

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: April 1, 2021

Presenters/Attendees: Speaker 1 – Shannon Yearwood, Speaker 2 – Fionnuala Brown, Speaker 3 – Susan Fiore, Speaker 4 – Susan Alston, Speaker 5 – Kari Sullivan, Speaker 6/Hostess – Michelle Rosado, Speaker 7 – Sean Fogarty, Speaker 8 – Monica Pacheco, Teri Dandeneau, Terese Maineri, Andy Paul

0:04

Speaker 1 - Hi, and welcome to today's School Lunch Tray Table Talk brought to you by the Connecticut State Department of Education, I'm Shannon Yearwood, the Education Manager with the Child Nutrition Programs, and we have a very packed School Lunch Tray for you today. So we are going to um just move right into that.

0:21

I want to just quickly remind you that you should look at these as your way to access us for any questions you may have, whether they pertain to you, the content that's in this week's School Lunch Tray or not. Certainly pop that into the question box. We will answer as we are able to.

0:36

We use that information to help inform our resource development and also what is contained in these Table Talks and lunch transfers. So certainly have those questions and use that link that goes out in the School Lunch Tray to submit your questions.

0:50

And you are in great hands with this amazing team that I have the fortune to be able to work with.

0:56

So, with that, I'll go ahead and hand it off to Fionnuala.

1:02

Speaker 2 - Okay, thank you, Shannon. So, the first item on the School Lunch Tray is um a memorandum that went out March 30th, and this is the annual notification requirement for all LEAs participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

1:20

So, um this is annual, um and I received a few phone calls about this memorandum already, so I'm glad we're talking about it um today, during the table talk. So this is for public and private.

1:37

As I mentioned, sponsors the RCCI and special milk program sponsors do not need to report this data. And this is, again, pointing out, even though it says CEP, this is for all sponsors.

1:52

Even if you're planning not to participate, I have no desire, or, you know, that you're not even close with the numbers to receive CEP, this reporting requirement is required for all sponsors.

2:06

So it is due June 15th, and all sponsors must enter the data into the CNP online system during the Resource Round up. We're going to take a quick glance at the guidance we've provided you to be able to enter this data into the online system.

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2:25

Um, I am going to just go through this memo a little more.

2:31

Um, so the reporting, the data elements for this requirement, as those of you who have done this before, you're familiar, but we may have some new individuals on the line. So the data elements are the same. You will be reporting um the total number of directly certified students by school.

2:56

And um first would be from the Direct Certification web application. And you'll also be reporting directly certified students by school that were certified outside of using the web application. So homeless children, runaway, some Head Start, so documentation that you have on file at the district to directly certified those students. And the third data element is the total enrollment.

3:24

And again, this is by school, and this would be from the central office and not from your Point of Sale System.

3:34

This would be the records of the school for those students um enrolled. And again, these are only for students enrolled in the district that have access to um either the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, or both.

3:50

So the um the different thing this year, um which was also different last year was the fact that it is not April 1st data.

4:00

Due to the uh COVID pandemic we now have the flexibility and you'll be choosing a date anytime between July first, 2020 and June um 7th, 2021.

4:14

This was the same last year, it was a different, um, time range, but you do have to choose. So it's not April 1st data.

4:26

The memo goes on to describe the data that um you would use in the file for the enrollment, what you would include if you were going to retain that, um and move forward with potentially applying for CEP.

4:45

And we pointed out the direct certification web application, where you would be um obtaining the data for that first data element, those directly certified students using the web application.

5:00

So, again, I just wanted to point out some, some items with this.

5:06

With this memorandum and the data is due June 15th, you will be, if you're a larger district that has a number of individuals involved, you'll be uh using the Direct Certification, contact individual, the determining official.

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Certainly, you'll need to make sure you have updated enrollment information and then someone who has access into the CNP online system to be able to enter all of the state of June 15th is the due date.

5:35

And you would pick a date for all three data elements. You will be picking one date, to report out on those directly certified students in your um enrollment.

5:46

At this point, we are on, we have not released information on formerly applying for CEP, and so when that is updated, and we are providing more information by USDA. That will be released to all of our sponsors.

6:01

So, again, this um process and this requirement is outside of CEP in that everyone has to report these numbers, and then if you will be formally moving forward with recalculating your ISP or applying for CEP for the first time, we would be then using this as the first, first step.

6:25

So, any questions you can reach out to your county consultant, Teri, Susan Alston or myself, and we will be happy to answer your questions.

6:41

Okay.

6:47

So, the next two items on the school lunches are about the local school Wellness Policy Triennial assessment. Um the first one is we wanted to point out there are two webinars coming up in April. We have April 20th and April 27. The same material and we're just giving you an opportunity to choose either the morning or the afternoon. Um some sponsors have attended a webinar in February and so this is the same information, but we are opening it up now to all of our sponsors.

