

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

Presenters: Shannon Yearwood, Sean Fogarty, Fionnuala Brown, Monica Pacheco, Teri Dandeneau, Caroline Cooke, Terese Maineri, Kate Murphy (Naugatuck), Michelle Rosado (Hostess)

0:05

Hi, everyone and welcome to the Connecticut State Department of Education's School Lunch Tray Table Talk this fine Thursday morning.

0:13

We are so delighted that you were able to join us today, and hope that you have told your friends about Table Talk, and have them join us.

0:20

As a reminder, we are going to be taking a deep dive into the School Lunch Tray that you received yesterday and receive those every Wednesday. It contains information that you need to know to operate your program.

0:32

So we are also treating this as our office hours. So if you have questions, whether they pertain to something that was in the Lunch Tray or not, certainly enter those into the question box at the end.

0:43

If we have the time, we'll go ahead and enable the hand raising feature, if you'd like to join us verbally.

0:49

But until then, if you have those pressing questions, certainly enter those in the question box. If we can't get them today to them today, we will get to them, even potentially next week, or we will follow up with you.

1:01

And some certainly, people have asked us questions that are very specific to their district.

1:06

We'll reach out to you specifically um with any sort, of any sort of troubleshooting or problem solving you need from us, too, but just know that your particular scenarios may not actually be as particular to you, as you may think. So certainly add them, and they might be helpful to others.

1:24

So with that, I should probably also introduce myself. So I'm Shannon Yearwood, the Education Manager with the Child Nutrition Programs for the Department of Education.

1:31

And I am so thrilled to be joined by my fabulous team today, as you can see.

1:36

And I'm also very excited to introduce our newest team member, Sean Fogarty, who is joining us, um, as our new Grants and Contract Specialist.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

1:46

So he will be working on across all of our programs, as you know, these programs are all grants programs and they're all under our contract agreements, so we um, we are getting John, excuse me, we are getting Sean up to speed with everything.

1:53

We are so excited he's on board and we want you to hear from him and he will certainly respond. He's part of the team here, and we're going to be making sure he knows you.

2:10

So, before Sean was with us at Department of Education, he came to us from the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy as a Health Information Technology Program Manager, and that was involving the Health Information Exchange Entity.

2:24

So he's, prior to that, was also with the Department of Transportation. So, John has a, excuse me, Sean has a great amount of experience with implementing federally administered programs and, and helping contractors and sponsors be able to figure out how those should be best implemented. So we're just thrilled, and wanted to welcome Sean to the team and introduce them to everybody.

2:48

Thank you so much for joining us Sean.

2:50

Speaker 2 - Thank you, Shannon, I appreciate it.

2:54

Sorry, I just wanna say, it's great to meet everybody, and we're looking forward to working with you all and getting a chance to meet all of you and really support you with this.

3:00

It's a great project.

3:03

Speaker 1 - Great, thanks so much on that. So with that, we're gonna transition right over to Fionnuala Brown, and she's gonna walk us through our Table Talk and Research Roundup today.

3:13

Have a wonderful Thursday and enjoy the Table Talk.

3:18

Speaker 3 – Great, thank you, Shannon, and good morning everyone. As Shannon said, my name is Fionnuala Brown. I'm part of the team here in the Child Nutrition Unit, and I support the school sponsors.

3:31

Um, so we have just a few items included in the Table Talk this week, and so I think it's going to go by relatively quick. The first item up is an update on USDA Foods. So I'm going to let Monica uh take it away there.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

3:50

Speaker 4 - Great, thanks Fionnuala. Good morning everyone. I just wanted to do a quick reminder. As you all know, from last week, we opened up the ordering period. The catalog is open. The worksheets are up and running, and hopefully you're starting to take the steps you need to start planning your orders for next year.

4:07

As a reminder, we do still plan on doing the June 30th sweeps at processors.

4:13

And what that means is any pound remaining as of the end of June will get swept to the state account at each of these processors and removed from your individual accounts.

4:23

Um a variety of reasons for this, realizing certainly that pounds are not getting used as they normally would this year, based on how the menus have changed. We realized that, however, we really need to make sure we're monitoring and maintaining the six month inventory regulation that is required.

4:39

It also lets us help for the next year, so we can take those swept pound, use them to cover some orders for next year, or provide some backup to those, so you don't lose a lot of the state per se.

