

School Nutrition Update

January 11, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Submit SFSP Applications and USDA Waivers Acceptance ASAP

Remember...if you have not submitted your Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) application, please do so as soon as possible. In order to file the January claim, applications must be approved by January 31. The deadline to complete the acceptance of USDA waivers in the School Nutrition Technology System has been extended to January 31, 2021. Please reach out to your SN Consultant or Specialist if you need assistance.

Have 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.

Complete Meal Counts Survey Daily

North Carolina remains in a state of emergency related to COVID-19. As such, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must report daily meal counts to the N.C. Emergency Operations Center. Please use the survey [link](#) to submit meal count data daily by 6 pm. If you have questions or issues submitting the data, please reach out to [Janet Johnson](#).

School Nutrition Spotlight

Watch Pitt School Nutrition Services Shout Out

Pitt School Nutrition Services was featured in a [WITN news story](#) for providing meals to students over the winter break. School Nutrition staff all over have been working tirelessly since March to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals and these #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes continue to go the extra mile during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pitt School Nutrition Services staff were recently recognized with a shout out for their dedication. [Watch the video](#).



Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition 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 & Promotion



Encourage Teams to Submit N.C. Jr. Chef Applications by 2/1

Calling all high school student chefs to enter the 2020-21 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition! This year's competition will be virtual. Teams of 2-4 high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) students can work with their Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher and local School Nutrition Program to create a recipe for a school lunch entrée that features at least 2 North Carolina grown ingredients and 1 USDA Foods item, adheres to federal nutrition guidelines and meets student taste preferences. Online submission forms with application and recipe, recipe photo, and permission forms are due 2/1. Eight finalist teams will be selected for a virtual cook-off. Teams will be evaluated for their skills in recipe development, food safety and sanitation, food preparation and presentation. Sullivan University scholarships are available to the student members of the top three teams. Please share [competition info](#) with prospective teams and encourage them to enter.

Utilize Menu Templates February-July 2021

The menu templates for February through July 2021 are posted on the Marketing page of the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#). There are templates for elementary with articles for parents and templates for middle and high school with articles for students. The menu templates have a new look and include more space for customization with local information.



Grants

Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grants - Due 1/31

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is teaming up with industry partners to provide new kitchen equipment to deserving districts. Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grant Program, featuring applications for four grants (the Winston Equipment Grant, the Vulcan Equipment Grant, the Hobart Equipment Grant, and the Collection Grant). The application period ends January 31, 2021. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Continuing Education

Join Webinar on Head Start: Providing Nutrition Services During COVID-19 - 1/13, 1 pm ET

The number of children in households struggling with food insecurity has more than tripled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Join the Office of Head Start for a webinar on January 13, 1-2:30 pm ET, to learn more about flexibilities through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and other innovative ways Head Start and Early Head Start programs are meeting the nutritional needs of children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will feature experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety. [Register here.](#)

Apply for SN Foundation Scholarships - Due 1/31/21

Achieve your educational dreams with a scholarship from the School Nutrition Foundation! Professional Development Scholarships provide School Nutrition Association members with funding for tuition and books for the following school year. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Register for the 2021 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/17

The N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference is an annual day of celebration and inspiration for everyone in our state interested in making sure kids have access to healthy food. The 2021 conference will be presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative. This year, the conference is free and online. [Register here.](#)

Recap Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Requirements

The N.C. Food Code requires food establishments to have a person in charge (PIC), who is a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) on site at all times the establishment is in operation. To verify the PIC has an approved CFPM certification as specified in Paragraphs 2-102.12(A) and Section 2-102.20 of the NC Food Code Manual, the PIC must have successfully passed an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited CFPM examination. During COVID-19, there will be no points deducted during an inspection for an expired certificate although the expiration will be noted on the inspection form. This will allow additional time for certificate renewal.

The NCDPI Safe Plates for Food Managers course now uses the Prometrics, Inc. exam and the ServSafe® course uses the exam from the National Restaurant Association. Several other organizations offer ANSI accredited exams which will provide the certification required by the Food Code. It is important to remember it is successful passing of the EXAM not participation in a COURSE which provides the certification. Below is a listing of currently approved exams and some of these organizations offer online proctoring and/or online course instruction. It is not a requirement to participate in a course to take an exam although doing so may increase successful exam scores.

- [360training.com, Inc. \(Learn2Serve® Food Protection Manager Certification Program\)](#)
- [AboveTraining/StateFoodSafety.com \(Certified Food Protection Manager \(CFPM\) Exam\)](#)
- [National Registry of Food Safety Professionals \(Food Protection Manager Certification Program; International Certified Food Safety Manager\)](#)
- [National Restaurant Association \(ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification Program\)](#)
- [Prometric Inc. \(Food Protection Manager Certification Program\)](#)
- [The Always Food Safe Company, LLC \(Food Protection Manager Certification\)](#)

N.C. State University Extension has plans to convert the Safe Plates for Food Managers course to an online format with remote proctoring for the Prometrics, Inc. exam by early spring 2021. We will provide additional details for this option when the course is launched.

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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