

School Nutrition Update

March 10-14, 2025



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Important Dates

Date	Action Step
March 13	Summer Nutrition Program Yard Sign Order Deadline
March 14	Signature Pages and FFVP Weekly Operation Form Due (submit electronically)
March 14	Verification Re-Applied and Re-approved School Meals Applications Survey for SY 2024-25 Deadline
March 20	Charter School Bootcamp Registration Deadline
April 1	Monitoring and Compliance Self-Assessments Deadline
April 7	April 15 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Showcase Registration Deadline
April 9	April 17 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Showcase Registration Deadline
April 21	Spring Policy Updates Registration Deadline
May 8	2025 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Participant Application Deadline
Each Month – By the 10th (On or Before)	Claim for Reimbursement Due (NSLP, SBP, ASSP)
Each Month – By the 15th (On or Before)	FFVP Reimbursement Claims Due

Program Operations Information

Make Your Voice Heard in “Mo Wants to Know” Listening and Learning Sessions

State Superintendent Maurice 'Mo' Green's 'Mo Wants to Know' tour is coming to all eight regions of North Carolina this March and April. The superintendent is hosting listening and learning sessions with community stakeholders statewide, including the eight public events listed below. All parents, students, educators, school and district staff, public officials and other community members are invited to attend. Read the full press release [here](#). We hope you are able to attend your local "Mo Wants to Know" session and have your voice heard!

- March 17, 6 pm – [Register for the Western Region](#) – Tuscola High School (Haywood County Schools)
- March 18, 6 pm – [Register for the Northwest Region](#) – Hibriten High School (Caldwell County Schools)
- March 24, 6 pm – [Register for the Piedmont Triad Region](#) – Mount Tabor High School (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools)
- March 26, 6 pm – [Register for the Southwest Region](#) – Harold E. Winkler Middle School (Cabarrus County Schools)
- March 27, 6 pm – [Register for the Sandhills Region](#) – Westover High School (Cumberland County Schools)
- March 31, 6 pm – [Register for the Southeast Region](#) – John J. Blair Elementary School (New Hanover County Schools)
- April 7, 6 pm – [Register for the North Central Region](#) – Northern High School (Durham Public Schools)
- April 9, 6 pm – [Register for the Northeast Region](#) – Northeastern High School (Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools)

Participate in a CEP Webinar – 3/13, 2 pm ET

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is offering a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) webinar on **Thursday, March 13, 2-3:30 pm**. This webinar is intended for SFAs that operate the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs. The webinar will provide an overview of CEP for the upcoming school year and identify the requirements of implementing CEP. It will also review the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) and provide guidance for pulling CEP information on **April 1** and entering it into the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) by **April 8**. Please note that it is REQUIRED for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) to conduct the CEP data pull and report in the SNTS, whether or not they are going to participate in CEP. The webinar will also be recorded and available to reference soon after. [Register for the NCDPI CEP webinar](#).

Order Summer Nutrition Program Yard Signs by 3/13

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is providing yard signs for SFAs sponsoring N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs. The yard signs are an opportunity to promote/announce your open Summer Nutrition site locations. If you have questions or need assistance, reach out to Lynne Privette, Section Chief, Outreach and Promotion, lynne.privette@dpi.nc.gov.

What you need to know:

- There are two different yard signs for open meal sites this summer that SFAs can request: Open Congregate (English or Spanish) and Open Non-Congregate (English).



- For your convenience, yard signs will be distributed during the Spring 2025 Policy Update meetings which are scheduled in April and May. Separate arrangements will be made for anyone unable to attend a Policy Update meeting.
- The deadline to request signs is **Thursday, March 13, 2025**.
- There is a limited supply of signs.
- Non-Congregate Meal sites will be checked against the Interest Form prior to receiving yard sign.



How to Order the Yard Sign:

- A [Google order form](#) has been created to walk you through the process of ordering meal site yard signs. Please request as many as you need, but keep in mind that supplies are limited, so you may not receive the requested amount.