4:52

We're just re-using them differently for the next year, so be aware of that. And I just want to take one second to encourage you, as well, to make sure you are monitoring your pounds at processors.

5:03

You do K-12 service, or the processor link websites, where you have your different processors maintaining information for you. So you see what your balances are.

5:15

You know that pounds who've been flying around like crazy this year, due to canceled trucks, we had to change pound balances. We've had to cover orders. We've moved things around, so don't assume what you ordered from last March is exactly the number you expect to find if you haven't been monitoring, so please get in there, and you know that we are moving pounds to assist you. So, certainly, if you see that pounds change, but now you are able to place an order for something, let us know if you don't have enough and we'll do our best to help you out with that.

5:46

Um, and additionally, we're seeing pounds even moving between states, like never before it. If someone sitting on some excess pounds and another state had a truck canceled, these pounds are getting moved around it.

5:59

Big, giant puzzles, so to speak, and everyone's working together on it.

6:04

And as a reminder to Food Service Management Company Directors, please be sure that you are updating your schools for business officials on what's going on with pounder process. Explaining the process, explaining if you're unable to use them and why with the menu changes, and also

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

taking credit for when you're able to get additional pounds elsewhere to help you manage the program. So any questions on that?

6:27

Again, feel free to reach out to me, I'll be happy to work with you on that, and I think that's it for me Fionnuala.

6:36

Speaker 3 - Okay, thank you, Monica.

6:38

Almost forgot my most important job, which is to scroll down as we go through this. I've gone straight. So, the next the next item on the School Lunch Tray is a reminder. This went out last week on the announcement about the required update in the online system regarding the, regarding the um, I'm going to turn off my camera.

7:07

Regarding the USDA waivers, and I apologize, some technical difficulty there.

7:12

And so, we, we thought it was a good idea to include it, again, this week. So, this is due next Friday, February 26th, and this particular announcement is for the Seamless Summer Option sponsors. And, we have about 125 sponsors that are operating the seamless summer program.

7:34

And, so, what we have here is the link to the guide or the instructions on completing the USDA waivers in the Child Nutrition Program System.

7:45

The um, at this point, we are collecting information data on implementation of waivers at a site and school level, so, at no point, this year due to provide that information. So, you, everyone is required to submit this, the Summer Food Service Program Sponsors.

8:05

So, the other summer program um, that some schools have sponsors, have chose to operate. It will also need to do this and those directions and those instructions, and they will have a different deadline, will be sent out directly from um Caroline and Terese directly to those sponsors. So, again, this particular guide is for the Summer Food Service Program, and that is, should be completed by February 26th. So, what I'm going to do, and why we thought it was important to just send this reminder out, is we did have a handful of sponsors complete this during the week, and there were certainly some questions around it. So, I wanted to just go in and clarify two points about this. So, last week, I went into extensive detail, walked you through the entire process of completing this in the online system. But, today, I will not do that again.

9:09

But I just wanted to clarify one or two points. So, again, this is the Child Nutrition Programs Online system. You would need access into the system to complete these USDA waivers. If you're not the individual responsible, um, you would need to let the individual responsible know that this is due.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

9:28

Um so for the school and the Seamless Summer Option sponsors. You click down to USDA waivers.

9:38

And then I'm in here just in a particular sponsor. Again, for no reason just that I needed to highlight some areas, you could enter the details, and then you see all of the schools and sites that are operating in the Seamless Summer Option.

9:54

And then you're in the USDA waivers. You would click into to modify it or add it.

10:00

And you can go back to the instructions to look at that. Look at that, I'm just going to click into the middle school here.

10:07

And for the Seamless Summer Program, there are seven sponsors list of seven waivers listed, and for each waiver, you will see a Tooltip.

10:15

So, if you have a particular question on how to answer this um waiver as far as participating, not participating, and the months, you would click into the tool tip.

10:26

But everyone, participating in the seamless option will be participating in the first waiver, and checking off all of the applicable ones, which, for most sponsors, will be October through June.

10:40

So, I'm not going to go through each of them, but I wanted to point out areas that we received questions on.

10:46

So it's important, as you're completing these, um this section and answering these questions about a site, that you are relating it back to what is approved for that site, and obviously, the operations at that site.

