

# School Nutrition Update

May 24, 2021



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Complete the 2021-22 FFVP Application***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application season for the 2021-22 school year (SY) opened for North Carolina on May 20, 2021, with a brief timeframe for eligible elementary schools (in Local Education Agencies and for charter schools) to apply to participate for the coming school year.

- **Friday, May 28, 2021, 11:59 PM** is the deadline for the 2021-22 FFVP online application to be completed/revised and "saved" in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). School Nutrition administrators with "Application Entry" are the only ones that can access the 2021-22 FFVP online application housed in the SNTS. Please note that your responses to the FFVP School Proposal application questions "roll over" from the previous year (providing the school applied last year).
- **Friday, June 11, 2021, 5:00 PM** is the deadline for the required documents with original signatures in blue ink to be submitted to Zoe McKay-Tucker, NCDPI, 1929 Wilton Circle, Raleigh, NC 27615-2538.

The 2021-22 SY FFVP application information is available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition Division [website](#). Look for the section labeled "How to Apply – SY 2021-22". Please also consult the email, dated May 20, 2021, sent to all SFAs regarding the SY 2021-22 FFVP Application. If you have FFVP application questions or need clarification, contact Zoe McKay-Tucker, School Nutrition Consultant for Special Programs, at [zoe.mckaytucker@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:zoe.mckaytucker@dpi.nc.gov) or 919-961-0608 for assistance.

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### ***Review CDC Guidance for School Nutrition Professionals***

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released updated guidance for School Nutrition professionals on best practices for COVID-19 mitigation and school reopening. School administrators and operators of School Nutrition Programs can use this information to reduce the risk COVID-19 among employees and volunteers preparing and serving meals and the students, families, and other school staff who support or participate in school meals programs. [Learn more](#).

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### ***Don't Forget the Annual Agreement Renewal for the 2021-22 School Year***

The written Annual Agreement Renewal for the 2021-22 school year is now available. For your convenience, the Application Process Flow Chart, Annual Agreements and Free and Reduced Priced Meal Application packet are available on the School Nutrition [website](#). If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your [Zone Team](#).

#### Agreement Renewal Deadlines

- **June 11, 2021**

- Update Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Site Applications for June 2021, July 2021, and August 2021 through the last day of summer before school starts.
- Complete the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Application Process for 2020-21 (July, August and September 2021 starting with the first day of school for SY 21-22).
- **June 30, 2021** is the deadline for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Annual Agreement Renewal (Online Renewal Application, and Written Agreement) and all hard copy documents must be received in the state agency office. Please plan accordingly to ensure your required documents are uploaded and received in the State Agency office by close of business on that day.
- **July 30, 2021** - Complete the SSO Application Process for 2021-22 for October 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

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### **Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Summer Nutrition Program Events**

Several important events/deadlines are coming up for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs. Please note the following on your calendars. Visit the links below for more info and stay tuned to the SN Update and Wednesday Webinars. If you have questions, reach out to your [Summer Nutrition Program Consultants](#).

- SFSP RACE Live AR Training - May 27
- [Deadline to Update SFSP Site Applications for June 2021, July 2021 and August 2021 through the last day of summer before school starts and Complete the SSO Application Process for 2020-21 – June 11](#)
- [Deadline for NSLP Annual Agreement Renewal - Online Application and All Hard Copy Documents Received in the Raleigh Office – June 30](#)
- Special Milk Program Training – July 13
- [N.C. Farm to Summer Week - July 18-24](#)
- [Complete the SSO Application Process for 2021-22 for October 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 – July 30](#)
- [Turnip the Beet Award Nominations Deadline - September 10](#)

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### **View Recording of Seamless Summer Operation Training**

The slides and recording of the Seamless Summer Operation Training on May 20 are now available in the School Nutrition Technology System. A link to the recording was also emailed to all registered attendees.

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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**

### **Way to go, Belmont Central Elementary School!**

Congratulations to the School Nutrition Staff at Belmont Central Elementary School in Gaston County. They recently earned their 10th consecutive 100 Health Inspection score. Kudos to this awesome team for their hard work and diligence in upholding excellent food safety and sanitation practices: Cindy Collette, Teresa Craig, Anita Duncan, Dianne Hughes (Lead), Jessie Maltba (Manager).



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## ***Plan to Apply for the Turnip the Beet Award***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Turnip the Beet Award* recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high



# **TURNIP THE BEET**

**with high quality summer meals!**

quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. For 2021, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors in good standing that serve program meals between May 15 and September 15, 2021 are eligible to apply. Award applications are due to NCDPI by 5 pm September 10, 2021. Check out the award overview, scoring rubric and nomination form [here](#).

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## ***Submit Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter***

We aim to include lots of items of interest to our School Nutrition professionals across the state in the School Nutrition Update e-letter. Issues are scheduled to go out at the first of each week. If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event or other news item for the School Nutrition Update e-letter, please send those to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov), by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to when the School Nutrition Update will be released the following week.

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## ***Share 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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## **Job Opportunity**

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### ***Work for Gaston County Schools***

Gaston County Schools is accepting applications for an Area School Nutrition Supervisor. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in nutrition, food service, management, or related field and a minimum of 2 years of experience in the food industry, preferably in school food service. [Learn more and apply](#).

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### ***Apply for New Hanover County Schools Positions***

New Hanover County Schools has open Child Nutrition Director and Child Nutrition Supervisor positions. Applicants for the Director position must have a bachelor's degree in nutrition or a related field, 3-5 years of experience in the food service industry or a related field, and ServSafe® certification or equivalent. Applicants for the Supervisor position must have bachelor's degree in nutrition or a related field, two or more years of experience in the food service industry or a related field, and ServSafe® certification or equivalent. [Learn more and apply](#).

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## Nutrition Education & Promotion

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### **Check Out the 2021-22 New Menu Templates**

[Menu templates](#) for August 2021-January 2022 are now available on the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, (NCDPI), School Nutrition Division website. The menu templates are designed in elementary (target audience – parents/families) and middle/high school formats (target audience – students).



### **Get Ready for the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge and the N.C. Crunch**

Plan to participate in N.C. Farm to Summer Week July 18-24 and the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge. How can you take the challenge? First, [register for the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge](#) and then:

- Serve local foods as part of summer meal and snacks.
- Offer agriculture and nutrition education activities.
- Promote farm to summer activities through social media.
- [Sign up for the 2021 N.C. Crunch.](#)



The [N.C. Farm to Summer Toolkit](#) offers ideas and resources to help. The N.C. Crunch offers an opportunity for kids and adults to taste and learn about North Carolina-grown produce on October 20, 2021 or any time during Farm to School Month. When you register for the N.C. Crunch, you will receive access to a free guide with tips and resources to help you celebrate Farm to School and School Nutrition. Tag @Ray4NCKids and @NCSchoolMeals on your #NCFarmtoSummer and #NCCrunch2021 social media posts.

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## Continuing Education

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### **Learn Strategies for School Nutrition Marketing Plans – 5/27, 3 pm ET**

Are you looking for fresh, new ways to create or revamp existing School Nutrition marketing plans for the upcoming year? The pandemic has created marketing challenges which are still impacting many operators to date. Join the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) during this month's STAR webinar on May 27, 3 pm ET, to hear fellow program operators share their experiences with overcoming challenges and adopting good practices to develop successful marketing plans. [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](#).

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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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