

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

0000:00:00.000 --> 00:00:01.250

Yearwood, Shannon

Hi everyone, I'm sorry.

00:00:02.130 --> 00:00:02.800

Yearwood, Shannon

A little 3rd.

00:00:03.740 --> 00:00:04.520

Yearwood, Shannon

Drinking from a

00:00:05.380 --> 00:00:35.440

Yearwood, Shannon

please. Welcome to the Department of Education 's School Lunch Tray Table Talk. I am recording this and transcribing it so that we are able to make it available to you at later on, but I I wanted to start with this background because I think we all feel this way, these days. This has been a very difficult few years, so will my team is much more professional and has the official backgrounds on I decided to go with the drinking from a fire hose so please enjoy know it.

00:00:35.490 --> 00:00:54.190

Yearwood, Shannon

Your potable water for today, so welcome to our School Lunch Tray. We have kicked off this season and we with our new format for the School Lunch Tray and our Table Talk series, which will be every other week and we will be doubling. Some other trainings in there as we get closer to.

00:00:54.240 --> 00:00:56.480

Yearwood, Shannon

Do it uh using already have a question.

00:01:00.590 --> 00:01:05.240

Yearwood, Shannon

I was like Oh my goodness our first questions already from our team alright so we

00:01:07.540 --> 00:01:36.080

Yearwood, Shannon

alright if you have a question otherwise so I do want to kick off with uh just mentioning a few things that are outside of the School Lunch Trays from the last 2 rounds and as you know, we have reformatted the school lunch traits to be action. Items those are things we really need you to pay attention to and to act on as soon as possible and absolutely by the deadline listed. We have the good. The need to know items and those are that's information that you are responsible for knowing as sponsors of these programs.

00:01:36.270 --> 00:02:06.780

Yearwood, Shannon

And then we have the goods now information, which is going to help support you in your program operations. Oftentimes, they're different educational opportunities funding opportunities and then

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

of course, we have our resource round up so that we can help you find the information you need to be able to run your programs without having to recreate the wheel, so I wanted to mention that our good friends at the school Nutrition Association of Connecticut has just sent out a survey that is in preparation.

00:02:06.860 --> 00:02:37.530

Yearwood, Shannon

For potential legislation that maybe proposed this state legislative legislative session, which just started and that is around the use of polystyrene and that's otherwise known as Styrofoam in districts. We really need you to fill this out and let us know what your experiences have been we know some of you have already moved forward with a polystyrene tray foam fam. Whether that's at the local level. Whether it's at the Board of Education level, so you have different experiences than those who have made.

00:02:37.650 --> 00:02:47.720

Yearwood, Shannon

Prep prepared for it as those discussions have happened in the past, but please pay attention to that survey. I I'm going to pop that link into the chat as well so that you'll have that.

00:02:48.510 --> 00:02:50.430

Yearwood, Shannon

The other thing is that your

00:02:52.630 --> 00:03:19.090

Yearwood, Shannon

your hands up. If we if they your your hands. Are we're not enabling those so if you have any questions certainly enter those into the chat. We do have that survey link that we include in every School Lunch Tray, so if you wake up at 3:00 in the morning and have a question that's just burning you wanna ask us, but you don't wanna wait enter it and then we will do our best to cover that during the table talks or potentially provide some additional resources for you.

00:03:19.580 --> 00:03:49.390

Yearwood, Shannon

Uhm I do wanna also mention we are aware that there have been some disruptions in the direct certification runs in the last few weeks, so at the Department of Education and through our other state agencies. We have been migrating to a different more secure platform, which has created some interface challenges with all of our data exchanges, so we are well aware of the problem. We are working on it, so they we have been able to run those directs or matches, but they're a little bit later so.

00:03:49.680 --> 00:04:21.470

Yearwood, Shannon

Yes, so don't you may not get them for the next couple weeks on exactly Wednesday. But we are very committed to trying to get that out to you weekly so look this week that did run last night so we know today is kind of late for that. But certainly, look at those and make sure that you're making those matches weekly so with that. I am just delighted as always to be joined by team awesome and

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

so I will hand it off to our first presenter who's going to be Monica, who will help us go through our items on the School Lunch Tray.

00:04:22.970 --> 00:04:45.810

Pacheco, Monica

Hi good afternoon, everyone so we are at that time of the year where we are ordering for our next school year so as of this morning. The ordering has started for school year 2223 for USDA boots. Please note that we will be closing the catalog. We will be stopping orders as of March 10th, so you have plenty of time.