Complete the Verification Re-Applied and Re-approved School Meals Applications Survey for SY 2024-25 – Due 3/14

This survey has been developed for all School Food Authorities (SFA) that completed a verification report. [Exception: Special Milk Program SFAs, District-wide CEP SFAs and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) without day students.] The purpose of the survey is to capture the data for Re-applied and Re-approved School Meal Applications and Students on or before **February 15, 2025**. [Complete the survey](#) by **March 14**. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your [School Nutrition Area Consultant](#) or Dana Edwards, dana.edwards@dpi.nc.gov.

In the survey, please provide the number of student(s) and the number of application(s) for each category listed for households that were originally selected for verification (**October 1 - November 15**) for which benefits were terminated and the household reapplied for benefits between **November 16, 2024 and February 15, 2025**.

Please remember the original termination of benefits may have been because:

- the household did not respond to verification,
- the household responded to verification, but benefits were changed from "Free" to "Denied", or
- the household responded to verification, but benefits were changed from "Reduced" to "Denied".

****VERY IMPORTANT****

- It is important that you submit data for the number of "Applications" and "Students" in each category in the survey.
- If there is no data for a particular category, please enter a "0".

Register for the Charter School Bootcamp by 3/20

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is excited to provide another opportunity for School Nutrition Administrators and Directors to attend the special professional development workshop *Boot Camp for School Nutrition Personnel in Charter Schools: How to Effectively Manage the Risks and Navigate the Regulatory Waters of the Federal School Nutrition Programs*.

This a two-day workshop. The workshop will be held **March 27 AND March 28**. The workshop times are:

- **Thursday, March 27, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm** (Check-in starts at 9:00 am.)
- **Friday, March 28, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm** (Check-in starts at 9:00 am.)

The workshop will be held at the Bryan Park Conference Center located just outside Greensboro (6275 Bryan Park Road, Browns Summit). Please note, it may also show up as Greensboro address in a navigating app.

[Register](#) by **Thursday, March 20**. Each person wanting to attend must register individually, and registration may close early if our capacity is reached. Advance registration is required to ensure adequate materials and meals.

Please note - Lunch will be provided on March 27 only. Participants are responsible for all additional travel expenses including breakfast, lunch on March 28, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage. We do not have hotel rooms reserved or hotel recommendations for this workshop.

This intensive course was designed specifically for Charter School personnel who administer and/or operate the School Nutrition Programs. The two-day workshop will provide valuable information about the complex rules and regulations of the Federally-assisted School Nutrition Programs and your responsibilities for implementing the rules as a program administrator or manager. Your participation will provide a unique opportunity to support your success in meeting the unique needs and challenges of Charter Schools' participation in the School Nutrition Programs. Some questions answered during the workshop include:

- How do you know what to prioritize when managing the School Nutrition Programs?
- How to maintain program compliance with the regulations to avoid costly findings and required corrective actions?
- How do you minimize the risk of non-compliance which may result in the reclaim of funds and adversely impact the status of your charter?
- What strategies help Charter Schools comply with program regulations while simultaneously providing nutritious, appealing meals to students?

Participants will review the basic requirements for operating a successful and compliant School Nutrition Program. The topics chosen for this workshop are cited as the most challenging for Charter Schools to correctly implement. The following topics are often cited as "findings requiring major corrective actions" in eighty percent of Charter Schools participating in the School Nutrition Programs:

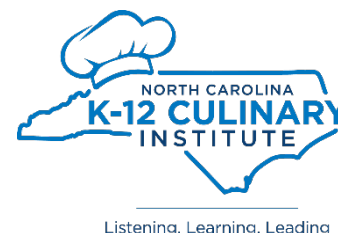
- Meal pattern
- Offer versus serve
- Accuracy and accountability in meal counting, claiming and consolidation
- Cash management procedures
- Standardized recipes
- Production records as the legal basis to substantiate reimbursable meals
- Purchases using school nutrition funds
- Succession plans to train new Charter School personnel in the event of staff turnover

The workshop provides continuing education credit as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for professional development in the learning code 3000 Administration. Charter School personnel are required to participate in a minimum number of professional development workshops annually to achieve and maintain good standing in the School Nutrition Program.