7:20

So, this is a partnership with The Rudd Center and um so on is going to help sponsor us walk through the process of completing their Triennial Assessment.

7:30

This is due June 30th of 2021. We do have a handful of sponsors that completed this last year, so you have fulfilled the requirement, and you don't need to do it again for another three years, right.

7:43

So, it's, it's a Triennial Assessment and if you have done it and again, there's probably a handful then, you do not need to complete it again for this year or for those of you that are availed of that waiver and are now have the June 30th, 2021 as your deadline you would oh, it would behoove you to attend one of the webinars to really give you a nice overview of the process.

8:13

So you just need to e-mail Glenda Stuckey if you're interested in attending either of those webinars and with that we developed and updated our web page on the School wellness policy.

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8:25

So I'm gonna click into that to show you what we have.

8:42

Okay, so this is our School Wellness Policy page and on the bottom here, you can click right into um the Triennial Assessment, or um on the left-hand side here, you can click into what's next, and, um, as I mentioned, we've been working with the RUDD Center.

9:01

The Department of Education issue for over a year now, before I started working with local schools policies, but they have done a fabulous job in on meeting the worksheets and videos to walk through all of the steps. So we've broken it up into four different steps.

9:23

And many of the districts have already completed step one, and that's comparing your local schools policy to a model policy, and we do that with the well set three.

9:37

And step through two is on assessing compliance um with implementation, and that's through the interview process and then you will be identifying connections between policy and practice three, and then summarizing your arm findings, and sharing it with the public.

9:56

So we've broken it up into four steps, with each step, there's a worksheet and a video, and then step one actually has a few videos, and the assessment tool there, but what I would recommend is, if this is your first time looking at this, is that you would click into the, the overview, or the guidance here.

10:19

It goes through all of the background information, about the local school wellness policies, why we're completing this Triennial Assessment, and then breaks up the um, the four steps, and then the time needed, staff, needed materials, and kind of what each step is all about.

10:38

So, again, the RUDD Center did a fabulous job working with us to develop these tools. So everything is here to really support you in completing this and making it as painless as possible.

10:55

Um the nice thing about, about all of this is once you have this, completed, this training and assessment, which, this is the first time USDA has required, um an assessment of the implementation of your policies. That you would have a roadmap for the next year or two for your wellness committee, because it will be through this process that you're going to identify areas where you may need to strengthen the policy language. Or um areas where you may need to, staff may need to be trained for better implementation of the practices.

11:34

And, again, it's not that all of that has to happen before June 30th, 2021, the assessment of the policy has to happen, and then decide these next steps can carry out through the next um few years.

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So, that is my area, and um we're going to go back to the school lunch tray, and the third bullet here. We have the competitive foods update and Susan Fiore is going to provide that.

12:15

Speaker 3 - Thank you Fionnuala. Hi, everybody.

12:18

I wanted to take a little bit of time to go through some new information that we have on our revised competitive food resources for you, and just to start off as a reminder. I know this year has been unprecedented, and we have many waivers in effect for our school meals and assorted procedures around those meals, but there are no waivers for competitive foods. So this means that all of the requirements that are currently in effect at the state level and the federal level still apply to all schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program. So just in terms of, before we get into a little bit of an overview of what those resources are, I wanted to give you a little bit of information about each of the requirements. So just to remind you, that in addition to nutrition standards for foods and beverages, there are several other federal and state requirements that you must follow. And sometimes it gets a little bit complicated, because some of the federal laws supersede the state, and some of the state supersede the federal. Some operate during the school day.

13:20

Some operate at any time that Child Nutrition Programs are operating, and there's a lot of variation between the requirements between public schools, private schools, and residential child care institutions. So I'm going to take you through a brief overview of the requirements that are in effect.

13:41

And then we're going to look a little bit at some of the resources that will help you meet those requirements.

13:47

So Fionnuala if we can scroll down just a little bit and click into our competitive foods page.

14:02

And uh Fionnuala is going to bring me down to a chart that makes it a little bit easier, I think, to see um exactly what the laws are and who they apply to.

14:16

So, there are several listed here, and we're gonna go through them just briefly just to remind you, again, what those requirements are. Uh the first one is the statute that actually enables Healthy Food Certification. So 10-215f is the statute that requires all of our districts in public schools every year to say yes or no, to following the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. So most of you do, about 94% of you, do follow our state nutrition standards. So that's what that statute requires right below, that are the actual standards themselves.

