

## School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: March 31, 2022

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:01.180

Yearwood, Shannon

Hi everyone,

00:00:03.020 --> 00:00:13.890

Yearwood, Shannon

thank you so much for joining us for the School Lunch Tray Table Talk today and I'm sitting here with the education manager with the child nutrition programs for the Connecticut State Department of Education.

00:00:15.430 --> 00:00:21.950

Yearwood, Shannon

Today, at just one second, we're gonna make sure that our teammates are all able to join this we had a little technical glitch here.

00:00:22.500 --> 00:00:53.410

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh as as usual when we started our School Lunch Tray Table Talks. So, just so that you know this is being recorded, and a transcript is being generated and it will be made available to you and all of your friends and staff and the program guidance page of our school of our school nutrition. Rest there, ever child nutrition programs and you just go down to School Lunch Tray and you'll find our web page. It's very easy to be able to join us there and look at previous editions.

00:00:53.460 --> 00:01:17.080

Yearwood, Shannon

We also, if you haven't checked it out and make it very easy reference to what is the content from those School Lunch Trays? When we talked about things and then if you want to see us and hear us. You can certainly go ahead and listen to the recordings there, so thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule today and joining us. We are covering quite a bit of topics quite a few topics today.

00:01:17.590 --> 00:01:47.550

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh we will be covering as you know, we had to cancel our last School Lunch Tray Table Talk. We did have a last minute conflict with the USDA Secretary Vilsack, who gave a great speech at teachers college and so hopefully you were able to hear some of that as well so today. We will be covering the March, 9th through them through March 30th School Lunch Tray additions. Thank you to those of you who did some met submit questions ahead of time, I will be able to provide.

00:01:47.760 --> 00:01:59.460

Yearwood, Shannon

A little bit of an overview on some of those before we take a little bit of a deeper dive. Deeper dive into the school lunch. Tray certainly ask us questions as we go and if we if you need.

00:01:59.810 --> 00:02:15.680

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh if you need us to answer any of the specific questions. We will reach out to you. Afterwards, we have the mic 's muted. We have the hands feature the hand, raising feature disabled so you need to enter those questions into the chat box.

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00:02:16.350 --> 00:02:29.340

Yearwood, Shannon

And that's it. I just wanted to be able to let you know that the Congress did not extend the USDA's waiver authority beyond June 30th.

00:02:30.000 --> 00:02:58.810

Yearwood, Shannon

So we will be returning back to operations as usual, starting on July first 2022 this year. We know that that is a pretty hard shift and so we will we do stand at the ready to be able to help make that transition as smooth as possible, as we can on our end. There are a few there's a transitional meal specifications that we will review a little bit more in depth as we go through this, this today's Table Talk.

00:03:00.100 --> 00:03:30.350

Yearwood, Shannon

Alright so we are also paying really focused operations security this year. So we will be keeping a very close eye on what we need to do to enhance your efforts to be able to help contribute towards nutrition security. We know that we have is that we've moved away from pivoting and now we are in full mode of Waltzing or foxtrotting, whichever your preference is but I think we have all learned to be a little bit more nimble on our feet and we will have to continue to do that so.

00:03:30.650 --> 00:03:33.120

Yearwood, Shannon

We're beyond pivoting we're into a full on dance?

00:03:34.610 --> 00:04:01.500

Yearwood, Shannon

And then I also wanted to let you know in case you missed it, we were. We did release the Community Eligibility Provision operational memorandum today. We have also submitted a waiver request to the USDA to be able to extend those deadlines as we've been able to for the last 2 years that said there is absolutely no guarantee that we will be approved for those so you will need to go make sure that you save the data on file from the March 29th.

00:04:01.900 --> 00:04:33.180

Yearwood, Shannon

Add a direct certification matches and so you will be using your enrollment data from the from the exact date of April first. But you can use your direct sort matches from March 29th. And so as save that information as soon as we hear anything from USDA. We will absolutely make sure that we notify you. We were really hopefully right. We held onto the memo for this year. We were really hopeful we would be able to extend those so that we didn't have to issue a memo plus or revised memo but.

00:04:33.510 --> 00:05:03.920

Yearwood, Shannon

We're just going to be issuing a revised memo should that be something that we are granted so our plans at our our wishes didn't didn't work out as we were hoping and then lastly. We have been requesting also from USDA that paid lunch equity tool and I know you guys have been asking us about that. I we have no additional updates. We have not that tool has not been released. And we have not received any sort of timeline of when that will be and then last but not least a lot of you out there applied for our National School Lunch Program.

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00:05:03.970 --> 00:05:31.580

Yearwood, Shannon

Equipment assistance grant so we are at the very final stretches of that and please expect to see an announcement of that or uh. Hopefully this week by tomorrow. So thanks so much and with that. It was a very information packed welcome and introduction and I just want to thank my team, so you all know I refer to his team awesome because they truly are so with that I will hand it off to Monica, who will start us with our first items.

00:05:37.590 --> 00:05:49.720

Pacheco, Monica

Alright good afternoon, everyone so we're gonna start us off with some updates and some catching up from various School Lunch Trays about USDA Foods so our first.

00:05:51.030 --> 00:05:57.230

Pacheco, Monica

Point was uh overview of some of the reporting that you can monitor in.

00:05:57.890 --> 00:06:00.680

Pacheco, Monica

Uh WB SCM or web supply as I like to call it.

00:06:01.790 --> 00:06:30.760

Pacheco, Monica

And you know when you place your orders and having done so very recently. This should be all fresh in your mind many times. Many of you will print off your order confirmations. Once you have completed putting in those orders. Please remember those are requests because now that you have placed your orders. It is Allison and my job to now get these at from the state level to USDA and we actually it takes us several weeks to do that. Our first ordering deadline for some of the products once today and.

00:06:30.960 --> 00:07:01.740

Pacheco, Monica

You know it for many of you, you know you've heard me say before that, we have to put in orders in full truckload amounts only that's the only way USDA will accept it so there's a lot of behind the scenes logistics that goes on with how we manage the pounds or the cases depending on what products working with other states throughout the New England region and also across the country to try to combine our orders. If we don't have full truckloads. So there's a lot going on for us right now, so remember those initial confirmations you are get our requests.

00:07:01.850 --> 00:07:10.200

Pacheco, Monica

What we strongly recommended is that you run a requisition status report in monthly and what you're looking for is?

00:07:11.560 --> 00:07:17.860

Pacheco, Monica

For confirmation that it's going to go either into a purchased or cancelled if that be the case.

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00:07:19.170 --> 00:07:30.190

Pacheco, Monica

And UM cancelled status and that will confirm the order that will also confirm the actual amounts that were ordered so I'm just going to hang on if you go back up Susan I'm still.

00:07:30.850 --> 00:07:35.430

Pacheco, Monica

On the first piece there's going to be some screenshots I want to help folks see.

00:07:35.760 --> 00:07:40.410

Fiore, Susan

Yeah, Monica my screen is for some reason not displaying the.

