

# School Nutrition Update

March 15, 2021



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# Program Operations Information

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## ***Learn about USDA Waiver Extensions***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the nationwide extension of several waivers that allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals this summer when schools are out of session. These flexibilities are now available through September 30, 2021. USDA is extending these waivers to provide local program operators with clarity and certainty for the summer months ahead, when many children cannot access the school meals they depend on during the academic year. The waivers were previously extended only through June 30, 2021. The waivers extended now allow for safe meal distribution sites that serve all children for free, regardless of income. In addition, the waivers:

- Allow meals served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) – collectively known as “summer meal programs” – to be made available in all areas at no cost,
- Allow meals to be served outside of the normally required group settings and meal times, and
- Allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding children.

The waiver extensions will be reviewed during the NCDPI, School Nutrition Services [webinar](#) for School Food Authorities (SFAs) on March 17. Please plan to participate in the webinar. Information on issued waivers is available on the USDA [website](#).

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## ***Review the 2021-22 Income Eligibility Guidelines***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The Department’s guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced-price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2021 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar. The 2021-22 Income Eligibility Guidelines and Federal Register Notice can be found on the NCDPI, School Nutrition Services [website](#).

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## ***Plan to Complete RACE Online***

Your organization’s Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Contact, Primary Authorized Representative and Claims Contact have been automatically registered for the required RACE Online course. Remember that any two administrative staff members from your organization must complete the RACE Online course by April 16, 2021. If you have other staff members you would like to complete this course, they can enroll by contacting Debbie Crawford at [djcrawfo@ncsu.edu](mailto:djcrawfo@ncsu.edu).

This is an online self-paced training with content hosted in Moodle through N.C. State University (NC SU). To access this course, please follow these steps:

1. Log in using your email address (Brickyard Login) at <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/>.
2. Once logged in, find the title of the course under Upcoming Courses.
3. Click the blue Access Online Content button to launch the course.

If you have registration questions or issues, please contact the NCSU program assistant, Debbie Crawford, at [djcrowfo@ncsu.edu](mailto:djcrawfo@ncsu.edu).

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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.

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### **Celebrate Women’s History Month with New Hanover County Schools**

New Hanover County Schools recognized School Nutrition Director Imer Smith recently as part of their Women’s History Month celebration by posting on social media (@NewHanoverCoSch). “One of the most impressive individuals in our district is @imersmith1. In the past year, Imer and her Child Nutrition team have worked to serve over 1.6 million meals to the youth in our community during the pandemic.” Way to go Imer and the New Hanover County School Nutrition team!



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### **Shout Out to Davie County Schools**

For National School Breakfast Week, Davie County Schools recognized their School Nutrition team for serving over 1 million meals and counting during the pandemic. Amazing work! Thanks for you all do to feed our scholars. #GoDavie



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### **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](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov).

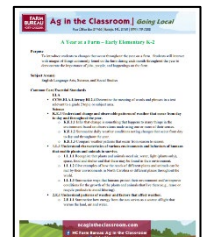
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## Nutrition Education & Promotion

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### **Check out the Strawberry Lesson Plans**

Did you know that the N.C. Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom offers free strawberry lessons plans for kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade? The lessons plans are integrated into the state academic standards and can be downloaded from the N.C. Ag in the Classroom [website](#). Use and share them with fellow educators in your schools.



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## Job Opportunity

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## ***Apply for Operation Supervisor Position with Guilford County Schools***

Guilford County School Nutrition Services is currently accepting applications for an Operations Supervisor. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in food services management, nutrition, business, or a related field, and 3 to 5 years of experience in food service management or a related field, with some experience in a leadership role preferred; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Also, applicants must hold a valid N.C. Driver's License. Work involves supervising and leading a team of school cafeteria managers and serving in a mentoring role for the department to provide resources, information, and direction to facilitate the success of site-based cafeteria personnel. Apply online at [www.gcscs.com](http://www.gcscs.com) to job #23010.

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## **Continuing Education**

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### ***Find and Sequence Quality School Garden Lessons Webinar - 3/17, 2 pm ET***

How do school garden practitioners find or develop lessons that are inspiring, engaging, and effective? How do they design lesson sequences intentionally to align with seasons, connect with standards, and optimize learning? Different programs require different lessons sequences to reflect their unique, local context, their program goals, and their students. Join the School Garden Support Network on March 17 at 2 pm ET for a webinar on developing an exceptional lesson sequence and highlight promising practices and stellar examples from School Garden Support Organizations across the country along the way. [Register here.](#)

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### ***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](#).

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## **Questions**

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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](#).

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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