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14:50

And this is the legislation that enables the standards, and for those of you who are on HFC, you know that you're following the standards for all foods sold to children's separately from reimbursable meals, on premises at all times.

15:04

And the only exception to that is when your board has voted to allow food exemptions, and you sell those foods, at the location of the event that occurs after the school day, or on the weekend, and in that case, you can sell foods that don't comply with the nutrition standards. The tricky part of that is, as there are some other state laws that supersede that, and we'll get into that in a minute. The next one is the beverage statute, and that applies to all public schools regardless of whether you are on Healthy Food Certification or not. And that requires that schools can only sell five different categories of beverages.

15:42

And those are milk, juice, water, non-dairy beverages, and beverages that contain only water and juice, and those five categories must meet specific nutrition standards.

15:53

And those are outlined on our state beverage page, in terms of what you must follow for those particular requirements. So again, those apply to all public schools. Even those that are not on HFC. And even those that are not on the National School Lunch Program. This is the state, state law for all public schools.

16:11

The next one is our statute regarding nutritious and low fat foods. And what this statute requires is that whenever foods are available for purchase by students on school premises during the school day, that at the same location, you must also sell nutritious low fat foods, and those are defined in the statute as low fat dairy, and fresh or dried fruit. So, uh those foods must be available again, either at the same location or elsewhere on school premises at the same time.

16:44

Next, we have our State Competitive Foods Regulations, and this regulation has two parts.

16:50

The first part prohibits selling and giving candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks to students on school premises while Child Nutrition Programs are operating.

17:01

And there's a specific timeframe for this, which is 30 minutes before, up to 30 minutes after the operation of any Child Nutrition Program. So, for example, if the National School Lunch Program operates from 11:00 to 1:00, then from 10:30 to 1:30, those foods are prohibited for sale on school premises to students.

17:23

The second part of that regulation addresses the accrual of income and it also addresses the same timeframe that we saw for the candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks. And that regulation says that if any sales occur on school premises, anywhere from 30 minutes before, up to 30 minutes after the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs, then that income must accrue to the Food Service Department. That would be the non-profit food service account, and that's gross income. So the total income would have to accrue to the food service apartment.

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And then the last one that we see here is our Smart Snacks nutrition standards, and Smart Snacks applies to all schools to participate in the National School Lunch Program, and School Breakfast Program, and again, they're nutrition standards for foods and beverages that are sold to students separately from reimbursable meals on school premises, during the school day. So Smart Snacks only applies during the school day.

18:26

And for those of you that are on HFC, state nutrition standards, the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, supersede Smart Snacks because they are stricter, and they apply at all times. For those of you who are not doing HFC, and for private schools and RCCIs, the Smart Snacks, Smart Snacks, standards, apply to your schools during the school day.

18:49

And then the last one, just quickly to highlight and Fionnuala mentioned our school wellness policy. One of the provisions of the School Wellness Policy requires that you have specific nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on school premises during the school day and "available" means sold and given.

19:09

And it's the local school district's jurisdiction in terms of what, what the requirements are going to be. It's up to you, but if you do have specific requirements in place, you have to be aware of those, and follow them. Okay, so that is a pretty big nutshell of all of the federal and state competitive foods regulations. So uh we're going to quickly go, now, back to our School Lunch Tray, and I just wanted to highlight some of the resources to help you navigate through all of those requirements.

19:40

One of the things that we've done is developed some very comprehensive guides, resources, handouts, summary charts, and again, no matter whether you're public HFC, non-HFC, private, or RCCI, There's a resource there for you to help you understand and figure out how these laws apply to specific sources of sales in your school districts. So I'm just going to quickly highlight each one of these. We're gonna go into a few of them, But right at the top, we have the Competitive Foods Guide.

20:11

And this is a very comprehensive, very long guide. There's one for HFC, non-HFC, and you don't see it on this page, but there's a separate guide for private schools and RCCI's. Their School Lunch Tray e-mail was different and has the resources that were specific to them. So if you're a private school or RCCI, just check out your School Lunch Tray, and you're going to see the versions and the links that apply specifically to you.

20:37

So this guide is very detailed. It summarizes all of the laws and regulations, and it then goes through each of the different types of sources of food sales on school premises, and gives you a rundown as to which law apply, applies, how it applies, and what it applies to. So we're not going to click in. Again, those are very long, very detailed guides, but everything that you could possibly want to know about competitive foods is in those guides. So, if we scroll down just a little bit, the next one we're going to see is an overview of the competitive foods regulations.

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21:12

And again, that is a summary of those two laws that prohibit sales during Child Nutrition Programs, as well as giving certain foods during Child Nutrition Programs, those candy, coffee, tea, and soft drinks, and then also the accrual of income.