00:07:41.200 --> 00:07:41.940

Fiore, Susan

Graphics.

00:07:42.660 --> 00:07:43.820

Pacheco, Monica

Oh, OK.

00:07:44.460 --> 00:07:50.050

Pacheco, Monica

Well, that'll be a challenge alright, so it's not showing some of some of the graphics so.

00:07:48.980 --> 00:07:50.230

Fiore, Susan

Let me try this again.

00:07:50.680 --> 00:08:05.560

Pacheco, Monica

OK. Let me give Susan a chance at it alright I'll keep filling in the I can do that alright so we're gonna want to run those reports monthly so and we have additional challenges with the fact that we've had some additional offerings in the past year that have.

00:07:51.490 --> 00:07:53.310

Fiore, Susan

Keep going and I'll see if I can get it up.

00:08:06.860 --> 00:08:07.580

Pacheco, Monica

So here we go.

00:08:08.350 --> 00:08:08.910

Pacheco, Monica

Alright.

00:08:09.660 --> 00:08:24.220

Pacheco, Monica

So you can see circled in red there. The status of the order is purchased and that's what you're looking for on an order when you run the web supply report, the the requisition status report so you can also.

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00:08:25.340 --> 00:08:54.990

Pacheco, Monica

See that we have on the second graphic where it's circled we have different types of orders and that's what I was alluding to in normally in a normal year. We have NSLP and that's it. Of course, as we've been saying, many times. Nothing is normal, these days, so we had some bonus offerings this year that were also offered in the fall and you can see that says bonus school year 22 and then otherwise our regular orders that you guys, just place for the entitlement. It's actually going to be 23 but that's the normal entitlement notification you see, there.

00:08:55.490 --> 00:09:17.340

Pacheco, Monica

But on top of that we also very recently just put in the CCC bonus orders with quantity credit corporation orders. Those are first school year, 2223, so those are gonna be in the reports for 23 is what they refer to it in web supply so in order to capture all this, if you would scroll down just a little bit more now Susan.

00:09:18.330 --> 00:09:19.530

Pacheco, Monica

To the next graphic.

00:09:24.060 --> 00:09:53.990

Pacheco, Monica

Alright perfect thank you. When you see this, this should look familiar. If you've run your requisition status report that for that first block where you see it's highlighted program. Normally you would put in NSLP will leave that blank and what that's going to do is capture. Both the NSLP regular. The NSLP bonus and the CCC bonus items for you and then you can see in that next field. It says requested delivery date and usually we say put in the whole date range of a full school year so you see 07-01.

00:09:54.050 --> 00:10:05.600

Pacheco, Monica

-2022 to 6-30-2023, so that would be for all the orders for the upcoming school year so if you do that, and then run the report you'll see.

00:10:06.290 --> 00:10:25.190

Pacheco, Monica

Bonus items you'll see the Standard NSLP items and you'll see any CCC items. Some of the bonus items that were ordered in the fall that were intended to be coming in this year got bumped by USDA to next year. So you will be seeing bonus both on this current school year and next school year, you can capture all that if you go.

00:10:26.930 --> 00:10:57.770

Pacheco, Monica

And run the date range from 07-01-21 to 6-30-2023, so a 2 year school period will let you capture all that and then I'm I'm sure many of you know, there is an export function on the report. You could export export that into Excel and then you know manipulate the data to make it easier to read for you and and keep track of everything and then finally to the last graphic Susan right underneath this works as entitlement bonus summary report so you will see as highlighted that there are going to be bonus order totals because there have been bonus.

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00:10:58.020 --> 00:11:03.570

Pacheco, Monica

Item spoke this current school year and next school year, so we've been getting a lot of calls about people asking about.

00:11:03.630 --> 00:11:16.590

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm you know why are there bonus items and that's reflecting those items on that report and again normally we don't see that there normally aren't bonus items available usually but nothing is normal, these days.

00:11:17.930 --> 00:11:30.680

Pacheco, Monica

And then also 2 to in order to see your CCC items. You would have to come in that field put in CCC instead of NSLP and it will show you those items for that entitlement bonus summary report.

00:11:31.500 --> 00:11:51.230

Pacheco, Monica

There's a whole lot to track and I realize that but it will answer a lot of questions. If you run. These reports monthly keep track of things 'cause remember. Things change all the time prices change purchasing is happening. Remember that you know when you place your orders that you've just finished placing the actual requests are.

00:11:52.030 --> 00:12:10.810

Pacheco, Monica

Doing the actual procurements are being done by AMS AG marketing services, which is the purchasing arm of USDA and that happens throughout the year so even though you think you place your order and that's the price that's actually an estimate until they actually make the purchase, so it's good to run these reports monthly to really keep track of what's going on?

00:12:11.690 --> 00:12:16.610

Pacheco, Monica

Alright if you want to move forward Susan I think we can get into the next big news.

00:12:18.310 --> 00:12:45.410

Pacheco, Monica

Which for those who I'm sure pretty much everyone heard that we do have a new vendor for our USDA DoD fresh fruit and vegetable program and they are Gargiulo. I believe it's hard to pronounce Gargiulo and sons out of Hillside, New Jersey do know that that is just outside New York City. So they are. Not that far down into New Jersey and reminder that this is a federally awarded contract that was done by DoD.

00:12:46.310 --> 00:13:15.380

Pacheco, Monica

And this contract is replacing the current contract with HPC the handoff is actually on April second is the last decade, where it is with HPC and then it will switch for you do know that this will seem seamless because you continue to run to place your orders in favors so that will not change, so some of the terms to remember as again after April second orders that go into FFAVORS will then be handled by Gargiulo.

00:13:16.600 --> 00:13:22.060

Pacheco, Monica

And you right now our guidance is that you will be ordering on the normal.

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00:13:22.890 --> 00:13:38.190

Pacheco, Monica

For the normal delivery day that you've been having when you had the old contract with HPC Gargiulo wants to try to see if they can continue the same delivery scheduled for the week and they will then contact you directly if they need to make any adjustments.

00:13:38.890 --> 00:13:54.230

Pacheco, Monica

So again it's been crucial and we've asked a few times now and reminded a few times, but one more time. Make sure your contact information in FFAVORS is updated and current because that's how they're going to reach out to a district to you know reach out and say we may need to change the delivery date.

00:13:55.150 --> 00:14:11.520

Pacheco, Monica

As with the previous contract, the delivery minimum is \$150.00 per stop the delivery period is 6:00 AM to 2:30 PM and that was the same as the old contract. The DLA contacts are the same David and Amanda and their contact information is there.

00:14:12.550 --> 00:14:16.080

Pacheco, Monica

And if you want to continue Susan to the important notes.

00:14:18.710 --> 00:14:23.730

Pacheco, Monica

That's a reminder you know HPC will fulfill the orders through April first.

00:14:24.220 --> 00:14:30.330

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm our April second actually but till that that is the end of the term of their contract and.

