

## The School Lunch Tray: December 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.

- Congressional Flexibility Extended through February 18, 2022: 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 CSDE Resource: Offer versus Serve (OVS) Guide for School Meals
- USDA Foods Update on Bonus Items
- USDA Foods Cancellation of Applesauce Cups
- New Feature Alert for the USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool
- New England Dairy's Cow Spot Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline January 15, 2022
- Food Corp Accepting Applications
- Resource Roundup: Updated CSDE Meal Pattern Resource Lists for School Nutrition Programs: Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 and Resources for the Preschool Meal Patterns

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



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### **Congressional Flexibility Extended through February 18, 2022: 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 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (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 February 18, 2022.** This provides additional flexibility in planning school breakfast and lunch menus but does not require schools to make any menu changes.

**Note:** Based on this information, school food authorities (SFAs) must submit a waiver to the CSDE to serve flavored low-fat milk **after** February 18, 2021. For more information, refer to the [“How To”](#) section of the CSDE’s Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks webpage.

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 February 18, 2022.**

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 **February 18, 2022**. The 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.

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### **Updated CSDE Resource: Offer versus Serve (OVS) Guide for School Meals**

The CSDE has updated the [Offer versus Serve Guide for School Meals](#) for school year 2021-22. This guide contains detailed information, guidance, and resources for implementing the USDA’s offer OVS provision for school meals for grades K-12 in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP.

Please discard any previous versions of the guide dated prior to December 2021, and replace with the updated versions. For questions about OVS, please contact your [school nutrition consultant](#).

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### USDA Foods Update on Bonus Items

The Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP) is happy to report that all orders for bonus items were successfully submitted to the USDA. Thank you for your cooperation with placing orders so quickly. As a reminder, the products, material codes, and expected delivery dates are below.

Product and Material Code	Delivery Date
<a href="#">Raisin Box, 144 1.33 oz per case</a> 100293	August 22, 2022
<a href="#">Beans, Great Northern</a> 100373	April 22, 2022
<a href="#">Chicken Strips, Unseasoned Cooked</a> 110462	March 22, 2022
<a href="#">Pollock Sticks, 20 2# packages</a> 110850	March 22, 2022

### USDA Foods Cancellation of Applesauce Cups

After multiple unsuccessful solicitations for purchasing Material Code 110361, Applesauce Cups, the three remaining trucks for this school year are canceled. The reasons given by the USDA were vendor constraints and no bids. The following Sales Orders are canceled:

- Sales Order 500068757-100
- Sales Order 500068757-200
- Sales Order 500068757-300

To check if your orders were canceled, run your Requisition Status Report in Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM). Instructions for running the Requisition Status Report in WBSCM can be found in the [WBSCM Training Guide](#) starting on page 87.

There will not be another opportunity to purchase this product for the remainder of this school year. All allocations currently in the HPC warehouse are still available. There may be future opportunities to order similar products through the USDA Foods processing program. Additional information on processing will be communicated during the upcoming [SNACT & USDA Foods Conference and Food Show](#) on January 27, 2021.

Please plan accordingly. Contact the [Food Distribution Team](#) with any questions.

### **New Feature Alert for the USDA's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool**

New features are now available on the USDA's [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#). Prior to the latest release, the PSTTT only allowed users to record training for the current school year, previous year, and the next upcoming year. With the new update, users can now record trainings for past school years. This feature allows users of the tool to keep their previous training histories in one convenient location. Additionally, after receiving many requests, director and manager users can now upload multiple training records for all employees at one time for any school year. Director and manager users can conveniently upload a spreadsheet using the template found within the tool to import multiple training records for all employees.

Please contact [cnpntab@usda.gov](mailto:cnpntab@usda.gov) for further assistance with this new feature. Track your Professional Standards training hours today using USDA's free [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool](#).

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### **New England Dairy's Cow Spot Milk Cooler Giveaway: Deadline January 15, 2022**

The deadline for your next chance to win a free 8 or 12 crate milk cooler through the *Chill Out with Cold Milk* program is quickly approaching. To enter, complete the [milk temperature survey](#) by 11:59 p.m. on **January 15, 2022**, to be entered for a chance to win. One Connecticut school will be selected as a winner from qualified entries. Visit [NewEnglandDairy.com](http://NewEnglandDairy.com) for official rules and more information.

Supplement your food safety program with New England Dairy's [free milk temperature kit](#) (includes bi-metallic stemmed thermometer) and [webinar](#) for 1.0 CEU. Funding for this cooler is provided by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy.

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### **Food Corp Accepting Applications**

Food Corp will be accepting applications for their next class of service members. The application process opens on **January 10, 2022**. For more information, visit the [FoodCorp](#) website.

### **Resource Roundup: Updated CSDE’s Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12**

An updated version of the CSDE’s [Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12](#) (dated December 2021) is available. This document includes resources and websites to assist SFAs with meeting the USDA’s meal patterns and crediting requirements for grades K-12 in the NSLP, SBP, Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP). Resources are organized alphabetically by topic. 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”).

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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\\_12\\_15\\_2021.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_12_15_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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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