21:28

So after that, I really wanted to call your attention to the summary chart because I think this is a really useful tool to help you see at a glance what the requirements are. So Fionnuala, we're just going to click into the HFC one, which is in the first column.

21:41

And for non HFC folks, private, and RCCIs, this chart is gonna look the same to you. It's just going to have the different requirements.

21:49

So we're gonna go down to page 19, And in the beginning of this document, there's an overview of the requirements that summarizes each of the laws that I just briefly mentioned, and then tells you what the requirements are and what they apply to.

22:04

So that's the beginning of this chart, but what I want to show you, if we get to page 19, it's a long document.

22:11

We're just going to do a sample for our, uh clubs, school clubs and organizations. There we go, perfect. So the way this chart is organized, and maybe Fionnuala can, you know, perfect, there we go.

22:24

We can see the top, so you can see at the top of the chart, it lists each of the, the laws, federal, and state.

22:31

You can see HFC, beverages. My screen is cut off a tiny bit, there we go, I can see it now.

22:36

USDA Smart Snacks, the beverage standards for Smart Snacks as well as the food standards, and then our nutritious and low fat foods statute, and then our competitive foods regs, and it goes across the chart and tells you, does it apply Yes or No? And then it gives you a little bit of information on how it applies and what you need to be aware of.

22:57

So this chart, whether you're looking up fundraisers or school stores are vending machines or afterschool programs, whatever. There's a lot of different sources here, and you can just go in and take a look and see at a glance how the laws apply to that particular program in terms of what you're allowed to do for selling foods and beverages to children.

23:19

So if we then go right back out of that and go back to our School Lunch Tray.

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23:28

Uh what, what's next in, in the chart with the resources, are several resources that address specific areas, and these are areas that we commonly see competitive foods in.

23:39

So for example, fundraisers, school stores, vending machines, culinary programs, we're not going to click into them, but they all have the same format, which is a basic overview of what the laws are and how they apply specifically to that program. And the reason that they're broken out is because the laws apply differently to different programs, depending on how those, those programs operate.

24:01

So it's really important for you to understand that if you, if you know, uh there's a specific requirement, that you go when you look how it applies to that particular source of funding, because, for example, culinary programs are not eligible for food and beverage exemptions under the state statutes, and neither are school stores and vending machines, so any foods and beverages sold from those three sources must always comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and the state beverage statute. Fundraisers could be eligible if they occur at the location of an event that occurs after the school day, or on the weekends. So that's an example of the differences between how the laws apply to different sources of foods, and then if we scroll down just a little bit more.

24:49

So that's the last one. I'm sorry, let's go up. I wanted to show you the summary chart, the summary of resources, Fionnuala, I think it's close to the top of the page. Keep going up a little bit, one more the previous page, I think, there you go. Stop right there, yep, resource list. Just down a little bit more, there we go, right there, that resource list.

25:35

Speaker 2 - Sorry, Susan, didn't click into that. Speaker 3 - That's all right, yeah, so the resource list has a list of all of the different guides and handouts and summary charts that relate to competitive foods, and sure, let's click in, just so people can see real quick, it's by category.

25:53

At the very top of the page, when you first get in, if you scroll down just a tiny bit, Fionnuala, it lists the requirements, and then at the top of the next page.

26:06

We can get there, there we go, the green box, you can click on any of those topics, and it'll bring you to all of the resources on that particular topic. So for example, if you click on Fundraisers, let's click on Fundraisers.

26:23

There we go. There's a list of all of the handouts that we have that relate to fundraisers. So you'll see information for HFC, schools, non HFC schools, and so forth.

26:34

So if we click back out of there, go back to our lunch tray. I think I covered all of the resources.

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26:46

The one thing I wanted to show you, too, is on our website, if we go back to the competitive foods in schools website, which is listed at the top of that, page Fionnuala.

27:03

There we go, yep on the left-hand side, where you see documents and forms. Let's click on that.

27:13

And scroll down, and you can, you're going to see, it will stop right there, the blue box, but you're going to see all of the different resources and links to them, so it's very easy to get to everything.

27:24

So I think that's it for competitive foods, we can go back into the School Lunch Tray, and certainly, if you have questions, because this stuff can be very complicated, lots of things supersede each other.

27:38

And at any time feel free to reach out to me, and my e-mail is in the School Lunch Tray, and you can shoot questions to us in the chat today, as well.

27:50

And I think then we're going to move on to our next School Lunch Tray item, which is our table talk for April.

27:56

We have three dates there for you for the next series of table talks, we are taking a break during April vacations, so that we will not be coming to you during those two weeks.