This is a great opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and skills in the management of the School Nutrition Programs while minimizing the risks which may, unintentionally, undermine the integrity of your program. If you have general questions about the workshop, please contact Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, at katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov. We look forward to seeing you for this important professional development opportunity!

Register for the 2025 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases

Please join Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 Team from Culinary Solutions as they reveal what to expect for this summer's North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institutes. They will share recipes, updated information about the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes, demonstrate new school meal recipes and quick-scratch techniques, and share helpful resources to assist you with incorporating the skills and recipes from the institutes into your School Nutrition Program. Photos and success stories from N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops over the years will be highlighted. You will not go home empty handed - all participants will receive an N.C. K-12 Culinary goodie bag!



While the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes were for your School Nutrition Managers, the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Showcases are for you and your central office staff! The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition will be offering two opportunities across the state to participate in this unique event. Please plan to attend only one showcase event.

- **April 15, 2025** - Masonic Center of Winston Salem (Winston-Salem) – [Register for the 4/15 Showcase](#). (Registration closes **Monday, April 7.**)
- **April 17, 2025** - The Journey Center (Greenville) – [Register for the 4/17 Showcase](#). (Registration closes **Wednesday, April 9.**)

Each workshop will take place **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**. Check-in starts 30 minutes prior to the start time. Participants are responsible for all travel expenses including breakfast, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage. Lunch and one snack will be provided each day.

Do not miss this opportunity to "taste" the difference that the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute can make in your program and to talk with a "seasoned" team of chefs with years of School Nutrition experience! For questions or more information, reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov.

Plan to Attend Spring 2025 Policy Updates – Register by 4/21

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is happy to announce our in-person Spring 2025 Policy Updates meetings. We will be offering six opportunities across the state to engage with our team and network with other School Nutrition professionals while also receiving important information and updates impacting North Carolina School

Nutrition Programs. Please note that Policy Updates are intended for School Nutrition Administrators and their central office staff.

Date	Location	Primary Facilitators
Tuesday, April 29	Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce 1099 Gum Branch Road, Jacksonville	Laura Chase, Pam Sheets
Tuesday, April 29	N.C. Telecenter 415 East Boulevard, Williamston	Cathie Masters, Leslie Otts
Wednesday, April 30	Masonic Center of Winston-Salem 4537 Country Club Road, Winston-Salem	Trip Warren, Flo Smith, Choncy Holman
Thursday, May 1	NCSU McKimmon Center 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh	Dana Edwards, Jamie Narron, Jennifer Ozkurt
Thursday, May 1	Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) 121 Hendersonville Road, Asheville	Jennifer Brown, Sheryl Harris
Friday, May 2	Great Wolf Lodge 10175 Weddington Road, Concord	Kim McCall, Kristen Bealler

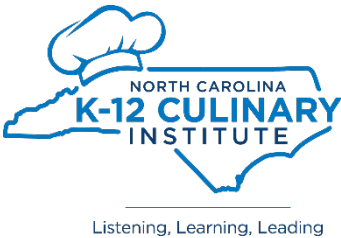
Participants are welcome to attend any meeting location, even if your Area School Nutrition Consultant is not facilitating that meeting. However, we do encourage you to attend the meeting that your Area School Nutrition Consultant is facilitating, if possible. Please only register for one location.

Each meeting will **begin at 9:00 am and conclude by 4:00 pm**. Additional details can be found in the registration form. [Register](#) by **Monday, April 21**.

Contact Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov, with any questions, or if you need to cancel or modify your registration. We look forward to seeing you this spring!

Encourage Participation in the 2025 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute – Apply by 5/8

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition, in conjunction with Chef Cyndie Story and the Culinary Solutions K-12 Team, will offer four North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institute regional workshops this summer. Three workshops will be for School Nutrition Managers and one for School Nutrition (SN) Directors/Administrators or SN Central Office Staff. N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops teach fundamental culinary techniques such as knife skills, food production strategies like batch cooking for quality, quick-scratch cooking techniques, and merchandising tips for recipes developed specifically for North Carolina schools. Participants graduate as Chef Ambassadors prepared to teach the Institute lessons and recipes to local School Nutrition professionals.