00:04:47.560 --> 00:05:02.450

Pacheco, Monica

We have a little different here this year. So instead of all the information in the School Lunch Tray. You'll see, there are 2 important links the first is for the instructions, which were about to go over and also for the worksheets so if Susan if you can click on the instructions, please.

00:05:03.380 --> 00:05:29.050

Pacheco, Monica

Ok, so this is right here for you with all the information that you need to place your orders. We always want to start with if you are new and you are not sure what's going on here or if you had just not had access to web supply for your district yet. Please reach out to us as soon as possible or linked to myself, and Allison are right there, and we'll be happy to get you set up and get you started and certainly guide you along at this is something that's new to you.

00:05:29.930 --> 00:05:48.030

Pacheco, Monica

I want to explain a little bit about our entitlement situation that we have this year. We are going to be starting off using 1819 lunch counts again, which we've been doing for the last couple years because of the pandemic to estimate your entitlement for your purchases coming up here for 2223.

00:05:48.880 --> 00:05:55.650

Pacheco, Monica

But we do wanna make an important note to which some of you are very savvy directors have already noticed and asked some questions about.

00:05:56.800 --> 00:06:03.030

Pacheco, Monica

Even though we're using 1819 lunch counts, which we also did last year, your entitlement levels are different than last year.

00:06:04.180 --> 00:06:33.000

Pacheco, Monica

Nationally, there is a per mil rate that is issued every year and that comes again out from the from USDA and that is utilized to calculate entitlement, but then at the state level adjustments are made every year last year. We were on a sitting on an entitlement balance. We had quite a balance because of the pandemic. A lot of cancelled orders and things so. The per meal rate for Connecticut was actually higher and you saw that.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:06:33.750 --> 00:06:34.340

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm.

00:06:35.500 --> 00:07:00.770

Pacheco, Monica

In the in in the amount of the gentleman you had last year. Now, for this ordering period, which we just opened were using those seen 1819 meal counts. But you're going to see your entitlement is lower. That is because due to the high pricing that has occurred, and Lord knows. We've all seen it on that also occurred with USDA foods. We have a negative balance right now here in Connecticut, so entitlement is.

00:07:01.470 --> 00:07:07.190

Pacheco, Monica

In the negative balance, therefore, it's decreasing our per meal rate at the moment, so you will see a lower number.

00:07:07.960 --> 00:07:19.200

Pacheco, Monica

Do you know that UM and we've referenced this a few times that eventually USDA is going to make adjustments to reflect the 2122.

00:07:19.790 --> 00:07:48.490

Pacheco, Monica

Meal counts for entitlement for this next year, but we don't know when that's going to happen how that's gonna happen. I don't think USDA. Quite knows what it's going to look like yet as we are. You know it. Once again in uncharted territories, so do you know when those adjustments are made, we will notify you as soon as we were notified and and we'll certainly have a game plan on what to do with that point, depending on what it does to the entitlement so again, you will see lower entitlement dollars, then you would have last year, using those same meal paths.

00:07:49.540 --> 00:07:50.790

Pacheco, Monica

OK thanks Susan if you could.

00:07:51.400 --> 00:08:05.940

Pacheco, Monica

Progress just a little bit or ordering threshold of this year is going to be 100% because we are not sure what pricing is going to still do so. I'm in the past. I know we usually say you can order a little over 105 110. But this year, we're going to hold it at 100%.

00:08:07.190 --> 00:08:20.240

Pacheco, Monica

And what you'll need to do first now is run your entitlement bonus summary report and that's going to show you those dollars that we're talking about and then that will give you an idea of where we're going to spend our money so if we can move again, please.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:08:24.410 --> 00:08:53.990

Pacheco, Monica

OK, so this is just a snip to show you how come and make sure to that. You check your USDA. DoD allocations if you're participating in that we've also notified you a few times on this, but make sure before you start ordering that that DoD amount is what you want for next year again. We rolled it over from last year. Some adjustments have been made throughout the year so make sure you double check that any adjustments that are needed. You can contact Allison and if you need to add sites or if you're new all the contact information is there.

00:08:54.280 --> 00:08:54.590

Pacheco, Monica

Well.

00:08:55.820 --> 00:08:59.160

Pacheco, Monica

So next we're going to roll down to where we're going to go into.

00:09:00.730 --> 00:09:02.270

Pacheco, Monica

The worksheets briefly.

