

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2021

This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2021. The School Lunch Tray is the CSDE’s weekly e-newsletter for Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) of the NSLP, [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) of the NSLP, and [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\)](#).

Click the links in the “Links” column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and, when applicable, the corresponding Table Talk webinar and transcript.

School Lunch Tray 2021		
Date	Links	Topics
12-22-2021	SLT Newsletter 12-22-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Opening: Education Services Specialist for the Child Nutrition Programs: Application Deadline January 4, 2022 • Reminder: Receipt Invoices in FFAVORS before Holiday Break • Onsite Monitoring Requirements for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Districts with Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Contracts • Seeking School Nutrition Directors to Join Innovation Cohort: Apply by January 4, 2022 • Connecticut Department of Agriculture’s Farm Viability Grant: Due February 14, 2022 • New Feature Alert for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool • Share Your Child Nutrition Program Success Stories and Resources on the Institute of Child Nutrition’s (ICN) Child Nutrition Sharing Site (CNSS) • Dietary Guidelines for Americans: Handouts, Presentations, and Resources • Resource Roundup: Updated CSDE’s Resources for the Preschool Meal Patterns

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12-15-2021	SLT Newsletter 12-15-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
12-08-2021	SLT Newsletter 12-08-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Operational Memorandum No. 03-22: Updated Requirements for Lunch Periods in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) • Reminder: FNS 742 Verification Summary Report due December 15, 2021 • National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant due December 31, 2021 • New CSDE Resource: Crediting Summary Charts for the ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 • Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Handbook, Forms, and Resources for School Year 2021-22 • Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline January 15, 2022 • USDA Training on Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in School Meals Programs, January 25, 2021 • Team Nutrition Seeking Stories to Showcase How Schools are Implementing Breakfast this School Year • Staying in School Safely During COVID-19: An Evening with CT Medical Experts for Parents and Families: December 16, 2021 • Resource Roundup: Overview of Meal Counting and Claiming Process for Connecticut School Nutrition Programs

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12-01-2021	SLT Newsletter 12-01-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Foods Mozzarella String Cheese • USDA Foods from Farm to Plate: Spotlight on Schools • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs • New Team Nutrition Meal Components Web Quiz • Team Nutrition’s Photo Collection for Child Nutrition Programs • U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Releases Updated Advice About Eating Fish • Resource Roundup: USDA’s Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs
11-24-2021	SLT Newsletter 11-24-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now Available: CSDE’s Menu Planning Guide for School Meals for Grades K-12: School Year 2021-22 • Additional Updates to CSDE’s Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP • Updated Lunch Menu Planning Checklists for Grades K-12 • Reminder: USDA Foods Shelf Life on Mozzarella String Cheese • Resource Roundup: Updated Offer versus Serve (OVS) Resources for the NSLP and SBP
11-17-2021	SLT Newsletter 11-17-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 03-22: Updated Requirements for Lunch Periods in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) • Important Reminder: Reviewing the Monthly Claim for Reimbursements • List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated November 12, 2021 • Reminder: Applications Available for the CT Grown for CT Kids Grant and the USDA Farm to School Grant Program • Resource Roundup: Requirements for Production Records in School Nutrition Programs
11-10-2021	SLT Newsletter 11-11-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 02-22: Schedule for Submitting Online Reimbursement Claim Data • CSDE Webinar on November 18, 2021: Direct Certification and the FNS 742 Verification Summary Report • Student Address Collection by the CSDE • Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Recognizing the Dedication and Strength of School Nutrition Heroes: Thursday, November 18, 2021 • New Team Nutrition School Breakfast Web Quiz • Resource Roundup: Menu Planning and Recipes for Child Nutrition Programs