The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute objectives are to:

- Improve student health, well-being, and academic success through nutritious, appealing meals at school,
- Increase participation in high quality, enticing School Nutrition Programs,

- Expand capacity of local School Nutrition Programs to purchase, prepare and serve fresh, locally grown produce,
- Increase consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain rich foods, and
- Provide continuing education opportunities for School Nutrition personnel.

The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops will be hosted by School Food Authorities (SFAs) across the state and facilitated by the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute team, including State Agency staff. The following workshops will be offered this summer:

- **July 8-10** – Cleveland County Schools (SN Managers)
- **July 22-24** – Craven County Schools (SN Managers)
- **July 29-31** – Orange County Schools (SN Managers)
- **August 5-7** – New Hanover County Schools (SN Directors/Administrators and Central Office Staff only)

Interested School Nutrition professionals must [submit a 2025 Chef Ambassador Application](#) by **Thursday, May 8** to be considered for a spot and must have the support of their School Nutrition Director/Administrator, principal, and/or direct supervisor to attend. Submitted applications will be reviewed and selected participants will be notified by email. Selected participants must confirm their spot. Please reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov, with any questions.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Addressing the State of Child Hunger in North Carolina

On February 25, stakeholders and advocates from across the state gathered at the Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill for the 14th Annual N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference. With proposed cuts to school nutrition making local, state, and national headlines, the state of child nutrition in schools and communities across North Carolina — especially in western North Carolina — is top of mind for many North Carolinians. Governor Josh Stein provided the keynote address. “We recognize the gravity of the situation ahead of us, the urgency of solving child hunger,” said Governor Stein, “but we also have hope because we know we can solve this problem if we work together.”



Representatives from NCDPI and NCDHHS shared stories of child hunger heroes and updates on food and nutrition assistance programs which provide a critical safety net for North Carolina children. Last summer, 175 sponsors provided more than 4 million N.C. Summer Nutrition Program meals. Schools are on track this year to provide 73 million school lunches and 41 million school breakfasts to students across North Carolina. “These numbers are not just statistics,” said Rachel Findley, Senior Director for School Nutrition, NCDPI. “They represent our children, our neighbors, our friends, and our future leaders. They represent moments of hope where a simple meal can make a difference in all the world.” [Read the EdNC article to learn more.](#)

Follow/Like Us on Social Media

Did you know you could find the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition on social media? Follow or like our pages - @NCSchoolMeals and @Ray4NCKids on Facebook, Instagram, and X, formerly Twitter.

Share Your School Nutrition Photos

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition wants to spotlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines, complete school or summer meals, and nutrition education and promotion with us. Please send to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov. Make sure to include the school and district or organization info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos from across the state on social media.

Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

School Nutrition Update e-letters are scheduled to go out twice per month during the second and fourth full weeks. If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, shout out or other news item for the School Nutrition Update, **please take the actions below**. If there are topics of interest you would also like to see included, please share as well. **Submissions received after the deadline will be saved for the next issue.**

- **Send a brief ready-for-print article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by 12 pm on the WEDNESDAY** prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week.
 - **Please include “SN Update” in the email subject line.**
-

Job Opportunity

Work for Durham Public Schools – Child Nutrition Supervisor Opening

Durham Public Schools (DPS) is seeking applicants for an open Child Nutrition Supervisor position. The Child Nutrition Supervisor provides direct support for the School Nutrition Services (SNS) Department through active participation in Local, State and Federal programs, prepares requested reports and findings as requested by Durham Public Schools, NCDPI, and USDA, conducts ongoing school assessments to ensure observance of Federal, State and Local regulations and policies, works collaboratively with the Central Office team, District Leadership, and school-based Administration to ensure a smooth operation and excellent customer service, provide support in the development of new School Nutrition Services programs and implement programs to increase student meal participation, and supervises the operations of the Central HUB Kitchen and all related programs including Charter Schools and Catering. [Learn more and apply for the DPS position.](#)

Apply for Anson County School Nutrition Director Position

Anson County Schools is actively recruiting applicants for the School Nutrition Director position. A bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in specific areas; or a bachelor's degree in any academic major and a State-recognized certificate for School Nutrition Directors; or a bachelor's degree in any academic major and at least two years of relevant School Nutrition Program experience; or an associate's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food

service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field; and at least 2 years of relevant School Nutrition Program experience is required. [Learn more and apply for the Anson County School Nutrition Director position.](#)

Have a Job Opportunity to Share?