00:09:03.880 --> 00:09:14.620

Pacheco, Monica

Thinking of actually if you would hold on here first Susan. Thank you just a couple quick changes to the catalog you will see that we have changed the mozzarella cheese shredded from that.

00:09:15.840 --> 00:09:24.140

Pacheco, Monica

1034 material code to the 21 material code so that's a switch and we've also added a new item. The 8-piece oven roast chicken.

00:09:24.980 --> 00:09:30.110

Pacheco, Monica

So next we have the worksheet so if you could click into that Susan Please, they have changed.

00:09:31.160 --> 00:09:57.950

Pacheco, Monica

Allison and Sybil have worked really hard to kind of update and change how we're doing these a little bit to make them more user friendly. So, I know I'm I'm amazed at you know how they're working now. I think you're going to find them very helpful, so but first and foremost the first tab on the bottom if you see, there is the instruction, so please go through those instructions. It's going to walk you right through how to utilize the worksheets basically what you're going to do is you're going to put your entitlement.

00:09:58.630 --> 00:10:04.430

Pacheco, Monica

Balance and then your DoD allocation in that and if you would Click to the processing page.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:10:05.210 --> 00:10:06.090

Pacheco, Monica

Show you that.

00:10:07.390 --> 00:10:26.600

Pacheco, Monica

Right up top, there, you come you want to enter that the total entitlement dollars and then they were total allocated for DoD or the produce pilot. There's only a very select few who are doing the produce pilot that will leave you. The remaining dollars available and you see, there's a line for processing orders, so on. This sheet if you want to do processing. You would put pounds that you were going to be.

00:10:27.120 --> 00:10:35.240

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm ordering for the different products and that will tally that for you so that you could see what you're running balances.

00:10:35.850 --> 00:10:39.250

Pacheco, Monica

And then if you click on the direct delivery sheet.

00:10:41.390 --> 00:11:12.290

Pacheco, Monica

This carries over your information and then also let you order your direct delivery items. So here you can put in the number of cases. You want of the various items that are available again. It'll give you your running total and your remaining entitlement and you can toggle back and forth between the 2 pages to you know finesse and and fine tune. All your orders and figure out what you need, and I think there's going to be a great tool to help you again plan your orders before you are ready to go into web supply in actually.

00:11:12.340 --> 00:11:13.350

Pacheco, Monica

Place those orders.

00:11:14.870 --> 00:11:22.360

Pacheco, Monica

And then if we can go back up to the instructions. The main instructions. Susan, I think I'm all set there.

00:11:25.600 --> 00:11:27.660

Pacheco, Monica

Didn't keep scrolling down a little bit please.

00:11:30.680 --> 00:11:52.170

Pacheco, Monica

Ok, if you want to stop right here, so for your direct delivery items. You are going to want to choose HPC. Harper provision company as your destination as you're familiar with that dropdown that

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

comes on the last page. And for your further processing items. We have updated the business part business partner identification number of EP ID for your approved processors and.

00:11:52.670 --> 00:12:06.780

Pacheco, Monica

Uh we are always updating that so please make sure you use this current one, the link is right here for you and don't use last year's cause those numbers may not be right, and we actually have made some changes so please make sure you use the right one.

00:12:08.370 --> 00:12:21.640

Pacheco, Monica

And I think that's a whole lot of information in a nutshell. You'll notice. We've linked our training guide there, so if you're a little rusty on how to place these orders. That's always available and it takes you step by step and you know.

00:12:22.420 --> 00:12:45.440

Pacheco, Monica

Screen by screen shot up how to place those orders, so you know just give yourself some quiet time I think you know this can get overwhelming when it's when you're distracted and and all that so you know make sure that you take some quiet time so to speak to get this order is placed and you know as always reach out to Allison and myself. We're happy to help you and happy ordering I think we'll have a great year.

00:12:47.620 --> 00:12:51.580

Pacheco, Monica

And I'm ready to turn it on over I think 2.

00:12:52.830 --> 00:12:53.520

Pacheco, Monica

Cinderella.

00:13:00.550 --> 00:13:00.900

Brown, Fionnuala

No.

00:13:02.410 --> 00:13:32.020

Brown, Fionnuala

Alright Thanks Monica so I'm going to briefly talk about operational memorandum 04222022, which is the interschool agreements. So, this goes out every year and we are providing you with the forms. You need to utilize if you enter into interschool agreements. There're 2 types of interschool agreements. You have the full service agreement and the recipient site.