11:02

So for um this particular school, they are participating, they're participating in the Area Eligibility Waiver. And then for question number three, are they a Closed Site, Area Eligible for Closed Site? They marked off participating, and I didn't mention this last week, but you can go back to your sponsor application.

11:28

Um and look at the site application for that particular school under the Seamless Summer Option here.

11:37

Um, we've clicked into the middle schools, Swift Junior High School.

11:43

And down in this site application, you will see the site type, then also the eligibility.

11:51

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

So you will see that it is a closed enrolled sites, and it was based on the Area Eligibility Waivers. So, you'll be able to draw the information off of your application as far as what is approved. And, again, I did not make that link last week, and I wanted to do that.

12:10

So, you really need to correlate it to what is approved in your site application.

12:15

So, we're just clicking back into them, um, middle school.

12:20

And, that is why she said, participating in waiver for this Closed Enrolled Site, she's approved to do that, and, if you click into the tool tip, you'll find some more information about what that actually means in what would qualify a site to be approved, Closed Enrolled.

12:40

If you read this, and find that, hey, this doesn't really fit what I actually am approved for, that's when you would need to reach out to your Consultant. We need to potentially update the online system to make sure the application reflects the operations that are happening, and then, certainly, that the waiver reflects that as well.

12:59

So, again, if you find any discrepancies between the application and what's happening, you want um reach out to your County Consultant.

13:08

But I wanted to make that connection there with your approved um Seamless Summer Option sites to take a look at that.

13:20

And, again, waivers four, five, and six, work together, um for the most part, for open sites, you would be participating in this, but this particular site is a Closed Site, only feeding closed enrolled students, so they're checking off, not participating.

13:38

However, what was brought up last week is you could have a Closed Enrolled Site that you are approved to send home Saturday and Sunday meals.

13:48

So, certainly, Saturday and Sunday meal wouldn't be a non congregate feeding, because they're not congregating in school. It's an off site consumption. Click into the tool tip.

14:00

Um look to see what's happening and if that is, in fact, representing what's going on.

14:09

So, the last item I wanted to just, um clarify would be waiver number: seven, the meal pattern flexibility waiver.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

14:21

So, I want to be clear that anyone that's checking off, participating in this waiver will need to go to this um URL to our website where the application is and download it and complete it, upload into this system.

14:40

No sponsor, at this point, has submitted the new application. These new mealtime flexibility waiver applications went out a few weeks ago.

14:49

Um, so, if you submitted something in the spring, that does not carry over for school year 20-21, so you'll need to complete a new application, get that uploaded approved, and then certainly participating in waiver will apply.

15:08

And that is okay. So, um again, the sponsor is in the middle of, of completing this for her schools, and so, she will need to upload under attachments, which I went in under view. So, I wasn't able to do that.

15:22

So, if you go under um modify, when I'm down here, um participating in waiver, I'm gonna need to upload that waiver, that meal pattern, flexibility waiver, into the online system, so, the County Consultant of the stage. And so, you can review that, and make sure that, that is appropriate. You can do that for each site. If you're going to do a district wide meal pattern flexibility waiver, you can upload it for one site, and identify its applicable for all.

15:55

So, that is, um, that section, um, and, again, this is the Seamless Summer Option, the Summer Food Service Program.

16:08

Sponsors will receive their instructions, and they have 11 waiver, so a few additional waivers that are covered there, and Caroline and Terese have extensive instructions on how to, on how to complete that.

16:23

Um, I'm not sure if we have any questions at this point about this section, or we, we want to go on?

16:35

Speaker 1 – Fionnuala, it's probably good to stop for a moment.

16:39

We do have a couple of questions, but that one is around the USDA Foods, we need Monica for a moment, and I don't want to get too far away from that. So the question is, do you want to, do you want us to let you know if we have pounds at a processor that we know we can't use?

17:03

Speaker 4 - Yeah, that's a great question. Certainly, you can do that. If you do have pounds, you know, at a processor, you realize, due to the change in your menus, you're not going to be able to use it. You can send, either myself or Allison a quick e-mail, and we'll just move those over into the state account now versus at the end of the school year, and that way, we know then they're

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

available, should somebody else be needing them in the meantime. So, yes, that would be fine. Thank you.

17:29

Speaker 1 – Great, thanks so much, Monica.