00:14:31.390 --> 00:14:51.740

Pacheco, Monica

There is a webinar that's been recorded on we do have the slides available already and I'll talk about that. In a second, but it's also important to remember HPC held a couple of contracts. So our state warehouse for direct delivery. USDA foods, which is administered through the Department of Administrative Services that contact remains current and and with HPC so.

00:14:52.910 --> 00:15:04.020

Pacheco, Monica

Your context for that Roger and Steve remained the same and there's no change to that part of of our work. So our direct delivery items will continue to come monthly from HPC.

00:15:04.950 --> 00:15:07.130

Pacheco, Monica

So if you want a scroll again, please Susan.

00:15:10.100 --> 00:15:19.460

Pacheco, Monica

Alright so because of the length of time that you know took to get this tabletop together with us having to skip one a reminder again just so you know.

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00:15:19.510 --> 00:15:33.300

Pacheco, Monica

So that again starting next week place your orders on the day. You would normally for your normal delivery day and then Gargiulo will be reaching out to you to reach Gargiulo. They are they have a dedicated.

00:15:34.000 --> 00:15:34.510

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm.

00:15:35.400 --> 00:16:05.720

Pacheco, Monica

Email address and you see it there, it's the [dodcustomersupport@gargiuloproduce.com](mailto:dodcustomersupport@gargiuloproduce.com). They have been very timely. When we've utilized it to reach out to them in the meantime, and I know some directors have already and they they are monitoring that regularly so that is available. Also, the link. There provides you the presentation. It is just the slides right now, it's not the web and R itself, but the slides have all the content from the web and R that is available. Also on our food distribution web page and so I encourage you to review that.

00:16:06.070 --> 00:16:14.620

Pacheco, Monica

To you know, see the latest updates. Much of this information and contact information again? Is there, so it's in few places for you.

00:16:16.560 --> 00:16:34.000

Pacheco, Monica

And so I guess you know with the DoD I I thank you for your patience with everything that's gone on and we are really excited to see what our new vendor does they're gonna have what they call a limited catalog. But I think of a very good starting catalog. These first few weeks until we get all the Kinks worked out and.

00:16:34.740 --> 00:16:51.480

Pacheco, Monica

Even though we've asked for patience 1,000,000 times and I. Appreciate it, you know a little more patience as they get their delivery schedule hammer down and then they really hoped to increase their offerings and they are current vendor for DoD for other states. So we're really hopeful that this is going to be a you know a great new start of the DoD program.

00:16:52.480 --> 00:17:23.290

Pacheco, Monica

Alright onto a quick, one here web supply did it big upgrade on the weekend that I guess. Let's see March 12th and 13th with effective on the 14th and be sure that you are using Google Chrome as your browser when you're using web supply. It was and it used to be Internet Explorer which for many of you. You realize and and know that it is being phased out and will not be available really soon so make sure using Google Chrome make sure your shortcuts are using Google Chrome that's something I caught myself.

00:17:23.350 --> 00:17:27.190

Pacheco, Monica

That's on my short cuts were still Internet Explorer Explorer and I had to.



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00:17:27.960 --> 00:17:31.770

Pacheco, Monica

You know uh delete those and we set him up so make sure you're checking that.

00:17:32.850 --> 00:17:37.620

Pacheco, Monica

And then finally UM Resource Roundup is mine here as well with put local on your tray.

00:17:38.700 --> 00:17:52.090

Pacheco, Monica

Susan if you wouldn't mind opening that up, then to that website. I'm hoping all of you know, or or somewhat familiar with Local on Your Tray, but this is the website that is held on UConn extensions.

00:17:53.080 --> 00:18:23.120

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm site but it's a collaboration that started many years ago with UConn extension and Department of Ed and Department of Ag and and several other community partners and some of you may remember who go back a bit to start with half a cup effort and then that sort of morphed into the Local on Your Tray where now which again hosted with UConn extension. They have a great website with tons of resources so one of the things I want to point to first is Susan if you.

00:18:23.180 --> 00:18:27.550

Pacheco, Monica

Go down to where those squares are just below here perfect. I'm clicking on that products.

00:18:28.290 --> 00:18:58.450

Pacheco, Monica

Square up and I hope this is familiar to many of you, but they have a suite of materials of marketing materials for local produce and other products that you can utilize in your meal programs, to promote and enhance where you are working with local producers with some of these items, so you know it was very purposely done where we do not have like a month or any kind of date assignment to these so that they can be utilized whenever they work for you and for your menu and.

00:18:58.970 --> 00:19:03.020

Pacheco, Monica

These are downloadable and and you can print them and use them in your program.

00:19:04.670 --> 00:19:08.700

Pacheco, Monica

If you want to go back out to where we were with the different options.

00:19:09.800 --> 00:19:13.830

Pacheco, Monica

All right, the other thing I want like due to just go into is the sign up and take a pledge.

00:19:15.090 --> 00:19:25.260

Pacheco, Monica

Some are timing is perfect. This says school year, 21-22, but in the next week. It's gonna be updated and the chance for the signups for the next school year start and I strongly encouraged.

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00:19:26.020 --> 00:19:42.130

Pacheco, Monica

Strongly encourage you to consider doing this, this is not a huge commitment that are not asking you to do a ton of things. But what they are offering is a lot of additional supports if you scroll down. Susan, a little bit. They certainly are encouraging some taste testing, some different things. But.

00:19:43.550 --> 00:20:12.450

Pacheco, Monica

There there's some folks here who are going to help you, you know really further market your program. They're going to provide you some technical assistance. If you need help with purchasing they're going to have some potential online ordering pilot program going on. They will also print off and be able to provide some of the materials that are all downloadable from from this website. But you would get some printed copies of things stickers and activity books. They will come out and actually do stuff in your school.

00:20:12.510 --> 00:20:13.520

Pacheco, Monica

If you need assistance.

00:20:14.750 --> 00:20:22.830

Pacheco, Monica

And access to the farm directory in the newsletter and such so you know it's it seems like there's been a real increased focus the last few years.

00:20:24.140 --> 00:20:54.380

Pacheco, Monica

Some say it's surprising during the pandemic, but it's actually almost because of the pandemic with supply chains. At some of the higher levels really struggling and challenged by all the changes that were created by the pandemic. A lot of folks have been turning to more local producers for a variety of items to help make sure that their meal programs, continue, and so this is a real ideal opportunity to kind of take the momentum that you may have established with some local producers to to continue to work with them and to really market.

00:20:54.440 --> 00:20:57.170

Pacheco, Monica

And promote what's going on with those programs so.

00:20:58.370 --> 00:21:01.990

Pacheco, Monica

There are also recipes on this, if you want to go back one.

00:21:02.550 --> 00:21:04.200

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm Susan again.

00:21:08.040 --> 00:21:09.350

Pacheco, Monica

And UM.

00:21:10.210 --> 00:21:13.430

Pacheco, Monica

So they're they're recipe options that are there and there.