00:13:32.340 --> 00:13:46.890

Brown, Fionnuala

Most of our sponsors if you have taken on a school and you're offering the meals and you want to claim those meals. You'll be entering into the full service interschool agreement. It's important that you come.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:13:47.860 --> 00:14:10.340

Brown, Fionnuala

Meet the deadlines because Healthy Food Certification payment is tied to that, so if it is a school that is eligible to also certify for Healthy Food Certification and public school. You'll need to submit that before July first in order to be eligible for the payment if you want to just quickly click into the.

00:14:12.680 --> 00:14:15.780

Brown, Fionnuala

Yeah, click into either the operational memorandum would be great.

00:14:18.540 --> 00:14:47.890

Brown, Fionnuala

One thing I wanted to point out is that this is a template right so there's you can delete areas. Specifically, Healthy Food Certification. If that does not pertain to your situation. If you're offering meals to a private school. That doesn't. It's not eligible then you can delete that whole section. Section 3, but this agreement covers the responsibilities of the sponsor and then outlines what the recipient school would need to comply with.

00:14:48.180 --> 00:15:18.070

Brown, Fionnuala

Or to meet those regulations. This is these are the instructions here. The operational memorandum goes over and again. I'm just if you scroll down going to point out the due dates. We you're required to submit it before July first in order to be eligible for Healthy Food Certification payments for that recipient sites cool so if you are looking to take on a school for next year. You want to be sure you meet that deadline. Sometimes there's reconfigurations and we have some.

00:15:18.700 --> 00:15:38.890

Brown, Fionnuala

Sites or sponsors that close and are going under another sponsor and so again in order to meet the requirement. You have to have that interschool agreement submitted by July first Glenda Stuckey has retired so you'll see that on the top of this sheet. You'll be sending everything to come.

00:15:40.000 --> 00:15:41.100

Brown, Fionnuala

Can you scroll up well?

00:15:50.510 --> 00:15:52.000

Brown, Fionnuala

Whereas at the bottom of the sheet.

00:15:51.550 --> 00:15:56.410

Fiore, Susan

I don't think it's on the memo Fionnuala. It's Oh yeah, it's on the forms.

00:15:54.050 --> 00:15:55.200

Brown, Fionnuala

Interesting.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:15:57.160 --> 00:16:28.220

Brown, Fionnuala

OK and so Sean Fogarty. I believe is receiving those but if you have any questions regarding your interschool agreement. You can call me. So, I'd be happy to answer any questions about that. But these agreements are important because again it outlines. Even USDA foods and how that is managed if you are taking on a site under your sponsorship to serve and claim meals. We do have the vended interschool agreement, which not many.

00:16:28.920 --> 00:16:41.610

Brown, Fionnuala

Sponsors used, but that would be if you are just providing meals to another sponsor so those are the 2 interschool agreements. If you have any questions. Feel free to reach out to me and please be on.

00:16:42.240 --> 00:17:04.630

Brown, Fionnuala

Aware of the July first due date regarding the healthy food certification. Payments certainly regardless of the July first. You need to submit the agreement to us prior to any service so we can make sure that everything is kind of in line there and be able to answer any questions, you have and that's it for interschool agreements.

00:17:09.990 --> 00:17:11.900

Fiore, Susan

OK, I think it's on to me.

00:17:12.670 --> 00:17:45.120

Fiore, Susan

And the next topic is operational memorandum 05-22, which is on submitting the Healthy Food Certification Statement for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year and this applies only to public schools, so if we have any private schools or residential childcare institutions on today's Table Talk. This does not apply to you so many of you have been with Healthy Food Certification for years. So, we started in 2006 and as you know it's an annual requirement that every public school that participates in the National School Lunch.

00:17:45.170 --> 00:18:15.520

Fiore, Susan

Program must certify annually to the Department of Ed whether they'll follow the Connecticut nutrition standards and that's what this Healthy Food Certification is and one of the key things. I want to point out is in the operational memorandum will take a look at it in a minute. It's all the information that you need but there's some really critical things that you need to think about right now, so the first is getting a meeting at your board of ed or school governing authority to vote on the required votes for Healthy Food Certification.

00:18:16.070 --> 00:18:27.450

Fiore, Susan

And as you probably remember the deadline for Healthy Food Certification is July 1. You must have voted by July first in order to participate for next school year so it's important that that.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:18:27.910 --> 00:18:57.960

Fiore, Susan

A board vote happens prior to the end of June, now in terms of what you need to vote on in the memo and I'm just going to pull that over for you. There are some very specific languages and it's critical that you used that exact language for each motion in the memo and you'll find that language right there for you. All you need to do is cut and paste it into your board motions for Healthy Food Certification. The vote to participate. That's this motion language here.

