

School Nutrition Update

April 12, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Return as Successful Sponsors to N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs for 2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service recently issued [Child Nutrition Response #83](#) allowing Sponsors that successfully participated in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in Fiscal Year 2019 to operate as experienced Sponsors in FY 2021. State Agencies can use the streamlined experienced Sponsor application and approval process for returning Sponsors that successfully participated in the SFSP in FY2019, but not in FY2020 due to COVID-19. NCDPI, School Nutrition Services would like to continue to work with all our experienced, successful School Food Authorities and Sponsors to offer N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs this summer to ensure no child goes hungry. For questions, reach out to your regional [Summer Nutrition Program Consultants](#).

Reference the #StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit

If you have not done so already, check out the recent updates to the #StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit made by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to reflect new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on students returning to school:



[StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit](#), [StrongSchoolsNC Key Updates Summary](#), [StrongSchoolsNC FAQ](#). Please examine the updates and share them with fellow school leaders. For questions, please reach out to your [Zone team](#).

Don't Forget to Complete RACE Online

Make sure at least two administrative staff members from your organization complete RACE Online by April 16, 2021. Certificates of completion must be uploaded to the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) as part of your 2020-21 Site Application on or before April 16. Your organization's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Contact, Primary Authorized Representative and Claims Contact have been automatically registered for the RACE Online course. For anyone who still needs to register, please use the following link: <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-DPIRACEO&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000001>.

Register for the Upcoming Cartewheel Refresher Training

The requirement to use Cartewheel for meal counting at all SFSP sites will resume at the first date of your traditional summer operations (at the latest, start of July 1). Live virtual Cartewheel trainings are planned in May. Each will be recorded. All sessions will cover the same content. Please register for only one training date below. An email about the Cartewheel trainings was sent to all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) contacts, Primary contacts, and SFSP claims contacts. Please share with other sponsor-level staff as needed.

Registration links for Refresher Trainings:

- [Monday, May 17th, 1-4pm](#)
- [Monday, May 24th, 1-4pm](#)
- [Tuesday, May 25th, 9am-12pm](#)

If you have a site staff training scheduled before these dates, please contact Jessica Barkiewicz at jessica.barkiewicz@dpi.nc.gov, for guidance.

Check Out the New Food Buying Guide Feature

A new feature is now available on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-based Tool. USDA Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capability of the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) for Grains using Method C. With this latest update, Method C can be used to determine the ounce equivalent grains contribution based on the grams of creditable grains for all items (Groups A-I) listed in Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. Program operators can use Method C to calculate the grains contribution of the recipe when a grain product is made on-site or a manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement is available. Registered users of the FBG Web Tool can view their saved RAWs on the FBG Mobile App. Check out the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) today!

Handling Issues with Non-Domestic Produce

The USDA, Southeast Regional Office (SERO) was recently notified of an issue surrounding the delivery of non-domestic produce to a School Food Authority (SFA) that was obtained thru the USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh program. All USDA DOD Fresh programs are required to provide domestically grown products to your School Nutrition Program operators. USDA has requested that State Agencies provide a reminder of steps to take if receipt of non-domestic produce occurs.

If an SFA or SFSP Sponsor receives non-domestic produce, they must:

1. Reject the product that is non-domestic.
2. Contact the USDA DOD Fresh vendor, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) representative and the State Department of Agriculture managing the USDA DOD Fresh program for their state.

If an Indian Tribal Organization receives non-domestic product, they must:

1. Reject the product that is non-domestic.
 2. Contact the USDA DOD Fresh vendor, the DLA representative and Felicia Redding in SERO at (404) 562-7076 or Felicia.Redding@usda.gov.
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Submit Questions to be Answered During the Wednesday Webinars

Please submit any questions you have for the Wednesday Briefing for School Food Authorities (SFAs) via the [online form](#). Answer the first two questions and then enter your questions one question per box. If you have more than ten questions, please click on the link to the form and submit your additional questions.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Celebrate Lexington City Schools District-wide 100 Scores

The Lexington City Schools School Nutrition Team continues to do an outstanding job to ensure all areas are safe and clean with a fun atmosphere for students to fuel their bodies, minds, and souls. Lexington City Schools Nutrition Team achieved district-wide health inspection scores of 100. Way to go!



Score Big with School Breakfast in Pitt County Schools

Cafes across Pitt County Schools were decorated for National School Breakfast Week (NSBW). And the PCS School Nutrition Team showed their spirit dressing up to promote school breakfast. Lakeforest Elementary School Nutrition staff created NSBW videos at school and at home with their families taking the Breakfast Bite Challenge and highlighting the importance of school breakfast. Check out the wonderful photos and videos on the PCS School Nutrition Facebook [page](#).