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11-03-2021	SLT Newsletter 11-03-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Foods Shelf Life Reminder on Mozzarella String Cheese • Making Last-Minute Substitutions to your School Meal Menu • CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Program • Updating Grains Ounce Equivalents Crediting in USDA's Child Nutrition Program Meal Pattern Tables • Professional Standards Training Reward Badges • Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Issues Final Guidance for Voluntary Sodium Reduction Targets • Resource Roundup: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP
10-27-2021	SLT Newsletter 10-27-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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10-20-2021	SLT Newsletter 10-20-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
10-13-2021	SLT Newsletter 10-13-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Updating the School Year 2021-2022 Sponsor Application • Reminder: CSDE's Survey for Reporting Supply Chain Issues Impacting Operations • Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2021-22 • Buy American Request for Information (RFI) Responses due November 2, 2021 • Team Nutrition Webinar Recording Available: Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) • USDA Foods from Farm to Plate e-Letters • New USDA Tool: Shop Simple with MyPlate • Resource Roundup: Instructions for Submitting the Financial Report for School Nutrition Programs (Due October 31, 2021)

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10-06-2021	SLT Newsletter 10-06-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
09-29-2021	SLT Newsletter 09-29-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Verification Begins October 1, 2021 • Reminder: Implementation of Grain Ounce Equivalents in the Preschool Meal Patterns Begins October 1, 2021 • Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 for School Year 2021-22 • USDA Nationwide COVID-19 Waivers for School Year 2021-22 • USDA Foods Update: HPC Deliveries • USDA Foods Update: Tuna Cancellations, Material Code 100195 • CSDE Memo to Superintendents: Rising Costs for School Child Nutrition Programs Resources for Supply Chain Challenges • AP, PSAT, and SAT Coordinator's Access to Student Eligibility Data • National School Lunch Week: October 11-15, 2021 • Reminder: CT Grown for CT Kids Week is October 4-8, 2021 • October is National Farm to School Month • Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar: Beans, Peas, and Lentils (Pulses) Legumes: Innovative Ways to Prepare and Serve Pulses: October 7, 2021 • Resource Roundup: CSDE's Important Points for Completing Verification

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09-22-2021	SLT Newsletter 09-22-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Comparison Chart for the Milk Component for Grades K-12 and Preschoolers in the School Nutrition Programs • Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs • Turnip the Beet! on Summer Meals • 5 Ways to Add Milk to Your Back-to-School Menus • Institute of Child Nutrition Training Opportunity: Tools and Strategies for Emergency Preparedness in Schools • Resource Roundup: CSDE’s Calendar for Completing Verification
09-15-2021	SLT Newsletter 09-15-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
09-08-2021	SLT Newsletter 09-08-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Preschool Meal Patterns for School Year 2021-22 • Updated Comparison Charts for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 and Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP • Operational Memorandum No. 09-2021: School Meals Emergency Operating Costs Reimbursement Program • Reminder: Required Survey for SFAs: Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program • New Back-to-School Resources from Team Nutrition • USDA Recorded Webinar Available: Planning for a Dynamic School Environment • Guidance for Meal Service Flexibilities for School Year 2021-22 • Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Crediting Summary Charts for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs

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09-01-2021	SLT Newsletter 09-01-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Information Session about Operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22, Thursday, September 2, 2021 • Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Vaccinations for Covered Workers in Schools • USDA Foods Reminder for School Year 2021-22 Orders • Required Survey for SFAs: Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program • School Nutrition Association of Connecticut's (SNACT) 71st Conference: Planting Seeds for the Future: Staying out of the weeds, October 13-15, 2021 • New USDA Resource: Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast Grades Kindergarten Through 12 (K-12) • USDA Team Nutrition's Back-to-School Meal Planning Tips • Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) New iBites Digest Digital Quarterly Newsletter • Updated Dietary Guidelines for Americans Toolkit Now Available • Resource Roundup: Indirect Cost Guidance
08-25-2021	SLT Newsletter 08-25-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Disaster Preparedness for School Food Service Professionals • Recording of Procurement Strategies for School Year 2021-22: Webinar for School Food Authorities • Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) STAR Webinar: Preparing to Pivot with a Food Safety Focus, August 26, 2021 • ICN's STAR Two-part Webinar Series: Back to School: Tools and Strategies to Address Supply Chain Challenges, September 1 and 2, 2021 • Adopt a Cow Education Program: Deadline September 15, 2021 • Chill Out with Cold Milk Resources and Cooler Giveaway: Deadline September 30, 2021 • Resource Roundup: Information Session about Operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22, Thursday, September 2, 2021