00:18:58.470 --> 00:19:06.190

Fiore, Susan

And then the other vote is the motion language for food exemptions. There's also an option to combine those 2.

00:19:06.870 --> 00:19:08.830

Fiore, Susan

So, I just wanted to show you.

00:19:09.750 --> 00:19:10.670

Fiore, Susan

One other

00:19:11.940 --> 00:19:14.510

Fiore, Susan

a little summary from the Table Talk.

00:19:15.450 --> 00:19:45.620

Fiore, Susan

And that's the summary of the required votes because I've lot of people get confused as to what they need to vote on and and hopefully this chart will make it a little bit clearer for it, you so everybody has to do that first vote, which is healthy food participation. Yes, or no. We're going to follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and most of you do, we have about 94, 95%. Every year that follows our state nutrition standards. If you vote yes, to Healthy Food Certification. Then you're going to have to do vote 2, which is on food exemptions.

00:19:46.550 --> 00:20:19.130

Fiore, Susan

And you can also consider voting on beverage exemptions. Now it's important to note that beverage exemptions are not part of the Healthy Food Certification statement. But if you want to allow any beverages that don't comply with our state statute, you have to have a vote in place to allow those beverages, so that's why it's there and we often say do it as part of Healthy Food Certification. Just makes it easier to do those votes at the same time if you vote no to healthy food certification. You're done with a Healthy Food Certification statement. You're not voting on exemptions because you voted no to participate.

00:20:19.170 --> 00:20:40.030

Fiore, Susan

But again, you may want to consider those beverage exemptions if you don't vote to allow beverage

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

exemptions. The only beverages you can sell or the 5 categories that meet the state statute. Then I'll talk about those a little later on in today's Table Talk so in terms of getting that vote in again. The most important thing is get it scheduled before the end of June.

00:20:41.140 --> 00:21:10.230

Fiore, Susan

Ideally, you want to do it earlier in in March or April or May because we need the final board approved minutes in order to review and approve your Healthy Food Certification statement. If your final minutes aren't done by July 1, you can go ahead and submit the draft and then you're going to need to get us the final minutes as soon as they're available, so again if you follow those steps you shouldn't have any problems at all.

00:21:10.510 --> 00:21:16.440

Fiore, Susan

And again on the Apply section of our webpage. I'll just click in real quick to that, so you can see.

00:21:19.660 --> 00:21:34.670

Fiore, Susan

You can find an outline of all of the information that's discussed just now you can find the link to the memo and then the steps in terms of when things need to happen. So right now, is getting that board vote on the agenda.

00:21:35.660 --> 00:22:06.000

Fiore, Susan

One other thing to keep in mind is once you've got the board vote done. Let's say it happens in March or April or May, you're going to sit tight and hold on to those minutes because we do not accept them until the the HFC module is open in the CMP system and that happens sometime in May will notify you when it's open and will send you an email with instructions on how to complete the HFC statement so sit tight until that happens when you get that vote done just hold on to everything and you'll submit everything to us.

00:22:06.050 --> 00:22:06.540

Fiore, Susan

In May.

00:22:07.860 --> 00:22:14.140

Fiore, Susan

And I believe that is, it for Healthy Food Certification. Let me get back to our Table Talk.

00:22:14.890 --> 00:22:18.320

Fiore, Susan

Uh and I'm going to turn it back over to Monica.

00:22:20.390 --> 00:22:52.090

Pacheco, Monica

OK thanks so much Susan at this one, so easy just a quick update for those who may have ordered from the bonus fish sticks that were made available earlier this year that had a targeted delivery date

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

of March 15th. They are going to be pushed back. They're finding that they aren't able to make the purchase right now, so it is actually going to happen in the next school year targeting either August or early September for its arrival at the warehouse. They will have to go out for a new solicitation. So we'll keep you updated on those but they will not be coming in for that March.

00:22:52.330 --> 00:22:53.490

Pacheco, Monica

Gate as initially planned.

00:22:54.670 --> 00:22:59.290

Pacheco, Monica

It was short and sweet on that one, I'm ready to send it back off.