17:30

Um, so there's a question around CEUs and if they're available for attendance on these Table Talks. So, we'll take that into consideration. I don't have an answer for you today, but that will um certainly take that into discussion and let you know where we land.

17:47

So, another question, and this is very timely for what you were walking through Fionnuala, is, are the waivers for the grain and milk changes also due on the 26th?

17:59

Speaker 3 – Yes, if you are indicating that you are implementing the meal pattern flexibility waiver, then you would need to get that approved, so, due on the 26th, if it's applicable, so if you're not implementing that right now, and you may need to implement it later on, then you're not participating right now.

18:21

So, um, so, yes. If you are implementing that flexibility, which is allowed by USDA, regarding the grains, the milk, um, and the is the trans fat. And that is June then also, because you'll be marketing law participating in waiver for that site. So, then we need that. That application is extremely straightforward. So, you're literally just checking off that, you are participating and then you'll be uploading it. There's a second part of that meal pattern flexibility waiver, which is um all around COVID and what USDA is allowing for that, which again is not just a supply chain issues.

19:03

It could be something with staffing, or packaging, or something that may need to modify um your menu, and you may not be able to meet the meal pattern.

19:14

So, that is certainly, where you may have some questions, and where the state agency may have some questions for you, but the first part around the, the Grains, and the Milk and um, modifying your menu with that which is allowed, is just a check off, and you would upload that on the 26th, if you are participating in that for that particular site.

19:37

I hope that answered that question.

19:41

Speaker 1 – Thank you, I think that, that does, and I guess, the other kind of, uh second part to that, is that if you experience some disruption in your ability to get the food that you ordered, or menuing, or whatever, or is going to interrupt your ability to comply with those meal patterns.

19:58

But, it, at a later date, let's say, April, if that happens, you would still have the ability to submit a waiver application. So, that's, so, that's really, if you're implementing it, now, get that in before

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

the 26th, If it comes down, it becomes an issue for you in the future, you would still have the ability to, to apply for that.

20:22

Speaker 3 - A great point, Shannon, exactly, yeah.

20:28

Speaker 1 - So, we have, one more question, and I'll field this one. So, the question, when can we expect the healthy state matching funds? So, as you may recall, the Healthy Food Certification was very specifically tied to the national school lunch program and state statute.

20:44

So the Executive Order nine K that was issued in November about our Commissioner of Education to interpret the statutory references around the intent of the programs. And so, that process does take a little while between the Executive Order being issued, looking at the statutes, and making sure that we are implementing those fiscal responsibilities appropriately.

21:09

So, yeah, you should have of, forward those of you who qualify for the severe state severe needs school Breakfast grant, you should have received, goes from the already, certainly reach out to your consultant if you're unaware of that, and we can help you find it.

21:23

I believe it was last week School Lunch Tray, where we are put out a note. It may have been the week before, where it really described how you could identify those folks.

21:32

Healthy Food certification. We also moderate, we're also able to modify the process of approving the applications for this year.

21:40

But, again, because of these unprecedented times, and because of the specific language in the state statute, that modification to take a little while, But Susan Fiore furiously working to improve those. Once she is um, once those applications are approved, we'll be able to send out those payments. Shortly thereafter, you will be getting the application, or next year's Healthy Food Certification, so we know that typically goes out in January that didn't make sense to send it out in January this year, as we were still trying to make sure we were able to give you the funds for this year.

22:14

For state matching funds, we're, we're still waiting guidance from USDA on how that, how that will be impacted by the switch from the School Breakfast National School Lunch Program, in the middle of last year into the ability to operate the Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option, and the At Risk Afterschool Program. So we know USDA is working furiously on that, as well, but we have not received guidance, so once we receive that guidance, we will be able to allocate those.

22:48

And I won't know what that looks like, but we will turn that around as soon as we possibly. So hopefully, that helps answer that question.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

22:55

With that, I think we can continue on, because that was the rest. That was the majority of the questions that have been asked right now. So certainly keep those questions coming. We'd love to hear from you.

23:06

I'd love to know what's on your mind, and that will help us know exactly what we need to do to help support you.

23:11

So, thanks so much for those folks submitting questions out there. Fionnuala back to you.

23:17

Speaker 3 – Great, thanks, Shannon.