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00:21:14.790 --> 00:21:17.290

Pacheco, Monica

It's like quite showing but uhm.

00:21:18.570 --> 00:21:21.500

Pacheco, Monica

And a variety of other things, there's also a if you.

00:21:22.390 --> 00:21:22.790

Pacheco, Monica

Better.

00:21:23.720 --> 00:21:26.540

Pacheco, Monica

Caroline looks like you're joining would you like to say something?

00:21:27.520 --> 00:21:28.240

Pacheco, Monica

Now you wait.

00:21:28.520 --> 00:21:32.420

Cooke, Caroline

Not quite yet. I just don't wanna I don't want you to jump off when you're done with this topic.

00:21:29.810 --> 00:21:30.100

Pacheco, Monica

Up.

00:21:32.200 --> 00:21:37.400

Pacheco, Monica

Got it alright and if you go back again. Susan I think actually because I know.

00:21:38.600 --> 00:21:40.040

Pacheco, Monica

Gonna be tight for time today.

00:21:41.100 --> 00:21:41.810

Pacheco, Monica

But the

00:21:43.680 --> 00:21:49.200

Pacheco, Monica

come to the farms if you would hit farms to the the farm directories are real neat tool and this is constantly being updated.

00:21:49.250 --> 00:22:19.640

Pacheco, Monica

Yeah, and you can be on the Listserv to get find out a lot of farms or just jumping right on and letting you know about what products they have and this is also you know the the list to be the list of farms changes regularly so again. That's more information you get regularly as a member if you sign up for the to be. You

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know School Lunch Tray. Excuse me a Local on Your Tray school district but you know it's they have just a wealth of knowledge.

00:22:19.930 --> 00:22:25.240

Pacheco, Monica

Port you alright I think I am going to stop here like Caroline join us.

00:22:26.440 --> 00:22:39.730

Cooke, Caroline

Hi so I'm just keeping an eye on questions are coming in and we had a question before you left. I'm asking whether or not the new DoD vendor will also be servicing this summer.

00:22:33.700 --> 00:22:34.270

Pacheco, Monica

OK.

00:22:40.580 --> 00:22:49.670

Pacheco, Monica

Yes, they will great question. Thank you first that yes, they've been they are aware of our summer pilot and they will indeed be servicing us for the summer.

00:22:52.450 --> 00:23:01.190

Pacheco, Monica

Alright and I have said enough I think so. I am going to pass it off to Susan Fiore, who's gonna take on the next subject.

00:23:02.090 --> 00:23:31.810

Fiore, Susan

Thank you Monica Uh Yes, so the next topic is a memo that came out recently from USDA regarding some questions and answers about the final rule on the transitional standards and this is probably familiar to you by now. we're looking at some transitional standards for milk for whole grains and sodium and this memo just outlines. Some of the questions and answers that USDA has received regarding this final rule is a pretty short Q&A.

00:23:32.260 --> 00:24:02.670

Fiore, Susan

Couple pages but you can find additional guidance there regarding each of those areas and what you need to do, starting with July 1, 2022, when these go into effect. So we just wanted to call your attention to that and the next memo follows up on that same topic and this is the Q&A. That's been out for quite awhile. It'll look familiar to many of you, it looks like this and it came out shortly after the.

00:24:02.730 --> 00:24:09.280

Fiore, Susan

The first iteration of all of the changes around the meal pattern requirements and you can see some of the topics listed here.

00:24:09.980 --> 00:24:35.730

Fiore, Susan

That are included in this and basically what USDA did was they updated this to include any changes related to the final rule with the transitional standards for milk, sodium, and whole grains. So most of this. Q&A is the

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same as it was previously. They just added some additional information and guidance regarding those areas, so you can take a look at that and get a little more information on what those changes are going to look like.

00:24:38.660 --> 00:25:08.630

Fiore, Susan

And then the third topic in the same vein is some webinar recordings around that a transitional standards and I just wanted to take you there really quickly. This is new USDA's nutrition standards for school meals web page and the webinars that I referenced are down here. They've done some webinars for industry partners as well as for state agencies and school food service staff and there's also a wealth of other information here related to the meal patterns and the regulations so.

00:25:08.990 --> 00:25:26.300

Fiore, Susan

If you're looking for anything related to that final rule or the meal patterns in general. This is a good USDA. USDA Web page to bookmark and of course, you can also get to this web page from our Program Guidance webpage under nutrition standards for school meals as well.

00:25:29.980 --> 00:26:02.130

Fiore, Susan

So that is enough on that topic and the next one we're going to move on to is the special diets resources for schools, so it's a few weeks ago. We updated all of the resources around accommodating special diets so that's the guide and we also have two different presentations one on food allergies and one on meal modifications. There's a handout on milk substitutes and then there's also resources on procedural safeguards, which we talked about a few Table Talks ago and a summary chart of the requirements for accommodating special diets.

00:26:02.660 --> 00:26:03.730

Fiore, Susan

There's also.

00:26:05.040 --> 00:26:35.140

Fiore, Susan

Information on developing sample policies and I just wanted to take you to the web page to kind of show you where everything is and just to remind you as well. When you're thinking about special diets that the two key things to remember are that if a child has a disability you're required to make the meal modification that's in the medical statement based on a recognized medical authority's diagnosis. And if a child does not have a disability, then you have the option to make those meal pattern substitutions, but you're not required to do so the key thing.

00:26:35.270 --> 00:27:05.570

Fiore, Susan

Remember about optional substitutions is that you must meet the meal pattern. So you cannot make any changes for a child without a disability that don't comply with the meal pattern. So in a nutshell, those are the summaries of the requirements for meal modifications and then we have a ton of detailed guidance here. This guide includes a lot of resources and the second Table Talk topic on that is the update that we just did even though we released the guide 3 weeks ago, just did another update.

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00:27:05.620 --> 00:27:10.850

Fiore, Susan

Recently, with some more information on food allergies and I'm going to show you that in a minute.

00:27:11.750 --> 00:27:29.960

Fiore, Susan

But on this web page. I just wanted to point out too. That if you go here. You can find all the policy memos. You can find the training materials we have here, the food allergy presentation. Another one, on meal modifications and then there's guidance in our what's next section on developing policies so that that is a good resource for you.

00:27:31.310 --> 00:27:36.650

Fiore, Susan

In terms of the actual food safety guide. Let me just get back there for a second.

00:27:38.080 --> 00:28:07.410

Fiore, Susan

And it is right here and what I wanted to just share with you. This is the section here that we've added a whole bunch of new resources on actions for school food service staff and we focus on four key areas and that's providing a safe meal and safe environment. Reading food labels. Recognizing students with food allergies, meaning that the cafeteria staff knows who those kids are and when they come through the line. They know to watch out for certain foods that they can't have and then promoting.

00:28:07.460 --> 00:28:19.150

Fiore, Susan

Communication and teamwork so there's a lot of additional resources and guidance in the addition of the guide that we just sent out yesterday and you can find all of that there for your use in in your schools.