00:23:00.080 --> 00:23:01.520

Pacheco, Monica

2 I think that to you Susan.

00:23:03.340 --> 00:23:33.540

Fiore, Susan

Right play little bit of ping pong OK, so the next topic in today's Table Talk is about the final rule on the flexibilities in the transitional standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium and we sent this out in last week 's School Lunch Tray and basically this final rule solidifies a couple of flexibilities that had been part of a uh another final rule in 2018 and due to different administration.

00:23:33.600 --> 00:24:05.220

Fiore, Susan

And legislative changes those rules were not in place, so what this final rule does is it allows you the option to offer flavored low fat milk in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and it also maintains the provision to offer variety of milk choices. So, if you choose to offer flavored milk, and it's not a requirement for you to offer it, it's an option, then you must also offer a variety of milk choices and include at least one choice of unflavored milk so that's the first provision.

00:24:05.270 --> 00:24:20.320

Fiore, Susan

The second provision is whole grains, and the final rule is allowing at least 80% of the grains served in the National School lunch Program and School Breakfast Program to be whole grain rich. This means that up to 20% of grains can be enriched.

00:24:21.640 --> 00:24:41.500

Fiore, Susan

And the last requirement is the weekly sodium limit the sodium limit is going to remain the same at the current level for school year 2022-2023 and then in 2023-2024. There's gonna be a slight decrease in the amount of sodium that's allowed and let me just.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:24:41.770 --> 00:24:45.020

Fiore, Susan

Uh I have a little chart to pull up for you.

00:24:45.910 --> 00:24:47.620

Fiore, Susan

I can get to it.

00:24:49.230 --> 00:25:20.900

Fiore, Susan

Ah, no, I'm not seeing it well at any rate. The sodium decrease at lunch is just for lunch for the second year breakfast stays the same for the second year and this is because most of the sodium in our meals comes from the entrees at lunch, not breakfast. So, USDA is doing this slight 10% decrease in that second year. All other standards remain the same as the 2012 standards for school meals and there's a lot of resources on the USDA 's.

00:25:20.950 --> 00:25:26.660

Fiore, Susan

Web page one of the things that I wanted to mention to you as well is that the.

00:25:27.630 --> 00:25:28.220

Fiore, Susan

um.

00:25:28.830 --> 00:25:40.590

Fiore, Susan

The USDA is doing a couple other changes in the near future. So, the transitional standards are right here and that's the milk, the grains and sodium.

00:25:41.350 --> 00:26:11.440

Fiore, Susan

And those standards will you have the opportunity to comment on those standards so that if you want to submit comments at the USDA you can do that by March 20, 24th because they're gonna use those comments in future development of another proposed rule. That's going to happen in the fall of 2022 and this rule is going to revise the school nutrition standards based on a late latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans and those standards will be in place in 2024-25.

00:26:11.500 --> 00:26:17.660

Fiore, Susan

So you have the opportunity to go ahead and make those comments if you wish.

00:26:18.780 --> 00:26:34.850

Fiore, Susan

And we encourage you to do so because that'll give input into the changes that USTDA makes for the next few years, many resources are available on this topic, and will be providing you with more information and resources as it becomes available from USDA.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:26:38.780 --> 00:26:43.480

Fiore, Susan

The next topic is reminder about the beverage requirements for public schools.

00:26:44.220 --> 00:27:00.070

Fiore, Susan

And we as you know, we have a state beverage statute that requires that beverages must meet specific nutrition standards and we also have our Smart Snacks Nutrition standards for foods and schools which apply to all schools that participate in the school nutrition programs.

00:27:00.730 --> 00:27:17.770

Fiore, Susan

Because our state beverage standards are stricter there's some requirements that supersedes smart snacks. And there's some Smart Snacks requirements that supersede our state beverage requirements, so what are the best resources for you to use to get an understanding of these requirements this is allowable beverages in public schools.

00:27:19.250 --> 00:27:43.080

Fiore, Susan

And I wanted to call your attention to the chart on this page here, which shows you. Let me go a little bit further sorry on page 3, which shows you each of the category of beverages and what the standards are and the portion size limit and this combines the requirements of the state beverage statute and smart snacks. So, you can see for each beverage what you're required to meet in terms of those requirements.

00:27:46.140 --> 00:28:05.610

Fiore, Susan

Now keep in mind again that as we just discussed with Healthy Food Certification. If you don't have a beverage exemption in place. All of your beverages must always comply with the state beverage statute. So, if you need some more resources on how to comply. Our web page has a PowerPoint and there's a lot of other resources there as well. So, you can take a look at those.