If you have a job opportunity to share, please send to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

- **Write a brief paragraph describing the position role, responsibilities, and requirements.** Consider including unique aspects of the role, facts about your public school unit and School Nutrition Program, or other information that may entice applicants.
 - **Note the closing date (if applicable).**
 - **Include a link to the job description and online application accessible to individuals outside of your public school unit.**
-

Award/Grant Opportunity

Submit Application for SNF Equipment Grants – Due 3/12

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is awarding over \$600,000 worth of equipment to school districts with 2025 Equipment Grants. Applicants must be current director-level members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA). Visit the Equipment Grants page for more eligibility details. Thanks to the generosity of SNF's sponsors, thirteen grants are available (totaling over \$600,000 worth of equipment): Alto-Shaam, AmTab, Cambro, FWE, Hobart, Innoseal, LTI, Inc., Sterno Delivery, Vulcan, and Winston Foodservice. If you are selected as a finalist, you will be asked to create a 2- to 3-minute video. [Visit the SNF website to learn more about each grant and fill out your application\(s\).](#) Applications are due **March 12**.

Apply for the Growing Minds Farm to School Mini-Grant – Deadline 3/31

The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP), Growing Minds Program offers mini-grants to help early childhood education (ECE) centers and K-12 schools throughout the 23 westernmost counties of North Carolina provide children positive experiences with healthy local foods through these components of farm to school: school gardens, farm field trips and farmer classroom visits, and local foods served in meals, snacks, and/or taste tests. Deadline to apply is **March 31**. [Learn more and apply for a Growing Minds Farm to School Mini-Grant.](#)

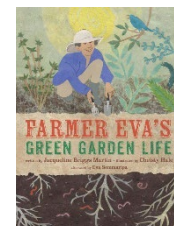
Nutrition Education & Promotion

Check out Current N.C. Ag in the Classroom Books of the Month

North Carolina Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom (NCAITC) is an educational program that is dedicated to fostering an understanding of the importance of agriculture in North Carolina. Each month NCAITC offers a book for anyone looking for a valid ag-related resource to utilize in the classroom. Each book will have accompanying activities of high-quality that can be integrated into lesson plans at various grade levels. The total purchase of

one book is \$5.00 and can be purchased until copies are sold out. Educational activity sheets are downloadable from the NCAITC website. [Learn more and request NCAITC Books of the Month.](#)

- The February Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month is ***Saturday at the Food Pantry***. Molly and her mom don't always have enough food, so one Saturday they visit their local food pantry. Molly's happy to get food to eat until she sees her classmate Caitlin, who's embarrassed to be at the food pantry. Can Molly help Caitlin realize that everyone needs help sometimes?
- The March Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month is ***Farmer Eva's Green Garden Life***. Farmer Eva Sommaripa founded Eva's Garden in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, a place "so close to the ocean, she can smell the sea, so close to woods she can talk to trees." More than 50 years later she has grown a big green garden life of friends and neighbors, creatures that crawl, fly and slither, even microbes that create rich soil in the brown underground. Meet farmer Eva, and share the magic, beauty, and science of life on the farm and caring for the land.



Continuing Education

Reaching Rural Families with Grab & Go: Ideas for Transforming Summer Meal Programs – 3/13, 3 pm ET

Join No Kid Hungry on **March 13 at 3 pm ET** for an engaging webinar designed for summer meal sponsors and partners to explore innovative grab-and-go program models tailored for rural non-congregate summer meal programs. Hear from speakers representing community organizations and schools from coast to coast as they share invaluable lessons learned, integrity plan insights, and effective staffing and volunteer strategies. Discover diverse multiple meal and bulk distribution models that have successfully addressed the unique challenges of rural settings. Don't miss this opportunity to gain practical knowledge and program ideas from professionals dedicated to ensuring no child goes hungry this summer. [Learn more and register for the Reaching Rural Families webinar.](#)