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08-18-2021	SLT Newsletter 08-18-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSDE Welcomes New Staff Member for the Child Nutrition Programs Unit • Emergency Operating Costs Reimbursement Program for School Nutrition Programs: Information Session on Thursday, August 19, 2021: • New Sample Press Release and Household Letter for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Sponsors Opting to Implement the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22 • Updated Verification Forms for School Year 2021-22 • Kick off Connecticut Farm-to-Chef Week (August 29 – September 4, 2021) on August 28 • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Virtual Training Sessions • ICN’s Back-to-School Toolbox • Resource Roundup: Resource Roundup: CSDE Equipment Purchase Prior Approval Process for School Food Authorities
08-11-2021	SLT Newsletter 08-11-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated CSDE Civil Rights PowerPoint Presentation • USDA Foods Update on Direct Delivery Items • Webinar: Procurement Strategies for School Year 2021-22: A Webinar for School Food Authorities, August 13, 2021 • Webinar: Planning for a Dynamic School Environment: Guidance for Meal Service Flexibilities for SY 2021-22, August 26, 2021 • New Professional Standards Resources Available from Team Nutrition • Food Allergy Research & Education’s (FARE) Back-to-School Resource Hub • Resource Roundup: New CSDE Resource: Crediting Summary Charts for the Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs

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08-04-2021	SLT Newsletter 08-04-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Comparison Chart: Operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for School Food Authorities in School Year 2021-22 through June 30, 2022 • USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update • Request for Information: Buy American • American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA) Webinar: Stronger with School Meals: • Back-to-School Resources from USDA’s Team Nutrition, Thursday, August 12, 2021 • Team Nutrition Webinar: Master the Professional Standards Training Tracking Tool (PSTTT), August 25, 2021 • Resource Roundup: Guidance for Notifying Parents of a Child's Eligibility for Free or Reduced-price Meals
07-28-2021	SLT Newsletter 07-28-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Memo SP 16-2021 and CACFP 14-2021: Previously Issued Questions and Answers Relating to Operation of the Child Nutrition Programs: Updated for School Year 2021-2022 • P-EBT Guidance for New Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Districts • Public School Information System (PSIS) Monthly Attendance Data for 2020-21 is Now Closed • Summer Meals Promotional Materials Available from End Hunger Connecticut! Order Deadline: July 28, 2021 • Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar: Back to School: Completing Food • Production Records the Best Way: Thursday, July 29, 2021 • Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline August 27, 2021 • 5 Ways to Add Fruits to Your Back-To-School Menus • Back to School Water Safety • Resource Roundup: Building Success: What You Need to Know about Processing Applications