28:06

But again, as a reminder, we'll talk about our School Lunch Tray Table Talk topics, and you can ask your questions, and you can ask questions in advance at the link noted in in that Section, right there. And the registration link is there, as well, and once you register for one, you've registered for all. So, I think that's it for me, and I'll turn it over to the next, Susan.

28:37

Speaker 1 - Susan, you're on mute.

28:40

Speaker 4 - Thank you. Sorry, I had such a great intro.

28:46

So good afternoon. I'm going to take you through the next, um the next two items on the School Lunch Tray that came out from Team Nutrition. The one item is the first one, um we're really excited about when we saw this come out. We thought this was a great thing to share. The Institute of Child Nutrition that does a lot of training and provides a lot of resources for USDA and our program recently launched the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition.

29:11

So it's a separate division of ISN and I mean, it's really focusing on the culinary part of school meals, so, which I think is a really great direction to take it.

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29:21

So now, we know that it's not just, you know, institutionalized cooking, we know that.

29:25

So, I think getting this pipe paste to at the culinary pace and realizing, you know, that are the staff and the schools, they want this type of training to. So, some of the things that they have, they have their own dedicated website. So, um by following that link, you would be able to see their website, very, very similar to the ISN website, if you use that. I definitely encourage you to check it out.

29:51

Um one of the neat things that they have up there right now, too, they have these, i-Bites recipe videos, their score up there right now. They're cute little 5 to 7 minute videos on different topics.

30:04

Um one is balancing with culinary acids, spice up your lunch, but these are cute little animated videos that you could show staff um or watch together maybe at a meeting to give ideas, Collages, or how to add things to your recipe.

30:23

The next thing as a webinar series starts actually today, it's running right now about different things. And today's book about scratch made salad dressing. So, I'm going to check this out in the next day or two to see if they do provide the link to um this webinar series after the fact so that you could watch them whatever. I do think it would be kind of neat to see what they're doing.

30:47

If this is something that they're not going to be able to post um after the fact, we may look at, you know, I may ask them if their plan to keep it at that time.

30:57

You know, I know it can conjunction with our meetings here and, and I do think that people may want to kind of watch that. So I'll let you know what I find out about that.

31:06

Um the next thing, if you're into podcasts, they have been doing some podcasts.

31:13

Um, this culinary chef and he's been interviewing people across the different states and Food Service Directors and asking questions. There about 27 to 30 minutes. Each one I listened to, the one where they were interviewing the Food Service Director from Seattle. And I thought it was really interesting because you get a perspective of somebody else, another Food Service Director.

31:38

Now, he had, and this is all talking about what they're doing during the pandemic, so he adds 40 open sites, 38 bus deliveries. They partner with Amazon to do food delivery to two families, Central Kitchen delivers, they got talk about staffing issues.

31:57

Right, then the learning models that they're up against, the school, there's about maybe 10 of those up there. So, I think if you have time, or you're in your office working on something else,

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that might be something just to get Food Service Directors that are out there across the country. And the last part that they don't have anything up there yet, but we'll keep looking forward to when it comes.

32:21

We can also provide you an update when it's there, so Grab and Go recipe, so it'll be interesting for, to see what they do produce, and I put up every school to utilize during this time. I wrote a lot of our thanks for Grab and Go.

32:34

So definitely check that out. Some of the things you can most definitely use for professional standards credit.

32:40

You might be able to mix, match some things with your training.

32:44

So then the next area with Team nutrition is they put out three slide presentations, really highlighting what meal service might look like right now. There are three presentations um one on school meals, CACFP, and the other summer meals resources.

33:01

Um, it's basically a presentation that you would be able to give, um, to your staff, or you might pick out pieces and even has the comments below it, so that you could actually, you know, you wouldn't have to think of what you could say for each slide. It's all right then there. I looked through them and I, even though we had sent out a lot of the resources that they're referring to and some of our school lunch trays and throughout past year, it was a good refresher of what is out there. So I highly encourage you to take a look, and you might see things that you haven't seen yet.

33:34

You might see posters that you can download as we move into the summer months um or just even fliers for parents. So definitely check checkout Team Nutrition, and the ICN website um to see how he did find things to complement um your school program. That's it.

34:00

Speaker 1 - Thank you so much Susan. Speaker 2 – Okay, thank you Susan.

34:05

Speaker 1 – Great, so I am honored to uh feature one of our guest stars today. So I have with, with me one of our colleagues, Kari Sullivan.

34:16

So Kari, if you're able to pop on, I would love to introduce you for going over this next feature.

34:31

Alright, we'll see if, it looks like Kari is on, but she may not be quite on yet. So we make sure you are, oops, there you are, hi Kari, so great to see you. You're still on mute, there you go.