00:28:23.450 --> 00:28:30.840

Fiore, Susan

And that is that that's the update here and I think that is, it for me, I believe I'm turning it over to Therese.

00:28:31.990 --> 00:29:03.370

Maineri, Terese

Hi good afternoon, I'm here today to remind you of some upcoming trainings. Um first of all the summer meals annual training is coming up this seamless summer option sponsors are invited to attend the summer meals training webinars as you know the USDA summer meals. Flexibilities will be ending on June 30th 2022 summer meals. Webinar series will provide information regarding traditional operation of Summer Meals on the trainings will be a series of webinars.

00:29:03.430 --> 00:29:11.580

Maineri, Terese

On Thursdays from 2 to 3, UM the summer food service program sponsors are mandated to attend the annual training.

00:29:11.730 --> 00:29:32.840

Maineri, Terese

Uhm the seamless summer option sponsors are not required to register, they can attend by using the Teams links that's found in the team in the this copy of the Table Talk and there will be recording the webinars and they'll be available to those who can't attend.

## School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: March 31, 2022

00:29:33.520 --> 00:29:50.460

Maineri, Terese

a live webinar, but just keep in mind by attending the live webinars. You're able to ask questions regarding different topics. That will be covering for any additional questions regarding the summer meals training, please reach out to Caroline Cooke.

00:29:51.520 --> 00:29:55.760

Maineri, Terese

OK and you can scroll down to the next training opportunity.

00:29:57.270 --> 00:30:05.140

Maineri, Terese

And the next training opportunity is the Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment workshops, the local.

00:30:05.830 --> 00:30:36.050

Maineri, Terese

School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment workshops cover steps 3 and 4 and will be held this spring. On Tuesday, April 26. From 9 to 12 and from and on Tuesday May 17th from 1 to 3. Each track 2 Hour Workshop explains how to complete the final steps to assess your local School Wellness Policy, which includes comparing your squad and creating summaries if you not have not have.

00:30:36.090 --> 00:31:00.980

Maineri, Terese

Already done so you'll need to complete the WELLSAT 3.0 and WELLSAT-I before the workshop. These steps aren't are necessary for you to begin Step 3 and just keep in mind to register for these they're having you register. The Friday before the workshop before 5:00 PM. So if you have any questions about these workshops, please reach out to a fool brown.

00:31:02.280 --> 00:31:05.510

Maineri, Terese

And I think I'm passing it onward.

00:31:08.550 --> 00:31:09.700

Maineri, Terese

2.

00:31:11.030 --> 00:31:11.590

Maineri, Terese

Teri.

00:31:13.460 --> 00:31:15.300

Dandeneau, Therese

Thanks Therese and Shannon as well.

00:31:18.110 --> 00:31:20.860

Dandeneau, Therese

She and I don't know if you wanna start, it or would you like me to?

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00:31:18.310 --> 00:31:18.590

Yearwood, Shannon

See.

00:31:21.200 --> 00:31:25.690

Yearwood, Shannon

I I think if you could go ahead that will be a little more context for my portion.

00:31:23.050 --> 00:31:23.600

Dandeneau, Therese

Sure.

00:31:26.000 --> 00:31:55.670

Dandeneau, Therese

OK hi everyone, some of you may remember I'm going to be talking about the review data sharing agreements with the food service providers piece that was in the School Lunch Tray and some of you may remember that during the past application certification trainings. There was an area that was discussed addressing student data in the cloud and it referred to the Connecticut Public Act 16, 189 and act concerning student data privacy and this act is now a state statute.

00:31:26.790 --> 00:31:27.310

Yearwood, Shannon

Thank you.

00:31:56.090 --> 00:32:26.280

Dandeneau, Therese

And it's sections 102234 AA through DD and the link is right, there for you in the School Lunch Tray and in general. The statutes required districts to have written and signed contracts with any entity that is in possession of student information student records or student generated content and the statutes provide important definitions and outlines requirements for operators regarding student data. It also refers to the contractors and the district or schools.

00:32:26.330 --> 00:32:30.200

Dandeneau, Therese

Responsibilities if there has been a breach of security.

00:32:31.410 --> 00:33:01.800

Dandeneau, Therese

Now student data includes all student free and reduced information such as information that would be part of a point-of-sale system web-based applications and some of you are doing that as well, and any information that's in the school district 's student database that has to do with free and reduced price meals. It also covers other student data as well. But for you guys you need to know about the free and reduced meal application information and you're already aware that it is highly confidential. It's important.

00:33:01.850 --> 00:33:22.360

Dandeneau, Therese

That you work with your school administrators to review the policies that are in place and ensure that your contracts with your specific contractors meet. These state regulations and take a look at the links. There's a lot of information in there, but it's very, very helpful. So I Shannon. I don't know if you'd like to add anything but feel free.



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00:33:23.480 --> 00:33:54.280

Yearwood, Shannon

Thanks so much Teri so our sister agencies at the state level have come together with our agency to be able to look at how to best streamline this process to make sure that we are in compliance with these state statutes and without creating undue burden on the districts so the Connecticut Commission for educational technology designs. The The learning platform learn platform hub with input from district leaders parents educational technology providers.

00:33:54.340 --> 00:34:24.330

Yearwood, Shannon

At school la attorneys to streamline compliance and purchasing the site allows school leaders and educators to search for technology solutions based on a variety of factors subject grade level standard, etc, including the providers pledges to comply with Connecticut student data privacy laws, intern companies use the hub to register and post information about products as well as to review and pledged compliance with the terms of our states student privacy statute.

00:34:24.630 --> 00:34:55.840

Yearwood, Shannon

So we it's it's actually a pretty easy platform to use when you go in and you're registered you can go ahead and just search so if you're using a particular software company you can certainly search to see if they have registered in on this platform whether they have been able to sign the pleasure if they're in the process of that this should streamline some of the administrative work on your end if you are currently looking for a different provider. That's a really great platform to check out.

00:34:56.130 --> 00:35:26.980

Yearwood, Shannon

As you know that they will already be in compliance with the state statute. If you're if you look at the at this platform and you don't see your software provider or your data hub manager with on that platform certainly reach out to them and have them you can go back to the School Lunch Tray and look at how to help them connect with our partners over at the Department of Administrative Services to make sure that they can get onto this hub to make their services available and save.

00:35:27.210 --> 00:35:57.370

Yearwood, Shannon

Everybody all around a little bit of work so just want to make sure that you were aware of that we come. It should hopefully make everybody 's lives easier. Certainly, our partners will be able or runners at the sister agencies can certainly reach out to those vendors as well. We have been able to supply them a list of vendors that we know at least from our CMP online application and claiming system that you are actively in partnership with so we're trying to make sure that we get ahead of that.

00:35:57.430 --> 00:36:08.690

Yearwood, Shannon

And make sure that those are have been provided and hopefully those will be reached out to. But if you don't see him on that platform make sure that you connect with them and make like make them aware.