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07-21-2021	SLT Newsletter 07-21-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison Chart: Operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for School Food Authorities in School Year 2021-22 through June 30, 2022 • USDA Foods Update on Strawberry Cups (Strawberries, Frozen, Diced, Single Serve, 4.5 oz), Material Code 100256 for School Year 2021-22 • Connecticut Department of Agriculture receives 2021 Farm to School Grant • 2019 Farm to School Census Results and Website Now Available • Webinar on August 5, 2021: Farm to School: Fresh Ideas for Preparing Fall Fruits and Vegetables • Now Available: USDA’s “How to Maximize the Exhibit A Grains Tool” Webinar Captioned in Spanish • Team Nutrition’s Electronic Newsletters for School Nutrition Programs • New Feature Alert for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool • Update to Child Nutrition Database Release 24 • Resource Roundup: USDA’s Back to School Webpage
07-14-2021	SLT Newsletter 07-14-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on HPC Contract Extension and Amendment • Resource Roundup: Using Taglines in the Child Nutrition Programs
07-07-2021	SLT Newsletter 07-07-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Outreach and Evaluation for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors • Reminder: Use of the Emergency Noncompetitive Proposal Procurement Method • New USDA Resource: Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals for Grades K-12 • Resource Roundup: Considerations for Implementing Web-based Applications
06-30-2021	SLT Newsletter 07-30-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 06-21: Annual Application Process for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) • CEP Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) • Overview of Outreach and Evaluation for Connecticut Summer Meals • Accessing Nutrient, Allergen, and Ingredient information for USDA Foods in Schools: Webinar on August 5, 2021 • Food Allergy Research & Education’s (FARE) New Substitutions Hub • Farm to School Topic Area added to the Institute of Child Nutrition’s (ICN) Child Nutrition Sharing Site • Resource Roundup: USDA’s Eligibility Manual for School Meals

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06-23-2021	SLT Newsletter 06-23-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 for School Year 2021-22 • Required Crediting Documentation for Commercial Processed Food Products • Required Crediting Documentation for Foods Made on Site • Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar on Thursday, June 24, 2021: Strategies for Utilizing Standardized Recipes • Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition Webinar on Thursday, July 1, 2021: Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens • Help is Here: The American Rescue Plan Delivers Major Tax Relief for Families with Children • Resource Roundup: Connecticut Farm to School Resources
06-16-2021	SLT Newsletter 06-16-2021 Table Talk Webinar 06-16-2021 Table Talk Transcript 06-16-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Memorandum No. 05-21: Payment of Fiscal Year 2020-21 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program • Reminder: School Year 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement due July 1, 2021 • Reminder: Full-service Interschool Agreements for School Year 2021-22 due July 1, 2021 • COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #98: Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast • USDA Foods Reminder: Receipt Final Deliveries of for School Year 2021 in FFAVORS • Reconciliation of USDA Foods by School Food Authorities (SFAs) Updating Existing Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Site Applications in the • Connecticut Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System): Summer 2021: Due June 25, 2021 • Request to Extend the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) into the Summer Months (July and August): Due June 25, 2021 • Resource Roundup: Steps for Updating Existing Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Site Applications in the CNP Online System: Summer 2021

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06-09-2021	SLT Newsletter June 9, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021-22 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications due June 21, 2021 • Coming Soon: Nutrition, Allergen, and Ingredient Information for USDA Foods in Schools • Where to Find USDA Foods Product Information • Resource Roundup: USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Resources
06-02-2021	SLT Newsletter 06-02-2021 Table Talk Webinar 06-02-2021 Table Talk Transcript 06-02-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments due June 30, 2021 • Motivate Kids and Families with Team Nutrition's Summer Activities • New England Dairy's Resources for National Dairy Month in June • Reminder: Required Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Reporting Due June 15, 2021 • Resource Roundup: CSDE's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Data Collection Guidance for School-level Eligibility
05-26-2021	SLT Newsletter May 26, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for June 2021 • Reminder: School Year 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement Due July 1, 2021 • USDA Foods Update • USDA Memo SP 11-2021, CACFP 10-2021 and SFSP 06-2021: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs • USDA Memo SP 12-2021: Department of Education Information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program • Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) S.T.A.R. Webinar: Webinar on Thursday, May 27, 2021: Strategies for School Nutrition Marketing Plans Success • iLearn: ICN's eLearning Portal • Celebrate MyPlate's 10th Birthday • Resource Roundup: Acronyms and Abbreviations for School Nutrition Programs