34:46

Speaker 5 – Now I'm on.

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Speaker 1 – So I just wanted to take a second to introduce you Kari. So this is Kari Sullivan, she is one of our busiest colleagues in our division right now as she is the Education Consultant who is responsible for chronic absence, attendance, and truancy.

35:06

And as you can probably imagine, as soon as COVID hit our state last year, Kari's world became much more overwhelming than ever before, so it's great to see you. I haven't along, and thank you so much, for joining the School Lunch Tray Table Talk and I'm going to go ahead and hand it over to you.

35:27

Speaker 5 – Hi there. Hello everyone on Table Talk, it's so nice to be here, and I so appreciate everything that the Food and Nutrition folks have been doing for our students and families, and it has been making a huge difference in their lives and I totally recognize your hard work during the pandemic.

35:57

I'm here today, and I have a document that was featured in Connecticut magazine and in that document it talks about Connecticut, the attendance data from the beginning of the school year, we are performance from attendance, collection, to a monthly data collection, um within a big partnership with our school districts, to send their data once a month, instead of once a year, to give us a leg up on me.

36:29

Speaker 1 - Okay, yes, I'm just gonna give it a second. I think for our folks over at the Department of Education, if you could go ahead and make sure that you are muted. We're getting a lot of feedback.

36:40

Speaker 6 - Everyone is muted and Kari are you using the VPN? If you are, you should disconnect. That might be what it is, I don't know.

36:51

Speaker 5 – Okay, I just don't want to get disconnected, and they'll disconnect. That's going to disconnect right. Can I just finish quickly? Speaker 1 - And it's pretty hard to hear you, say that again.

37:11

And as everybody in the world today is experiencing, we have some technical challenges every once in a while too, but this is a really important piece because we want to make sure that you're able to hear.

37:24

Speaker 5 – I think I'm back, here I am, and I don't want to take up too much of your time.

Speaker 1 – Yes, and now we can hear you now, that's great, thank you. Speaker 5 - Sorry about that. What we started to collect, we are one of the first state to collect, to really pivot and start collecting data from the beginning of the year, monthly data collection, versus our usual annual data collection on attendance.

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37:43

And that was a huge lift for both our performance office and school districts to start this new routine ascending and um, and publishing data on attendance, but it helped us to learn where our needs were in our students who um were not coming to school, and that's the report said that this data was showing us that there was some alarmingly high um absenteeism especially around the most vulnerable populations including our students um with disabilities, are English learners, our homeless students. We actually learned that students who are in school learning, if they're actually in school, they are more likely to come to school if they were remote learning. So, the report focuses on data from 2017-18, were inadequate and have the third best chronic absence rate in the nation. We've been working on this for a long time. But it also highlighted what we're doing around data collection that's helping the resignation understand the impact on learning from the um pandemic.

38:53

And, again, you can see the charts here, they'll show you how attendance has dropped um significantly in those, in those populations.

39:04

There on our website, if you're familiar with Ed-Sight, you can go on there and you can find these data reports um in the supporting student attendance page, and you can download reports and see how your district is doing if you're interested in that data, and I think that is all for that. Thank you.

39:29

Speaker 1 - Thank you so much for that Kari.

39:32

I am going to ask my uh colleague here Sean, who is you guys know is our new Grants and Contracts Specialist are putting here right in the hot seat and asked him to go over the next item, which has to do with grant opportunities.

39:46

Speaker 1 – So Sean, you can take it from here, thank you.

39:49

Speaker 7 - Thanks so much Shan, and I appreciate it. Hi, everyone, really great to be here with everyone, I hope you're having a great week. So I just want to run through a couple, you know, really grant opportunities, about grant opportunities that our office has identified, that you'll find in the materials for this week. The first, that is the Albertson's Companies Foundation, there's two components to this. There's a Nourishing Neighbors Program and Support Child Nutrition Program.

40:10

Uh I think it's really important to kind of identify just the key areas. Really, as you know, you know, these funds have been established to help local families right now. They're impacted by the ongoing crisis we're in.

40:21

And, you know, really, it's about some reels, obviously, providing summer meals to children. And, you know, for the actual support of the Child Nutrition Programs, they're really trying to look to give you some ways to direct funds in order and better enroll your families, and

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connect your families to services, SNAP, WIC, uh P-EBT, things like that. So, it's definitely a great opportunity. It's a lot of eligible areas you can fund with.

40:45

You know, and it's really meant to cover, you know, at least for the Summer Meals Program, this June, 2021, all the way up till December 2021.

40:55

With the other program, you know, it's going to be basically from one year, from your award date. So, once you're able to get that and put that together, you'll have a quite a bit of a longer time horizon. The deadline is April 12, 2021, so just be aware of that, that's quickly up and coming.