00:28:07.020 --> 00:28:35.730

Fiore, Susan

And I think my last topic today is the Connecticut Nutrition Standards in conjunction with the release of the Healthy Food Certification statement application. We've updated our Connecticut Nutrition Standards and they the nutrition standards committee decided to leave the standards the same as the previous years, so if you'd like to access those standards that available. They're available on the Connecticut Nutrition Standards web page. There's a summary a full document and there's also a PowerPoint with information on how those standards apply.

00:28:38.380 --> 00:28:41.650

Fiore, Susan

And I think I'm now going to turn it over to Teri.

00:28:44.760 --> 00:28:54.600

Dandeneau, Therese

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

Thank you Susan so I just want to remind everyone that we have a website that has all of our CNP forms on it.

00:28:55.220 --> 00:29:03.740

Dandeneau, Therese

And you're encouraged to take a look at those forms or that website so that way. You'll be able to see those forms. I'm going to ask Susan to click on it.

00:29:07.600 --> 00:29:16.900

Dandeneau, Therese

And instead of scrolling all over the place trying to find the form. You're looking for. I'm going to give you a quick tip and Susan if you would hit control F.

00:29:21.440 --> 00:29:22.580

Dandeneau, Therese

Let's see if that works.

00:29:25.330 --> 00:29:26.850

Dandeneau, Therese

Did you hit control F Susan?

00:29:26.600 --> 00:29:28.000

Fiore, Susan

I did Yep it worked.

00:29:28.030 --> 00:29:54.720

Dandeneau, Therese

OK so you'll see up in the left hand corner. The find area will show up. I know on my screen. It doesn't always show up there. It will just show up right on the page and so what you can do is if you're looking for a specific form. Let's say you're looking for onsite monitoring, so you just click on or type in on site and it's going to take you too everywhere. You can see the term on site.

00:29:57.270 --> 00:29:58.550

Dandeneau, Therese

And is it working.

00:29:59.660 --> 00:30:00.870

Fiore, Susan

Let's try monitoring.

00:30:03.300 --> 00:30:04.500

Dandeneau, Therese

There we go OK.

00:30:05.910 --> 00:30:19.990

Dandeneau, Therese

It showed up before there, we go so I'll go to monitoring forms because that's where it is, and again.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

If you don't spell on site, the way it's spelled on there. It won't find it so that's one quick way if you go to let's try interschool.

00:30:21.710 --> 00:30:24.120

Dandeneau, Therese

These are common things that you might be looking for.

00:30:25.690 --> 00:30:33.560

Dandeneau, Therese

And this will take you right to the interschool agreement, so you don't have to do a lot of searching and lastly? Why don't you type in addendum C?

00:30:37.740 --> 00:30:53.310

Dandeneau, Therese

And it will take you to the different addenda. One of which we're going to talk about is addendum C and part of the School Lunch Tray was the addendum C and we just want to remind all of you. Susan, can you click in the addendum C for me please?

00:30:54.640 --> 00:30:55.140

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you.

00:30:55.790 --> 00:31:26.130

Dandeneau, Therese

It has been updated and it has the new guidelines because a lot of times when we update our forms. One form that we don't update in late May or June is the addendum C and that's because DSS uses different income guidelines than the National School Lunch Program so we have to wait to update those and so they're based on October data. They have been updated so if you have the old addendum see on your website. Please take it down and substitute it with this one.

00:31:26.180 --> 00:31:56.690

Dandeneau, Therese

Which is more accurate that was the only changed to this form, but we want to encourage you. Hey, you do have to post this, or you do have to send this out at the beginning of the school year. You don't have to send it out now. But at the beginning of the school year, you sent it out with all of your free and reduced materials that is a requirement, and you want it if you want to post it. That's fine. But you still have to send it out to all of the sponsors OK and I'm not the sponsors to parents, so you just want to make sure that they have access to it.

00:31:56.980 --> 00:32:01.030

Dandeneau, Therese

Your website is updated and that's pretty much it, I believe.

00:32:02.870 --> 00:32:08.630

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you. Susan I'm going to turn it over to Shannon and Susan Alston, who are going to handle questions.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:32:12.420 --> 00:32:14.590

Yearwood, Shannon

I have successfully turned my background off.

00:32:16.200 --> 00:32:18.910

Yearwood, Shannon

I think I haven't actually apply that.