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05-19-2021	SLT Newsletter 05-19-2021 Table Talk Webinar 05-19-2021 Table Talk Transcript 05-19-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments due June 30, 2021 • End Hunger Connecticut! Summer Meals Outreach Material Order Form for Summer 2021 • Dedication, innovation, and collaboration for school meals in Connecticut: A mixed-methods analysis of school meals in Connecticut during COVID-19 • Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s Emergency Broadband Benefit Program • Resource Roundup: Determining Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Milk in School Nutrition Programs
05-12-2021	SLT Newsletter 05-12-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Requests for Excess USDA Foods Orders with April 30th Deadline • USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for Current School Year • Monthly Student Attendance Data and Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Benefits • CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for June 2021 • Now Available: USDA Child Nutrition Database Release 24 • Free USDA Resources for Team Nutrition Schools • Join Put Local on Your Tray for School Year 2021-22 • Webinar from the Center for Environmental Health (CEH): Ditching Disposables: A Toolkit for Healthier Foodware in K-12 Schools (May 25, 2021) • Resource Roundup: Disclosure Release Request for Free or Reduced Eligibility Status of Students in the School Nutrition Programs
05-05-2021	SLT Newsletter 05-05-2021 Table Talk Webinar 05-05-2021 Table Talk Transcript 05-05-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Webpage: Safely Distributing School Meals during COVID-19 • USDA Foods Delivery Schedules and Reminder to Submit Request to Donate USDA Foods Form • Input Requested for American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) Education Funding • Instructions for Submitting the 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2021 • New CSDE Webpage: Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks Webpage • Resource Roundup: Navigating the CSDE's New Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks Webpage

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04-28-2021	SLT Newsletter 04-28-2021 Table Talk Webinar 04-28-2021 Table Talk Transcript 04-28-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Change for April 29 Table Talk: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. • Updated Resources for Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) • Governor Lamont Declares May 7, 2021, Connecticut School Nutrition Hero Day • Revised Authorized Signatures Change Form and Instructions • Summer Enrichment Program Applications Now Open: April 26, 2021 • Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education and Research Act of 2021 (FASTER Act) • CSDE Child Nutrition Unit’s School Lunch Tray Table Talk for May 2021 • RecycleCT Announces New Grant Opportunity: Due June 30, 2021 • Resource Roundup: USDA’s New Nationwide Waivers for Child Nutrition Programs
04-21-2021	SLT Newsletter 04-21-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Healthy Food Certification Participation for School Year 2020-21 • Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2021-22 • USDA Foods Delivery Schedules and Reminder on Procedure Change to Order Excess USDA Foods • Institute of Child Nutrition’s (ICN) Monthly STAR Webinar Series • ICN’s STAR Webinar for Thursday, April 29, 2021: Strategies for Motivating and Celebrating School Nutrition Professionals’ Achievements • Reminder: No Table Talk on April 22 • Resource Roundup: CSDE’s Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs Webpage
04-14-2021	SLT Newsletter 04-14-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excess USDA Foods for April 2021 • April’s List of Available USDA Foods: Orders due Friday, April 30, 2021 • Connecticut Farm to School Summit: April 28, 2021 • New England Dairy’s Chill Out with Cold Milk Webinar (May 11, 2021) and Maximize Your Milk Handout • Reminder: No Table Talk This Week • Resource Roundup: Bookmark the CSDE’s Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs Webpage

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04-07-2021	SLT Newsletter 04-07-2021 Table Talk Webinar 04-07-2021 Table Talk Transcript 04-07-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of Acceptable Foods and Beverages: Updated April 5, 2021 Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) and Training Resources Additional SNAP Benefits Available in April through the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-building Challenge Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review USDA Report: Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2019 Resource Roundup: Overcoming Challenges and Feeding Kids during a Pandemic
03-31-2021	SLT Newsletter 03-21-2021 Table Talk Webinar 03-21-2021 Table Talk Transcript 03-21-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Memorandum No. 04-21: Annual Notification Requirement for all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP): Due June 15, 2021: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) CSDE's Updated School Wellness Policies Webpage: Steps and Resources for Completing the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment CSDE's LSWP Triennial Assessment Webinars: April 20, 2021, and April 27, 2021 Revised CSDE Resources: Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Connecticut Public Schools CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk Webinars for April 2021 Team Nutrition's New Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition New Slide Presentations Highlighting Team Nutrition Resources New Report Features Connecticut's Attendance Data for School Year 2020-21: Chronic Absence Rates Alarming High Grant Opportunities from Albertsons Companies Foundation: Nourishing Neighbors Program to Support the Child Nutrition Programs (Due April 12, 2021) Grant Opportunities from USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (Due May 4, 2021) Resource Roundup: CEP Data Collection Guidance for School-level Eligibility