41:12

But it's pretty great opportunity. Both programs have a ceiling of \$100,000 each, uh which is pretty substantial funds. And as long as you're a 501C, or a K through 12 school. You'll definitely be eligible. And the materials we provided. We've got the grant application petition, which is great, just make sure you use the meal code meals 2021, You can go in, create a free account, and use that invitation to start the process I recommend before doing that, just take a look at the nourishing neighbors FAQs link that we have below as well, I found, to be really helpful. Explains a bit about the program, can give you more insight into that.

41:53

Um second one, or, sorry, I should say third one I want to talk to you about from the USDA itself. So, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

42:00

Um so, we've got the Community Food Projects, competitive grant program, as well as the planning projects.

42:07

So, these are two types, um you know, we really wanted to basically get out there that this is a one-time infusion of federal dollars with the goal to make these projects self-sustaining.

42:18

So, if we can use the community food projects in order to create, you know, these community food based projects, then you can actually take the planning projects dollars and use those to uh complete, you know, plan, basically, towards improving food security in the community.

42:35

Um this is a really high ceiling of \$400,000, and the deadline there, May 4th '21.

42:41

You can certainly follow the website link over, over to the USDA page.

42:47

But I think it's important to note, you know, it's a pretty large window for eligibility. You certainly want you to work with small to medium sized farm. Food plants provide food with target low-income communities.

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43:01

You can look into job training um or business development activities related to food activities, then the overall going into producing food insecurity.

43:11

Uh so I think these are some really great opportunities, and I'm glad to kind of pass this information along to you. And I hope it's certainly helpful, and I know our office would be happy to try and answer any questions, if you do have any. Or if you all look into this and want to reach out later and ask questions, feel free to reach out to us.

43:31

I'll pass it back to Fionnuala or Shannon.

43:34

Speaker 1 - I popped on first. So thanks so much on, those are really exciting grant opportunities and really appreciate you're walking us through those.

43:42

And your first, your first table talk is now behind you, so now you're a veteran, perhaps.

43:49

Thank you. That's so we're gonna pause right before the resource roundup and address questions, so I want to remind folks to pop your questions into that question box.

43:57

We are granted and early today if possible, unless you have some more questions, we want to make sure that we are giving you as much time back in your day as possible.

44:08

Um so, one of the questions that were submitted ahead of time, I'm going to ask Monica Pacheco to come back on line here so she can help answer that.

44:17

So in the meantime, use that question box, submit your questions, now's your chance to be able to get those in.

44:23

The question for you, Monica, is several directors noticed their apple pounds were canceled for the 2021 school year, could you tell us why, please?

44:33

Speaker 8 - Absolutely. So you have seen a little bit of the behind the scenes that has been going on now since you had your deadline to submit your request and your orders for next year. The first of the deadlines for Allison and myself was yesterday to get all the trucks rolled up for the fruits and vegetables.

44:51

And to understand a bit about the process in the processing world, you're submitting your pounds. And, I'm also needing to look at what are existing pounds in the state still when I'm trying to anticipate what order for next year.

45:05

And USDA charges us for not letting a lot of pounds carry over, as we call it.

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45:10

And we do the sweeps in June, which has been very helpful. But, the share of course, as unique as it is and everything else, has had usage be very different than what we would have expected.

45:21

So I have to anticipate, if there will still be pound's, after these next few months, that will carry over into the New Year.

45:30

And at one processor, which is, I believe, the National Food Group orders appears we will have the sufficient pounds to cover all your orders.

45:39

Or next year, so those orders were officially canceled in Web supply.

45:43

So what I will say is, don't panic, don't, don't read into things. Um once we are done on our end with all the orders, we have a few more weeks, you get the remaining orders and we will send you a notification to run a requisition status report, see what really happened so to speak.

45:59

And then we will be following up shortly after with um what those pound were covered by no carryover pounds. So that we are um still providing those pounds just by moving back to you after we do the sweep in June.

46:13

So it's not an easy process. I apologize, you're going to probably get a lot of these little notifications because we're moving things all over the place to get these orders. So, be patient, we will certainly let you know when we're done.

46:25

Speaker 1 – Great, thank you so much, Monica, there that is a very helpful explanation.

46:29

And definitely, the behind the scenes glimpse into making sure that everybody has the food ordered order is that they're anticipating and that we don't have any food going to waste, that is a huge part of this, thank you so much.

46:43

So, that right now is all the questions we have submitted, and which to me, is a great news because that means that you guys are understanding everything we're saying. So, certainly, if that's not the case, just with those questions in the question box, or use that link that is contained in that school lunch tray. That doesn't timeout. So we can certainly see those questions.