00:32:20.180 --> 00:32:27.250

Yearwood, Shannon

Thank you so much everybody uhm. I did see a couple of questions come in and I know Susan 's gonna talk about those.

00:32:27.320 --> 00:32:53.880

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh and I know some of them were answered already in the chat so but I think that is probably good information for anybody, joining us on the phone. If you want to go over some of that. That was put into the chat and then also just as we mentioned we're not gonna unmute. We're already having enough technology fund. So certainly, if you have questions whether they pertain to the School Lunch Tray or not go ahead and enter those in the chat now and we certainly have time to try and address those.

00:32:55.630 --> 00:33:25.780

Alston, Susan

OK, so the first question and I alerted Monica I mean, she kinda jumped in on this was that they were not the person was not able to enter in the allocation on the worksheet and then figured out that you do have to on the first tab right. The allocation tab. Enter something in there for it to populate into the other sheet. So, my guess is even with our other worksheets right, sometimes if you're if it's not letting you it's for a reason so if it says that it's.

00:33:17.990 --> 00:33:18.350

Pacheco, Monica

Yes.

00:33:26.320 --> 00:33:31.220

Alston, Susan

It's because it's you need to fill it out and some other spot, but Monica.

00:33:30.550 --> 00:33:46.270

Pacheco, Monica

Correct and I know John was just you know testing it out. While we are in this conference. But if you do go through those instructions on the first tab. It explains that so it'll only be loaded in on the processing page. Even if you don't do processing. That's where that initial information goes in and then it allows you to toggle back and forth after so.

00:33:47.780 --> 00:34:17.730

Alston, Susan

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

Great I'm sorry and then the second comment was just letting us know that if you are in the instructions that they linked to the worksheet. The processing worksheet shows up to an error page. So, we will get that fixed but in the chat box. We put the link. I put the link to the form and then you can also get to the form directly from the school lunch Table Talk or the School Lunch Tray. It's in there and then on the food distribution web page. It's also listed there.

00:33:48.080 --> 00:33:48.500

Pacheco, Monica

And I.

00:33:50.760 --> 00:33:51.230

Pacheco, Monica

Don't go ahead.

00:34:17.780 --> 00:34:21.970

Alston, Susan

So there are other ways to get it right now, but we will update the instructions.

00:34:23.590 --> 00:34:30.030

Pacheco, Monica

Thank you. Susan yeah that thought we checked them all, but one must have snuck by so absolutely but it's available in multiple ways. Yes.

00:34:31.240 --> 00:34:31.760

Yearwood, Shannon

Thank you.

00:34:31.470 --> 00:34:35.230

Alston, Susan

And that's that's all the questions we have come so far.

00:34:36.040 --> 00:34:43.570

Yearwood, Shannon

Great and I mean, we know nobody submitted questions ahead of time, so that's also keep in mind that that link is available to you as well.

00:34:43.620 --> 00:34:43.820

Yearwood, Shannon

No.

00:34:45.400 --> 00:35:14.980

Yearwood, Shannon

So if you will give it just a little bit longer in case you have some other questions that you are just trying to type in in the meantime, you'll see that we did put into the chat. The survey link that we spoke about in the beginning, so that is very timely. This is the short session, so it did start last week, and it is only 12 weeks long so it will be fast, and it will be furious, so the sooner. You're able to get us that information the better. We do still have our supply chain.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022

00:35:15.380 --> 00:35:44.870

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh uhm challenges survey out there as well so continue to let us know when you have issues when you come you know just pop in there. It's pretty easy to fill out you can. Let us know exactly what those are that is extremely helpful information. Not just for us, but also for the USDA as you know, we are working very hard to get out. Some more funds to you to help you with your supply chain challenges and so there will be additional information on that, hopefully coming out in the near future.

00:35:45.270 --> 00:36:02.960

Yearwood, Shannon

And so with that, we could also end School Lunch Tray Table Talk a little bit early, it is a beautiful day outside. It's a little windy, but hopefully if we give you some time back. Maybe you can sneak out for a few minutes and have a little bit of fresh air today so.

00:36:03.630 --> 00:36:14.350

Yearwood, Shannon

Certainly let us know what your questions are as you think of them and otherwise, I won't drag this out anymore. I'll let you have your time back in your day and thank you so much everybody for joining us today.

00:36:15.650 --> 00:36:15.970

Yearwood, Shannon

Bye.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 17, 2022



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education'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/Training/TableTalk/2022/School_Lunch_Tray_Table_Talk_02_17_2022_Transcript.pdf

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