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Date	Links	Topics
03-24-2021	SLT Newsletter 03-24-2021 Table Talk Webinar 03-24-2021 Table Talk Transcript 03-24-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Foods Reminder: Notifying Vendors about Menu Changes as Students Return to In-person Learning • USDA Foods Update: Shredded White Cheddar Cheese, Material Code 10002 • Pandemic Electronic Benefits (P-EBT) for Children in Schools • Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline is April 23, 2021 • Free Dairy Resources Available for April • Resource Roundup: USDA-approved State P-EBT Plans for School Year 2020-21
03-17-2021	SLT Newsletter 03-17-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank You to all Child Nutrition Programs: One-year Anniversary of Connecticut Classes Cancelled due to COVID-19 • Cancelled: Table Talk for Thursday, March 18, 2021
03-10-2021	SLT Newsletter 03-10-2021 Table Talk Webinar 03-10-2021 Table Talk Transcript 03-10-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Extends Free Meals to Children through Summer 2021 due to Pandemic • Distribution of Meals during Extended School Breaks • Operational Memorandum No. 02-21: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2021-22 • Operational Memorandum No. 03-21: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2021-22 • Final Reminder: USDA Foods Ordering Deadline is March 12, 2021 • Excess USDA Foods for March 2021 • March's List of Available USDA Foods: Orders due Wednesday, March 17, 2021 • New Resource from the Connecticut WIC Program: Maximizing Your WIC and SNAP Benefits • National Nutrition Month: March 2021 • Hunger Free America's Summer Associate Program 2021 • Resource Roundup: Considerations for Providing Meal Components in Bulk Sizes at Non-congregate Meal Service Sites

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2021

School Lunch Tray 2021		
Date	Links	Topics
03-03-2021	SLT Newsletter 03-03-021 Table Talk Webinar 03-03-2021 Table Talk Transcript 03-03-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach, Grow, and Learn with FoodCorps: Now Accepting Applications • USDA Foods Update on Usage • USDA Foods Update on HPC • USDA Foods Ordering Reminder: Deadline to Place Orders is March 12, 2021 • Resources for Menu Planning Success: Food Buying Guide and Standardized Recipes • Updates for Healthy Food Certification (HFC): School Year 2020-21 and School Year 2021-22 • Updated Guidance: Using ESSER I & II Funds for Revenue Loss Related to Food Service • Resource Roundup: Meal Counting and Claiming for School Nutrition Programs
02-24-2021	SLT Newsletter 02-24-2021 Table Talk Webinar 02-24-2021 Table Talk Transcript 02-24-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: Professional Standards Requirements for School Nutrition Programs • COVID-19 Emergency School Meal Delivery Fund • CSDE Webinar Series for Parents and Families on Supporting Children's Well-Being and Learning during COVID-19 • CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk for March 2021 • Additional Processors for USDA Foods Ordering • Reminder: Donating Excess USDA Foods • Resource Roundup: Ordering and Managing USDA Foods for School Nutrition Programs
02-17-2021	SLT Newsletter 02-17-2021 Table Talk Webinar 02-17-2021 Table Talk Transcript 02-17-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Staff Member Joins the CSDE's Child Nutrition Team • USDA Foods Reminder: June 30 Sweeps at Processors • Reminder: Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Must Complete Information for the USDA Nationwide Waivers in the CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System): Deadline February 26, 2021 • Updates to Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) • Resource Roundup: National School Breakfast Week, March 8-12 2021