47:05

With that, I'm going to hand it back off to Fionnuala to bring us home with the Resource Roundup.

47:13

Speaker 2 – Okay, great, am I on? Okay, so, I am just going to briefly go over the guidance document that we sent out with the operational memorandum that I mentioned, O421, for that data collection that is due June 15th.

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47:35

So, here we go. Now, so, this is, um, this is a really nice step by step on how to accomplish this.

47:47

I really want to stress that we, we do, you need everyone to meet this deadline and get the data entered by June 15th.

47:55

So, I would encourage you to take a look at this and, you know, gather everything, and then this will walk you through the process. You do need someone that has access to the online system because, as I mentioned, you will be entering everything um in there. And so, you, just, again, I would have this open and use this.

48:16

When it comes time to enter the data by, by June 15th you click into the School Nutrition Programs, then you would click Applications.

48:25

And Community Eligibility Provision. You click that, and, and, as I mentioned, this is normally data.

48:34

That reflects April first of every year, but due to the flexibility with coal, when you have that period of time, that you are going to be choosing what is the date you're using. And so, the period of time is between July 1st, 2020, and June 7th, 2021. And, again, whatever date, you will use, you're using that for all three data elements.

49:03

So, after you click Add, just going to show you what the, it shows you here in the manual about the Direct Certification on Web application, and how you would access this directly certified students.

49:17

From a web application, too, to be entering those figures by school, arm into this, and then, um, this is what it looks like for the three different data elements.

49:32

So, for the purposes of this data collection, in the SNAP column, that's where you're going to be entering those students that are coming out directly certified through the um DC Web application, and then other is going to represent those directly certified on using your documentation that you have on file there from the LEAs, or not the students that are coming out of the web application.

50:01

And enrollment would be on, again, this gives you all the information you need. It's only students that have access to at least one of the Meals School Breakfast Program for the National School Lunch Program. So, you wouldn't be including maybe um half day kindergarten they don't have access to, to any, but if they do have access to one, you would include them.

50:24

So it gives you the information on what you will need for the three different data elements, and then how to enter it, and what to click, and click save and finish.

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50:35

And, again, I'm just roughly going quickly going through this, that you can see all of this information, so you know what is available to you when you do, when, it comes time to enter you have all of the resources here.

50:48

If I get questions, I generally open up this guidance document, and I'll take screenshots and reply to e-mails using this guidance document. So, all the information is in here, and I would encourage you all to do that. We do talk a little bit about primary source data retention.

51:05

So, just as a reminder, for this reporting requirements due June 15th, you are not required to upload anything into the system. They don't need to be on enrollment.

51:18

We don't need to see your direct certification list, you don't need to see anything um about students, just those three data elements by school, but I just showed you, however, we do want to mention that this is the data you would be using if you are deciding for first time to participate. If you, collecting this data reveals that you have the numbers that your percentages are, are about 40%.

51:46

You could potentially participate in CEP, if you will need to retain this data, because, during the application process for Community Eligibility Provision, we will be validating a statistical sample of these students. So, we will be looking at the accuracy of your enrollment of your directly certified students in order to establish an ISP and thus claiming for CEP. So, again, that's all part of the CEP application process. If you're looking to apply for the first time or if you're looking to recalculate your ISP, but we're waiting for guidance from USDA what next year, will look like, and so, all of that has not been released yet. And so, we haven't really given any steps for applying formally for CEP, but we wanted to make for those of you who've done this before, you are familiar with this, but, again, we may have some new individuals, so we wanted to certainly, make you aware that if you would be moving forward with applying for CBP or recalculating your ISP here identified student percentage, you are going to need to retain these documents that, that support the data that you're entering into the online system.

53:00

And so, we give you here on that information. What that looks like, that's really in tune.

53:10

We have some resources, and again, everything is here regarding the steps necessary to meet that deadline of arm, the annual reporting requirement.

53:24

And that's it for me for the Resource Roundup. I'm not sure if any questions have come in about this?

53:34

Speaker 1 - Thanks so much Fionnuala. Nope, we have no additional questions, and I know we are hoping to end a little bit early today. We have some of our colleagues who are going to be using this webinar service directly after us.

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53:46

I want to give them time to transition, but certainly let us know what your questions are before we go. Never be shy about reaching out to us. Make sure that you, when you do, you've already look through those resources pertaining to your questions and that you're, the answers to your questions may be in their first. So, uh thank you all for what you do, and we will see you next week before our, our table talk, spring break for those two weeks a year on spring break.

54:13

Thank you. Everybody, have a wonderful, long weekend.

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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_04_01_2021_Transcript.pdf.

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