00:36:09.830 --> 00:36:10.490

Yearwood, Shannon

Periods.

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00:36:11.220 --> 00:36:13.810

Yearwood, Shannon

That's it pass it off to you Susan.

00:36:14.180 --> 00:36:17.860

Alston, Susan

Hey, thank you. I actually remember to turn my microphone on so I.

00:36:19.420 --> 00:36:36.350

Alston, Susan

Very happy with that, today, OK so I could talk about the the good stuff come here with the money. I'm on Tuesday. We issued the OM 06-22, which is the payment of the state funds or what we like to call state match so you should have received that.

00:36:36.400 --> 00:36:56.730

Alston, Susan

Uhm if you haven't you know, let me know, but look for it talked to the people who received the money. We definitely got it. Some of you may have gotten more than you expected and when you look through the memo. You'll see that we included in state match totals right how we get our the totals or your lunch counts for?

00:36:57.320 --> 00:36:59.220

Alston, Susan

NSLP, SSO.

00:36:59.270 --> 00:37:28.640

Alston, Susan

And SFSP this year, so those were all those counts from July first through June 30th 2021 were included and if you operated community sites on this year. We included those those counts in the amounts that you would get for state match the state matches. A lump sum. You know, we always start with the the big pot of money, which is about 2.3, \$1,000,000.00 and then that gets distributed out.

00:37:29.320 --> 00:37:43.320

Alston, Susan

To each score based on how many counts, but they are so definitely check that out, see where it is. If you remember, we can. Even maybe include it in next week for lunch tray that great grant payment site that the CSD.

00:37:43.370 --> 00:38:12.200

Alston, Susan

He has where you can go and you can pull up your school you can see that the money is in there and then check for your how much funding that you've got one thing I wanted to make sure that you're aware of is if you make sure to scroll to the page 2 of the the memo. I'm and then you can see exactly how much your school received some people forget that that's there. I know we attached it and and when we send healthy OM but just be aware that it's it that it's in there.

00:38:13.690 --> 00:38:36.130

Alston, Susan

And that's it for state match. I'm while we're talking about some funding opportunities before I get to the last piece. I just want to mention that we are still planning on getting the HFC payments out and with state

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breakfast payments out. I think Shannon mentioned before and one of our other Table Talks that those are based in.

00:38:36.180 --> 00:39:06.340

Alston, Susan

Uhm state statutes so in order for us to pay using sites and counts that are not from just the NSLP in the School Breakfast Program. We needed to kind of tweak the language in this state statutes regarding how we pay that so we are waiting for approval for that. They're I believe it's in legislation legislation now or with them in their sessions. So hopefully we'll have that soon as soon as we do get the OK. We will be able to send out money and.

00:39:06.390 --> 00:39:27.700

Alston, Susan

And get the money to you as quickly as we can and one other thing that will be coming out next week. So I just want you to be aware and give you a heads up as we are ready to get things moving on the supply chain assistance. Funds that Connecticut received so look for a memo on Monday and possibly Tuesday with the information of of.

00:39:28.340 --> 00:39:58.280

Alston, Susan

But these funds are about what therefore it will also include how much your school will receive and with that, you will have to have the you have the option to either accept the funds or decline. Those funds and and you will need to attest to the fact that you are suffering from supply chain disruptions in order to receive those funds, so it is quite a process we will send out the OM and with all of the information and a few attachments to answer all the questions but then also we will have.

00:39:58.340 --> 00:40:28.190

Alston, Susan

On Friday and we will send this out with the OM. I'm next Friday. April 8th from 930 to 10 will have a short info session. We will just go through some of the basics of of of this, this money how you're going to receive it. The attestation statement. So, just look for that and that's really important that you if you're able to attend that if not, it will be recorded. And it will be put on our website student after OK, so that's it for all the money.

00:40:28.920 --> 00:40:41.630

Alston, Susan

And so now I'm gonna just shift to the Resource Roundup from yesterday, which was the food safety plan in the shift back to NSLP and SBP next year. We don't want you to forget about this very important part.

00:40:42.000 --> 00:41:11.700

Alston, Susan

Uhm of your programs you know you're required to have a food service safety plan that's based on the is it the traditional process approach to the hassle principles. It needs to cover any of facility where you have proved that stored prepared or served for NSLP SBP or you know, fresh fruit and vegetables. Special Milk all of that stuff needs to be covered in there, I'm it has to include your standard operating procedures for safe food handling and you know, we have to remember it has to be updated.

00:41:11.750 --> 00:41:41.800

Alston, Susan

Annually and a copy available at every school and and any of you who that have been through administrator

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review know that this is something we will look for when we're at the school when we will ask to see a copy of it and we will look through all of these things so we thought it was a good time just as a refresher to kind of dust off those plans look at what you have. You have all summer to kind of get things in order and there are some great resources to help you do that. You do not need to start from scratch and and say how am I going to develop a plan.

00:41:41.860 --> 00:41:46.890

Alston, Susan

From you know page one to 500 all by yourself use these tools.

00:41:47.130 --> 00:42:17.040

Alston, Susan

Uhm the USDA has a great document for helping to train your staff and what should be included in in your food safety plan. I see end on the Institute of child nutrition also has some really great resources that you can use one that I wanted just to bring up is the 4th one in that list, which is the food safety standard operating procedures. So ICN has a template for all of these in the list is very expensive.

00:42:17.640 --> 00:42:18.270

Alston, Susan

Thank you Susan.

00:42:19.510 --> 00:42:48.350

Alston, Susan

I know I I couldn't read them from you know from sanitizing to controlling temperatures, to hot and cold holding, all of that stuff, so again. You don't have to create these from your right on your own. I'm definitely use these templates. You know, receiving deliveries serving food. All of that. You can pull from here, so just as a reminder if you have questions on that. You can definitely reach out to me and we also have other great resources on our food safety page.

00:42:48.410 --> 00:42:49.710

Alston, Susan

That we have on our website.

00:42:50.960 --> 00:42:54.630

Alston, Susan

And I think now I turn it back over to Teri.

00:43:01.670 --> 00:43:02.450

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you.

00:43:02.020 --> 00:43:02.500

Alston, Susan

Or she can.

00:43:03.140 --> 00:43:03.400

Alston, Susan

Cool.

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00:43:03.240 --> 00:43:04.290

Dandeneau, Therese

I am here.

00:43:04.940 --> 00:43:20.040

Dandeneau, Therese

I am here so we have this flier. It's called more than a meal application flier. And I just wanna. It's been up on our website. It's been there for a while, but I wanna remind everyone that.

00:43:22.500 --> 00:43:27.660

Dandeneau, Therese

It will help school districts and schools to promote the importance of encouraging parents.