Exploring Vocational Horticulture and Transition with Exceptional Students – 3/19, 2 pm ET

Join the School Garden Support Organization Network (SGSO) for a webinar on **March 19 at 2 pm ET** to explore innovative techniques designed to accommodate students with disabilities using differentiated methods and adaptive equipment carefully chosen to provide each student the opportunity to participate and gain valuable vocational horticulture skills leading to possible employment. [Learn more and register for the Vocational Horticulture webinar.](#)

Smart Hiring: Leveraging Student Workers for Impactful Summer Meal Programs – 3/20, 3 pm ET

High school and college students can bring energy, creativity, and much-needed support to your summer meals program. From boosting capacity to strengthening community ties, student workers offer a fresh perspective that can make a real impact. In this webinar on **March 20 at 3 pm ET**, No Kid Hungry will dive into the benefits and challenges of hiring students, share best practices for recruitment, and equip you with key resources to streamline the hiring process. If you're a summer meals program operator looking to enhance your team, this session is for you! [Learn more and register for the Smart Hiring webinar](#).

Take a Deep Dive into the Community Eligibility Provision – 3/20, 3 pm ET

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows high-need schools to offer all students school meals at no charge. CEP reduces barriers to school meal participation, eases the administrative and operational burdens faced by School Nutrition departments, and is an effective tool in the fight against childhood hunger. In the 2023-24 school year, one out of every two schools that operated the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) used CEP to offer free school meals to all students. Join the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) on **March 20 at 3 pm ET** to do a deep dive into community eligibility, exploring CEP's history, regulations, and the benefits free school meals bring to students and schools. [Learn more and register for the FRAC CEP webinar](#).

Learn More about Digital Accessibility – March Webinar Series

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a State or local government entity. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has consistently made clear that the Title II nondiscrimination requirements apply to all services, programs, and activities of public entities (also referred to as "government services"), including those provided via the web. It also includes those provided via mobile apps.

In April 2024, a regulatory rule, [Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities](#), was published in the Federal Register. In this rule, the DOJ establishes technical standards for web content and mobile app accessibility to give public entities greater clarity in exactly how to meet their ADA obligations and to help ensure equal access to government services for individuals with disabilities.

Understanding the laws and policies that govern digital accessibility is essential for ensuring compliance and promoting equitable access to digital resources. NCDPI has offered a webinar series on accessibility for Public School Units (PSUs). The webinars were recorded and posted on the NCDPI website. [View the accessibility webinars for PSUs](#).

NCDPI is offering a webinar series in March designed specifically for vendors who develop digital solutions for K-12/higher education, state government and/or local government entities. Ensuring that your digital products and services are accessible is not only about legal compliance; it is a commitment to providing solutions that are accessible to all users. This webinar series will provide foundational knowledge and practical guidance on integrating accessibility into product design, development, procurement, and customer support.

Who Should Attend?

Vendors providing digital solutions to public entities, including solutions such as:

- **Educational technology & learning platforms**, such as Learning Management Systems (LMS), instructional content, assessment solutions
- **Public & employee-facing web platforms**, such as government portals, Human Resources (HR) systems, parent & staff dashboards
- **Data & reporting systems**, such as student information systems, analytics tools, compliance tracking
- **Document & content management solutions**, such as electronic forms, PDF creation tools, publishing platforms
- **Collaboration & communication tools**, such as web conferencing, messaging, email platforms, notification systems
- **Authoring & interactive media platforms**, such as e-learning content creators, simulations, AI tools
- **Mobile apps & digital services**, such as applications for public services, user portals, engagement platforms

All personnel/team roles, including leadership, product development, UX/design, sales, marketing, procurement, and customer support should attend. Participants can [register](#) for any or all webinars in the series. Each webinar will be recorded, and all registrants will receive an email following the event with the recording link. Feel free to attend the vendor webinar series and share information on this webinar series with vendors that work with your SFA.

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

Continuing education resources are available on the Office of School Nutrition [website](#) from NCDPI, the Institute of Child Nutrition, School Nutrition Association and other agencies and organizations. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers [continuing professional education resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained [online](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.