23:19

So the next item in the School Lunch Tray is an update to the Professional Standards um Training Tracking Tool Tracker Tool. So, as you know, professional standards, um professional development requirements, standards are in place. So anyone who is related and has responsibilities in the Federal Child Nutrition Programs um falls into some category, and is required to have a certain number of hours, annually, and, or job specific training. So many on the sponsors in Connecticut. I am not aware that you are using this USDA tool, but we are giving you an update.

24:03

It really um has improved over the last two years, so some more updates now would be functionality um regarding looking at, back at your history, so I know that there are a small number of sponsors that utilize this tool, so it has some updates, and we wanted to make you aware of that.

24:24

Um, and so that's it for the updates in the School Lunch Tray um for Resource Roundup, this week, Susan Fiore was not able to be with us, so I'm just taking over, covering for her with, with this section. And with the resource roundup, we wanted to share resources available around National School Breakfast Week.

24:47

So National School Breakfast Week will be March 8th through the 12th, and the um theme this month is Score Big with School Breakfast, and it's certainly an excellent way ah recognizing National School Breakfast Week is assists with increasing participation, helps spread the message to parents, um to school staff administration, about the importance of breakfast being a healthy school breakfast, an integral part of certainly learning.

25:20

So, um, we have a bunch of resources that I'm going to just um click into here, so we're a few weeks out, and if you haven't done any planning, we want them to show you what's available.

25:34

We know this is certainly a challenging year and um everybody is stretched thin, but we have a number of sponsors that are participating in breakfast for the first time.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

25:46

So, certainly, recognizing um National School Breakfast Week, and utilizing some of these tools may help you, with increasing participation. So the School Nutrition Association has really the, um, the wealth of information here.

26:05

So, you have um different artwork and logos to be able to, to down download and certain competitions with students.

26:16

It's really over here, this, this toolkit is 14 page, toolkit that has it all um, so, everything in this toolkit has everything you need. It covers, you know, setting goals, how to engage students, who are eating at home, engaging students, eating in the classroom, in the cafeteria, social media, um messaging.

26:40

Um, connecting your menus to National School Breakfast Week for 2021. So, it really has uh, has everything.

26:48

So, this website here, and this toolkit with the activities um for students, it really, it's up to you, right?

26:57

So you can go and make it as big or small as you want, and I know many Food Service Directors and many sponsors participate in this um annually and do something. And so for maybe someone new on the, on the line today, I just wanted to say it doesn't have to be this huge thing where you would need to get their contact the media or have some um social media present.

27:22

It could be as small as you know decorating your serving line, having some items, or some um posters available for, for students in some activities.

27:34

So, please, if you do have an opportunity to just do 1 or 2 things, really may help you out with um increasing participation.

27:44

So, that is, whoops, while not found, not good, so, hm, okay, I am going to go off here for a second.

27:59

Speaker 5 – Hey Fionnuala? Speaker 3 - Yes.

28:07

Speaker 5 – Did you want to ask, or do we want to ask anybody that's on the webinar, if they're planning on doing any School Breakfast Week activities? Is there anybody that wants to share anything?

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

28:19

I don't know if we have the mechanism for doing that? I know that NERO may want to know. Is there anybody out there that wants to uh chime in and share what they're doing for School Breakfast week?

28:24

Speaker 1 - That's a really great point Teri um, Michelle our gracious hostess are you able to enable our hand raising feature so folks can join us verbally?

28:43

Speaker 6 – Um it is enabled, so. Speaker 1 - Great, and we see a hand.

28:50

It looks like Kate Murphy from fabulous Naugatuck is willing to share her school breakfast plan.

28:58

So Kate I think if you unmute yourself, you can go ahead and share. Speaker 6 - Okay, can you hear me? Speaker 1 – Yes.

29:06

So I haven't got it all in place, but I was trying to think of a way to engage our remote learners. Because some of the parents have expressed to the PTO that the kids don't feel that they're part of the school community. So I was trying to find a way that we could include them.

29:22

So my thought was to try and set up some kind of virtual cooking class with them, so they can cook their breakfast with me, at home, um whatever that breakfast is that day, if we're going to do French Toast, I haven't decided what the menu is going to be yet, and I literally just thought of this over the weekend, when I couldn't sleep. So, if it's gonna be French toast I'm gonna give them their wheat bread, their egg, and then do the cooking with them virtually at like eight o'clock in the morning.