00:43:28.350 --> 00:43:58.480

Dandeneau, Therese

Uhm regarding guidance to complete a meal application and we've seen a tremendous drop in the number of applications that have been processed in the districts and in the schools and we are concerned about the transition back to free reduced and paid meal programs. Next school year so please consider sharing this document with your households prior to the end of the school year as you know, and approved free or reduced meal application may also qualify a student for PBT and free school benefits such as physicals.

00:43:58.640 --> 00:44:29.010

Dandeneau, Therese

Field trips, athletic uniforms, etc free and reduced eligibility also impacts. E rates and title. One funding for the districts. Lastly approved applications prior to the end of the school year will help ensure a child carryover status at the beginning of the school year. We're waiting to hear from USDA regarding guidance around the idea or around carryover and we haven't heard anything to date, so we really think it's important.

00:44:29.240 --> 00:44:30.390

Dandeneau, Therese

That you try to get.

00:44:31.190 --> 00:44:36.410

Dandeneau, Therese

Households to complete these free and reduced meal applications prior to the end of the school year.

00:44:37.760 --> 00:44:38.250

Dandeneau, Therese

OK.

00:44:39.370 --> 00:44:43.560

Dandeneau, Therese

And if we have any questions on that you can certainly please indicate them.

00:44:44.450 --> 00:44:51.900

Dandeneau, Therese

And then the next thing that I want to talk about is food recalls. I believe it's food recalls is that the next thing that's on the list.

00:44:53.360 --> 00:45:22.410

Dandeneau, Therese

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And UM in the School Lunch Tray. We mentioned we mentioned that there was a reminder about food recalls you get those food recalls as we issue them and as I receive them from the FDA and so you can also sign up for your own notification of these food recalls and we give you the link in order for you to do that, so take a look at it. I also want to alert you to something that we just learned about within the past hour.

00:45:23.200 --> 00:45:53.250

Dandeneau, Therese

And the State Department of Education has been working with the governor's office as well as the Department of Agriculture and DPH and it's regarding Guida dairy and they issued a recall of milk in Camden County, New Jersey for their public school system and apparently there was an issue with their 1% low fat. Half pint milk cartons with the sell by date of April 11th and a batch of the milk was exposed to food grade.

00:45:53.310 --> 00:45:55.800

Dandeneau, Therese

Sanitizer that was diluted with water.

00:45:56.730 --> 00:46:04.640

Dandeneau, Therese

And the preliminary investigation report indicates that the actual issue is limited to milk distribution in New Jersey, however.

00:46:05.930 --> 00:46:23.210

Dandeneau, Therese

Out of an abundance of caution guide us dairy is asking all institutional customers, including schools, possessing 1% low fat. Half pint milk. Cartons flavored or unflavored where the sell by date of April 11th to dispose of the product.

00:46:24.390 --> 00:46:28.980

Dandeneau, Therese

If you have it scheduled to be served in your Afterschool Snack Programs today. Please pull.

00:46:30.380 --> 00:46:41.550

Dandeneau, Therese

And we are aware that this may impact meal service tomorrow and meeting the meal pattern requirements. We are going to send out a formal email to you within the next hour.

00:46:41.600 --> 00:46:42.780

Dandeneau, Therese

Power up.

00:46:43.700 --> 00:46:53.980

Dandeneau, Therese

Just providing more guidance and making sure that you have this in writing. We have no idea at the State Department of Ed? How many of you are using Guida milk, but you do want to be aware of it.

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00:46:59.110 --> 00:47:18.660

Dandeneau, Therese

And also on our website. We also have food safety. We have a website that's dedicated just to food safety and it tells you how to respond to a food recall whether it's USDA foods or if it's a general recall and it also gives you standard operating procedures regarding handling of food recall if it does.

00:47:20.260 --> 00:47:21.410

Dandeneau, Therese

If it does occur.

00:47:23.670 --> 00:47:27.800

Dandeneau, Therese

So with that I'm going to turn it over to Caroline to see if there are any questions.

00:47:32.260 --> 00:47:38.490

Cooke, Caroline

It looks like we only have one that we haven't answered so far, there was a question about the.

00:47:40.030 --> 00:47:48.140

Cooke, Caroline

It's more than a meal application link. So I am going to try to drop that link in the.

00:47:49.040 --> 00:47:58.080

Cooke, Caroline

Chat before we get off today, but if I don't make it. It is in the School Lunch Tray where originally appeared in the resource Roundup.

00:47:59.280 --> 00:48:00.180

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you Caroline.

00:48:05.750 --> 00:48:36.470

Yearwood, Shannon

So this is the opportunity, I usually take to remind you about Program Guidance and as Monica alluded to before with the change of Internet Explorer if that is your preferred browser when you're switching over to your other browsers that you're going to have to become more familiar with make sure you move. Those bookmarks over. You don't want to be without Program Guidance. So you will find everything you need to know to operate our programs. We we create templates for you guidance documents, Q&As.

00:48:36.920 --> 00:49:06.890

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh manuals quick reference sheets, so that is what has inspired us to make sure that we do provide that Resource Roundup in our School Lunch Trays because we know there's a lot of information out there and so we want to make sure that we are spotlighting things that are timely. It was a little bit. Strange timing on the alert around guide and are focusing on food recalls listeria mention that's not an official food recall yet, but definitely it.

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00:49:06.940 --> 00:49:22.670

Yearwood, Shannon

Related to that, so we try to keep things reminders that are important to you and those action items as you've seen in the last couple School Lunch Trays that we have not had action items, so please know that when we do include action items that those really are.

00:49:22.720 --> 00:49:53.230

Yearwood, Shannon

Or uh we're really mirroring down those things that you absolutely have to act on very quickly or by a particular deadline, so pay attention to those and that is, you know, we on the school entry Table Talk with our new school and trade format. We really do cover the action items, the need to know and those are things you need to know as a sponsor of our of the chat attrition programs and then we have the good to know which are items that will help support you in your administration.

00:49:53.280 --> 00:50:01.430

Yearwood, Shannon

Out those programs whether they be grant opportunities educational opportunities professional development opportunities that's where you'll find that information.

00:50:03.250 --> 00:50:06.580

Yearwood, Shannon

Did I scare anybody into asking more questions yet Caroline?

00:50:06.900 --> 00:50:07.770

Cooke, Caroline

Not so far.

00:50:08.260 --> 00:50:18.490

Cooke, Caroline

And some there were a few questions that were submitted prior to today's webinar and I believe those CEP questions were answered already.

00:50:18.550 --> 00:50:20.330

Cooke, Caroline

The UM.

00:50:20.910 --> 00:50:31.190

Cooke, Caroline

And I know that Susan Austin is anticipating reaching out to Tom O'Connor to help him with a specific question that he had.

00:50:33.540 --> 00:50:39.770

Cooke, Caroline

And I know that Therese already talked about summer training so we had a question about the.

00:50:40.550 --> 00:50:47.490

Cooke, Caroline

Series of training webinars for summer meals and whether those are just for SFSP sponsors or SSO sponsors as well.



