_flexibilities_scenarios.pdf
- School Meals Supply Chain Issues: <http://https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/schoolmeals-supply-chain.pdf>

For more information and additional resources, visit Team Nutrition’s [Planning for a Dynamic School Environment](#) webpage and the [Supply Chain Issues](#) section of the CSDE’s Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks webpage.

The School Lunch Tray: October 27, 2021

Upcoming Webinar Series on Federal Supports to Address School Labor Shortages: October 27 and 28, 2021

The U.S. Departments of Education and Treasury are hosting a two-part webinar series that may be of interest to school nutrition professionals and other school food authority (SFA) staff. The webinar series, “*Using American Rescue Plan Funds and Other Federal Supports to Address State and Local Teacher and School Staff Labor Shortages*,” will be held on Wednesday, October 27 and Thursday, October 28 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The October 27 webinar will focus on teacher and substitute teacher shortages. The October 28 webinar will focus on staff shortages, such as school bus drivers and school nutrition professionals/food service workers.

Schools and SFAs across the nation are facing challenges to filling these critical positions in schools. The purpose of these webinars is to discuss the underlying causes of these shortages and share effective practices happening at the state and local levels. The webinar will also discuss how federal resources can be used to support and sustain these efforts, including resources under the American Rescue Plan’s Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) and the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF).

The registration links are below. To join the entire webinar series, please register for **both** sessions.

Webinar 1: *Teacher and Substitute Teacher Shortages*

- Date and time: Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
- Registration link: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsd-2sqzkh2KJhWpp_Vv7Iy7vjInHSBM

Webinar 2: *Staff Shortages (such as school bus drivers and school nutrition professionals)*

- Date and time: Thursday, October 28, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
- Registration link: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItf-mrrTgpHMb_X3ytzYvojdCHoncw8Ho

After registering, you will receive a confirmation message with information about joining the webinar. For questions, please contact Tria Stallings at the Department of Education at tria.stallings@ed.gov.

Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar: Leveraging USDA Foods to Alleviate Food Supply Shortages, November 4, 2021

National supply chain challenges have resulted in food supply shortages for child nutrition programs. Leveraging available USDA Foods may be one strategy to help fill in the resulting menu gaps. Learn about which USDA Foods are readily available, menu concepts for incorporating those ingredients, and planning for future use of USDA Foods.

- Date and time: Thursday, November 4, 2021, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The School Lunch Tray: October 27, 2021

- SNA Key Areas: 1 – Nutrition, 2 – Operations
- USDA Professional Standards Codes: 1100 – Menu Planning, 2100 – Food Production, 2400 – Food Procurement
- Learning Objective: After the webinar, participants will identify readily available USDA Foods for use on menus as a strategy for alleviating food supply shortages.
- Registration: https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wJbt-5ocQWiTDRDRilbUow

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Schools Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): CDC-RFA-DP22-2203, National Initiative to Advance Health Equity in K-12 Education by Preventing Chronic Disease and Promoting Healthy Behaviors

The CDC Healthy Schools announces the availability of fiscal year 2022 funds under a new five-year cooperative agreement, *CDC-RFA-DP22-2203, National Initiative to Advance Health Equity in K-12 Education by Preventing Chronic Disease and Promoting Healthy Behaviors*. The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to improve the health and well-being of children, adolescents, and school staff in underserved and disproportionately affected communities. CDC Healthy Schools plans to fund four nationally recognized recipients with expertise and experience providing support to CDC-funded state education agencies, districts, schools, out-of-school time providers, and the organization's constituents in the following priority areas:

- Priority 1 – School Health Services: Strategies and activities support access to physical, behavioral, and mental health services for students, with emphasis on students with chronic health conditions.
- Priority 2 – Emotional Well-Being: Strategies and activities support emotional well-being of students and staff.
- Priority 3 – Healthy Out-of-School-Time: Strategies and activities support healthy eating, physical activity, and emotional well-being of students and staff in out-of-school time programs.
- Priority 4 – School Administrator Support and Action for Healthy Schools: Strategies and activities support adoption of Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model policies within districts and schools that address healthy eating, physical activity, and emotional well-being of students and staff.

The application package is available at grants.gov (search for CDC-RFA-DP22-2203). An informational call for applicants will be held on November 1, 2021. The application deadline is **January 10, 2022**.

For more information and questions, visit the CDC Healthy Schools [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) - CDC-RFA-DP22-2203](#) webpage.

School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) Equipment Grants

The 2022 Equipment Grants Applications opened on October 1, 2021. Eligible applicants have the opportunity to win equipment grants for \$20,000 to \$100,000. Applications and photos must be submitted by a school nutrition director. For more information, visit <https://www.schoolnutritionfoundation.org/equipment-grants/>.

Resource Roundup: New CSDE Webpage Section with Resources for Supply Chain Issues in Child Nutrition Programs

The CSDE's Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks webpage has a new section with resources for [supply chain issues](#). Sponsors can find links to resources and recorded webinars that provide suggestions and solutions for meeting the supply chain challenges of the current COVID public health emergency. This section also contains the link to the CSDE's [Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations](#) which sponsors can use throughout the year to report any supply chain issues to the CSDE. The CSDE will continue to add new resources as they become available.



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_27_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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