29:53

Um you know, how to scramble their, mix the egg and dip it in the bread and put it in the frying pan, and then maybe cut up some strawberries or something to put on it, so that's my thought.

30:02

I don't know how I'm gonna put it all together and I'm trying to figure that out, but that's hopefully that's what I can do.

30:11

Speaker 1 – That's great, and like we'd love to join your cooking show too.

30:15

Speaker 6 – Can I count you as a breakfast meal?

30:30

Speaker 1 – Nope, unfortunately I'm far over that age Kate, don't let my age fool you Kate.

30:36

Speaker 6 – You're not under 18 and under, come on?

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

30:38

So that's my idea and trying to figure out how I could put it all together and make sure I notify the families because they're going to have to pick it up the day before. Um, I just haven't figured out all the logistics of it yet.

30:53

Speaker 1 - That sounds really creative, if the only thing and Fionnuala and Teri would know this a lot better than I do.

30:59

Is just to kind of keep in mind that the, the items, I think that they, they use at home would be what you have to be really careful around food safety.

31:09

Make sure that there are assembling, I think than cooking, but I'm gonna let my team weigh in on that because they know these areas a lot better than I do.

31:18

Speaker 5 - I just think you have to plan, that's all, and, just think it out, It sounds like Kate you've got a great idea, and, you know, just think it through, and make sure that, you know, you're using the components that are part of the breakfast. So it sounds like a wonderful idea.

31:37

Speaker 1 - It certainly is and I can use some lessons.

31:42

Speaker 3 - I'm going to just click into, thank you for sharing Kate, and that was wonderful. And I'm, I'm, I'm having a difficult time today with the technology, so I apologize that. School Nutrition Association, certainly that link has everything you need for National School Breakfast Week, and all the tools and resources are there. We did also give you the link to the Team Nutrition School Breakfast Materials. There's always materials there to help promote school breakfast, posters available to download, really colorful, wonderful things to promote breakfast, and the last thing that I wanted to just show you was on our website. We have um revamped it a little bit.

32:27

So you can always go to, um you can always go to program guidance, and click on, um go down to ask for school breakfast, and you'll find some materials there. We have um information about expanding breakfast, to help increase participation, menu planning, um and certainly are resources available as well.

32:51

So, so we have, um again, you know, revamped our website a little bit. Our webpage around school breakfast, in hopes to help you out there, um also, so I just wanted to show you that, a resource that we had available.

33:09

Speaker 1 - Yeah, there's one more, there's one more story to share for what we're, what folks are planning for school breakfast.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021

33:18

Um, but definitely the year, we really, really made sure that we built out our school breakfast page, and made it a really good resource for you, to be able to find what you need very easily.

33:30

So one of another district is sharing that they are doing a breakfast sandwich bonanza, with all schools offering different breakfast sandwiches each week works great for grab and go, remote and classroom feeding, that's a great tip. I would love to hear some more ideas.

33:51

That was, that, was our only are there. We don't have other questions in here, but if there are any other brave souls, you want to raise your hand or enter in the question box, what your plans are?

34:07

We'll give it a minute, and then we will give you your time back if nobody else wants to share.

34:15

And while we're, while we're giving you a few minutes, I also want to remind you that when we send out School Lunch Tray registration link, we um, that's gonna launch a registration link.

34:22

We, also, there's the link to be able to submit questions. You can do that at any time.

34:29

It doesn't have to be, we will see those whenever you submit those. And that will help us make sure that we're addressing any sorts of concerns, questions you have, about being those resources that you might need.

34:42

So certainly, use that link, let us know if you have what's on your mind, should be pretty straightforward.

34:48

So I'm not seeing any other questions, or any other raised hands, but I do really appreciate those stories that you shared. Thanks so much for doing that.

34:58

I'll hand it back to you Fionnuala if you want to wrap us up, and we can get back.

35:05

Speaker 3 - Okay, sure, yes, I just wanted to say thank you to everyone. We have um one more week where we will be hosting this on Thursday mornings between 9 and 10. So, that's next Thursday, and then, we will be sending out the link for the March series, which will be from 2 to 3, um also on Thursdays. So, thank you, everyone, for joining. We hope that you found this helpful, and we'll see you next week, next Thursday morning.

35:33

Have a great day.

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 18, 2021



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_02_18_2021_Transcript.pdf.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.