## School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: March 31, 2022

00:50:47.870 --> 00:51:18.260

Cooke, Caroline

And it is mandatory for SFSP sponsors to attend the training. So we always strongly urge that the SSO funders attend the same trainings because much of the information is the same specific to this year series of webinars. We have one coming up next week on area eligibility, which I know is going to be a very important topic for any district. That's considering participating in either of the summer meals program so I strongly urge you to attend to that training.

00:51:18.610 --> 00:51:21.960

Cooke, Caroline

Feel free to reach out to me if you need some help getting registered for it.

00:51:22.970 --> 00:51:31.020

Cooke, Caroline

Or if you just need the link for SSO sponsors. You do not have to pre register. You just need to follow the link that we provided so I can provide that again if you need it.

00:51:31.640 --> 00:51:44.100

Cooke, Caroline

Other topics that would be great for SSO sponsors to participate in our local foods. USDA Foods and food safety all on May 5th with some speakers we have our?

00:51:45.290 --> 00:51:52.520

Cooke, Caroline

Expert Monica coming to talk about local foods and USDA foods and we will have our partners at DPH coming to talk about food safety.

00:51:53.330 --> 00:52:11.080

Cooke, Caroline

And and then on June second if you can flag your calendars for an outreach discussion Terese has big plans to make sure that our community partners, let everyone know what the outcomes were of all the work last year and how that translates into work in upcoming years.

00:52:13.600 --> 00:52:44.180

Yearwood, Shannon

So, in care, I'm just gonna jump in again to reinforce that folks join us for especially that area eligibility as you know last year. We did not receive guidance from USDA on how we should be approaching area eligibility since a large amount of the data sets that we typically use center arounds. Those school-based meal applications. And so we did not issue or publish an area eligibility. List last year when we looked at the data. It definitely would have caused.

00:52:44.230 --> 00:52:46.920

Yearwood, Shannon

More harm than good so we did not release it.

00:52:47.400 --> 00:53:07.570

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh we are this year, getting set to release the area eligibility list and that will be made available. Prior to that training. But we have just so that you know, we have put all of our heads together and have been trying to figure out with him. What is allowable? What data we can use to try and make it as?

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00:53:07.960 --> 00:53:38.930

Yearwood, Shannon

Uhm I wrote pasta list and is it all inclusive. The list as we are able to do so. I want to thank my team for helping really problem solve and be creative. With that and so also look at making sure that we meet or still in regulatory compliance and we are. We were very concerned with the expiration of the waivers and not having the datasets. We typically would have had otherwise to support this. But I do? Where were We do believe that the list that we have been able to develop will be very.

00:53:40.060 --> 00:53:57.800

Yearwood, Shannon

It it creates minimal as much. It minimizes the harm of not having that data to the to the most degree possible so please know that we know that were laid on it, but we just really wanted to explore every avenue to make sure that we held it as harmless as possible.

00:54:00.100 --> 00:54:18.170

Cooke, Caroline

We did have one other question come in just now. The question is aside from the more than a meal application. Flyer is there any sort of template letter we can send to families to start informing them that meals will not be free of charge to all students next year.

00:54:19.150 --> 00:54:49.200

Yearwood, Shannon

I can take this long, Caroline so we the USDA has indicated that they are working on a suite of guidance documents that that we hope will include some additional advice on how to help ease this transition that we have ahead of us, one of the indications they've also made is that they have indicated that they are working on some messaging that we can use as state agencies and potentially also whether we re purpose.

00:54:49.260 --> 00:55:20.300

Yearwood, Shannon

That and send it out to you to be able to use or whether we could whether they're developing direct direct materials for you to use we're not we're not certain yet that has not made it through the federal clearance process. We don't want to send you information or send you templates or guidance documents or even sample press information and tell we see what USDA is going to be issuing so that we are consistent.

00:55:20.350 --> 00:55:47.980

Yearwood, Shannon

With how this is being handled across the country, a lot of state agencies are very concerned about this transition and have you know USDA is as well and we have expressed a desire to make sure that we are unified in messaging and that it is made broadly aware not just add the local level. But at the state and regional and federal levels. So I don't know if that's going to happen, but we are certainly as soon as we know we will let you know.

00:55:48.030 --> 00:56:18.240

Yearwood, Shannon

How come and we'll certainly provide as much guidance as we kind inasmuch messaging and support as we can and we'll just see what happens we put in a ton of requests to USDA to be able to see if there's a way that we can really dive deep on being able to make this not all on you. Not all on the state agency, but to really create some consistency and some uniform messaging. Around this so that's part of the reason we really are focusing on nutrition security and the quality of meals, and really.

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00:56:18.300 --> 00:56:29.670

Yearwood, Shannon

Looking at what it is, you know, but when we provide meals to kids. We provide this access to these nutrition programs? How will they best support their development their education and their Wellness so?

00:56:31.260 --> 00:56:45.190

Yearwood, Shannon

Stage 2 and hopefully we'll have more sorry. We don't have anything set at the moment. But the other update. I have neglected for awhile is we are in the process of going back and forth with our pandemic EBT.

00:56:45.240 --> 00:57:17.250

Yearwood, Shannon

Yeah, and state plan we did. We did propose that and now we are in the final rounds of having that approved so once that approves approved we will be looking at issue. It's starting to issue the benefits for PDT for this current school year. Please know what I can tell you is that the criteria has once again changed for eligibility and it's also become much more complex this year, we anticipate that there will be a much lower level of benefit level of benefits, not only issued but there will be a greatly reduced amount.

00:57:17.300 --> 00:57:34.920

Yearwood, Shannon

Those students who will be eligible for that. We also had to develop a reconsideration process for this one. So there will be a little bit of a lift again for the school district. So just there will be more information. Coming out once our plans are approved. We will update the website that is hosted over on the DSS.

00:57:35.450 --> 00:57:50.060

Yearwood, Shannon

Our our State Department Social Services web page dedicated to the pandemic EBT benefits so we will keep that as up to date as possible, as we go through approvals. So just just wanted to give you a quick update on that as well.

00:57:57.830 --> 00:57:59.340

Yearwood, Shannon

Any other questions Caroline.

00:57:59.720 --> 00:58:00.680

Cooke, Caroline

Nope, that's it.

00:58:01.010 --> 00:58:04.970

Yearwood, Shannon

Alright let's do a 2 minute early dismissal for this.

00:58:06.300 --> 00:58:20.230

Yearwood, Shannon

Thank you. Everybody lots more coming down the pike for us, so let us know what's on your minds and submit questions using that Qualtrics link that is included in those School Lunch Trays. So thanks for all your doing everybody and have a wonderful rest of your day.

00:58:21.170 --> 00:58:21.550

Yearwood, Shannon

Bye.

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For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's Training for School Nutrition Programs 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/School\\_Lunch\\_Tray\\_Table\\_Talk\\_03\\_31\\_2022\\_Transcript.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/School_Lunch_Tray_Table_Talk_03_31_2022_Transcript.pdf).

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