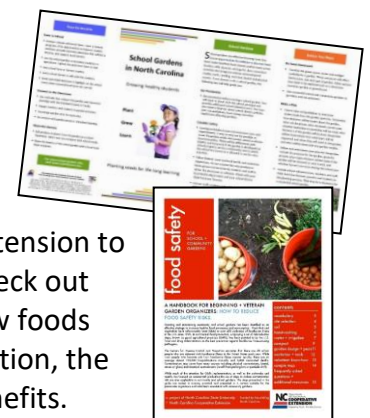
Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition team or professional that has received an award, honor or other recognition or should be spotlighted, please share for an upcoming School Nutrition Spotlight. Please send details to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Nutrition Education and Promotion

Plant Seeds of Learning with Garden Month

April is Garden Month. School gardens are effective learning tools that create opportunities for children to discover fresh food, make healthier food choices and be more active. NCDPI, School Nutrition Services offers a [brochure](#) to help schools think through the needs, logistics, policies and permissions needed to start or maintain a school garden. NCDPI worked with N.C. State/Cooperative Extension to develop the [Growing Safer Garden Guide](#) for school and community gardens. Check out [USDA Team Nutrition's Garden Resources](#) for ideas on how to teach children how foods are grown and get them excited about eating more fruits and vegetables. In addition, the [Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#) has information and resources on garden benefits.



Walk with a Purpose

Want to have fun, take care of your own mental and physical wellness and support the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) at the same time? Then, join your School Nutrition colleagues for SNF's Pep Rally Kick-off to our virtual "Walk With a Purpose" 5K Walkathon. The Welcome Pep Rally will be held April 14 at 4:00 PM ET. [Register](#) to join SNF for this exciting event!



Grant Opportunity

Submit Application for 2021 N.C. Farm to Summer Rapid Response Funding

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our communities and schools, the Farm to School Coalition of NC (F2SCNC) and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) want to honor the dedication of School Nutrition Programs, Educators, and Community Organizations to meet the nutritional and educational needs of our children. Because we believe farm to school contributes to both the well-being of our kids and to community food security, we seek to support our partners in meeting urgent needs and building farm to school capacity. The F2SCNC and CEFS are offering N.C. Farm to Summer Rapid Response Funding to School Food Authorities and Community Organization Sponsors operating N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs to feed children in need. Funding awards of \$1000 or \$2000 (varied based on numbers served) up to a total of \$40,000 is available to support Farm to Summer activities, including serving locally grown food in summer meals and snacks, teaching children about local agriculture and promoting Farm to Summer through communications/social media outreach. To receive the funding, each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements, agree to the awardee responsibilities, and submit a short application by April 19. To learn more and apply, visit the CEFS Farm to School [webpage](#).

Job Opportunity

Work with Guilford County Schools Nutrition

Guilford County Schools has openings for an Executive Director for School Nutrition Services, a SNS Finance Coordinator and an SNS Supervisor. Interested applicants should review the job postings and submit an application [online](#).

Apply for Yadkin County Child Nutrition Director Position

Yadkin County Schools is seeking applicants for a Director of Child Nutrition. The Director would oversee operations for the Yadkin County Schools and a contract to manage the Child Nutrition Programs for Elkin City Schools (3 schools). [Learn more and apply](#).

Apply for NCDPI Summer Nutrition Program Consultant Position

NCDPI is seeking applicants for a Nutrition Compliance Specialist (Working Title: Summer Nutrition Program Consultant) for the Summer Nutrition Program of the School Nutrition Division. [Learn more and apply](#).

Continuing Education

Join N.C. SHAC Leaders for Virtual Meeting – 4/21-22, 8 am-1:30 pm ET

North Carolina School Health Advisory Council Leaders will gather virtually April 21-22, 8:00 am-1:30 pm ET. Dr. Anna Yaros, a clinical psychologist with RTI International and Program Director for the Mental Health, Risk, and Resilience Research Program, will be this year's keynote. Dr. Dudley Flood, an educator and champion of school integration in North Carolina, will help close the 2nd day, which is a real honor. There will be opportunities to network and engage with exhibitors. Please work with your SHAC Chairs to identify two people from your SHAC to represent your team. [Learn more and register.](#)



Register for N.C. School Nutrition and Summer Conference – 4/27-29

Please join us for our School and Summer Nutrition Virtual Conference as we share encouraging stories, best practices, and new tools for providing nutritious meals to children across North Carolina, April 27 and 28 (1:00-4:30 pm ET) and April 29 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET). [Learn more and register.](#)

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled [resources to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus](#). Online food safety/HACCP training is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) and the ICN [website](#). Additional continuing education resources are available on the School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, ICN, the School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers [COVID-19 professional resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#).

Questions

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants. Contact information for your Zone teams can be found [here](#).

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- (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.

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