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2021

School Lunch Tray 2021		
Date	Links	Topics
02-10-2021	SLT Newsletter 02-10-2021 Table Talk Webinar 02-10-2021 Table Talk Transcript 02-10-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Foods Update on Cheese, Cheddar, Yellow, Sliced, Chilled, Material Code 111110 • USDA Foods Update on String Cheese, Material Code 110396 • USDA Foods Cancellation of Turkey Breasts and Turkey Roasts • Excess USDA Foods for February 2021 • February's List of Available USDA Foods: Orders due Wednesday, February 17, 2021 • School Year (SY) 2022 USDA Foods catalog Opens Today, Wednesday, February 10, 2021, in Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM): Order Deadline is March 12, 2021 • Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Must Complete USDA Nationwide Waivers in the CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System) • Resource Roundup: Guidance for the USDA Waivers for Child Nutrition Programs
02-03-2021	SLT Newsletter 02-03-2021 Table Talk Webinar 02-03-2021 Table Talk Transcript 02-03-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecticut Department of Public Health Guidance for School Nutrition Programs • Free Cloth Mask Order Form • Connecticut Food Bank and Foodshare Officially Unite • National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Webinars: Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness • Application for Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs during School Year 2020-21 • Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 for School Year 2020-21 • Updated Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12 • Reminder: Meeting the Dietary Specifications for the NSLP and SBP • Updated CSDE Resource List: Resources for the School Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 • Resource Roundup: NSLP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2021

School Lunch Tray 2021		
Date	Links	Topics
01-27-2021	SLT Newsletter 01-27-2021 Table Talk Webinar 01-27-2021 Table Talk Transcript 01-27-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's School Lunch Tray Table Talk Webinars: February 2021 New CSDE Webpage: School Lunch Tray and Table Talk USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Procedures for School Year (SY) 2021-2022 USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Cancellation Reminder Food Safety Guidelines for Distributing Meals for Consumption At Home
01-20-2021	SLT Newsletter 01-20-2021 Table Talk Webinar 01-20-2021 Table Talk Transcript 01-20-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Foods Update: Shredded Pepper Jack Cheese Material Code 111220 Updated CSDE Form and Instructions: Medical Statement for Meal Modifications in School Nutrition Programs Updated Production Record Forms for School Nutrition Programs
01-13-2021	SLT Newsletter 01-13-2021 Table Talk Webinar 01-13-2021 Table Talk Transcript 01-13-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA Foods Update: New Process for Ordering Excess USDA Foods for the Current School Year (SY 21) Web-Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Log-in Information Put Local on Your Tray's "ROOTing for Winter" Campaign for 2020-21 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Webinar on January 26, 2021: The Important Contribution of School Nutrition Programs to Student Mental Health Report from the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC): April 2020: A Snapshot of Participation During COVID-19

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2021

School Lunch Tray 2021		
Date	Links	Topics
01-06-2021	SLT Newsletter 01-06-2021 Table Talk Webinar 01-06-2021 Table Talk Transcript 01-06-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: CSDE Child Nutrition Unit's New School Lunch Tray Table Talk • Reminder: USDA Foods Webinar on Friday, January 8, 2021 • USDA Foods Update on Refrigerated Cheeses: Please help the FDP transfer unused products to other districts • Financial Report for School Year 2020-21 for Reporting Period of 2019-20: Due January 31, 2021 • Reminder: Meal Distribution during District Changes to Learning Models • Connecting Connecticut: SNACT Virtual Conference, Thursday January 14, 2021 • Release of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 • USDA's New MyPlate Website and Resources • New User-requested features available on Team Nutrition's Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT) • New USDA Training Videos: Mealtimes with Toddlers in the CACFP

Summary of School Lunch Tray Topics for 2021



For more information, visit the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and 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/SLT/Summary_SLT_Topics.pdf

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