

# School Nutrition Update

May 22-26, 2023



## *In this Issue:*

### **Program Operations Information**

- Join USDA's Healthy Kids Campaign to Build a Brighter, Healthier Future for America's Children
- Participate in the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities

### **School Nutrition Spotlight**

- Diverting Garbage to Gardens in New Hanover County Schools
- Follow/Like Us on Social Media
- Share Your School Nutrition Photos
- Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

### **Job Opportunity**

- Apply for the Harnett County Schools Child Nutrition Director Position
- Work with Wake County Child Nutrition

### **Grant Opportunity**

- Apply for Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and/or Rural School Food Authorities – Due 5/26
- Transform Communities with the Lots of Compassion Grant – Due 6/2

### **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

- Check out USDA Farm to School Resources

### **Continuing Education**

- Learn About Healthy School Meals for All – Successful State Strategies – 5/24, 1 pm ET

- Celebrate Composting Awareness Month – 5/24, 3 pm ET
- Engage the District Community with School Gardens – 5/24, 4 pm ET
- Providing High-Quality Customer Service in Schools - 5/25, 3 pm ET
- Access Virtual Training Resources

---

## Program Operations Information

---

### *Join USDA's Healthy Kids Campaign to Build a Brighter, Healthier Future for America's Children*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Healthy Kids campaign supports the premise that a healthier future for our country starts with our children. Food and nutrition assistance programs do more than give kids food to eat, they teach children about the importance of nutrition, help them develop healthy habits, and connect them and their families with other important resources.



Supporting healthy kids with good nutrition early in life sets kids up to thrive. That is why the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service is coordinating across all programs to strengthen child nutrition and break down barriers to good health. Share what you are doing to support healthy kids by using the hashtag #HealthyKids and tag @USDANutrition and @MyPlate on Twitter. [Learn more.](#)

---

### *Participate in the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities*

President Biden announced this spring the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities. The Challenge is a nationwide call-to-action to stakeholders across all of society to make bold commitments to advance President Biden's goal to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases by 2030, all while reducing disparities. [Learn more.](#)

---

## School Nutrition Spotlight

---

### *Diverting Garbage to Gardens in New Hanover County Schools*

Garbage to Gardens is a program in New Hanover County designed to divert school-waste streams from the cafeteria for better uses than landfilling, like composting and recycling. Sourcing sustainable cafeteria products, and transforming communities through environmental education, outreach, and institutional behavior change are also major components of this program.



The Garbage to Gardens program originated in 2019 as an experimental project known as “Waste Free Wednesday” at Winter Park Elementary. The project focused on diverting school lunch waste, one day a week, from the landfill and turning it into a valuable resource (i.e. compost) that could then be returned to the school

for use in their garden. With continued support from the staff and parents at Winter Park, community leaders, business owners and environmental educators, the program continues to be refined and has evolved into what is now known as Garbage to Gardens. The program expanded in 2021 to DC Virgo, diverting waste five days a week. The program is working to reach more schools in the county. [Learn more and find resources.](#)

---

### ***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 Twitter.

---

### ***Share Your School Nutrition Photos***

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students each day. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines and complete school breakfast or school lunch meals with us. Please send to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov). Make sure to include the school and district info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos of school meals from across the state on social media.



*Edgecombe County  
Public Schools*

---

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

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 send a brief article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto: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. If there are topics of interest you would also like to see included, please share as well.

---

## **Job Opportunity**

---

### ***Apply for the Harnett County Schools Child Nutrition Director Position***

Harnett County Schools is seeking applicants for the Child Nutrition Director position. Applicants must have at least eight hours of food safety training either not more than five years prior to their starting date or completed within 30 days of the employee’s start date AND one of the following:

- Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field, OR
- Bachelor’s degree in any academic major and at least five years of experience in management of School Nutrition Programs, OR
- Bachelor’s degree in any academic major and State-recognized certificate for school.

[Learn more and apply.](#) The position is open until filled.

## ***Work with Wake County Child Nutrition***

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), Child Nutrition Services (CNS) is seeking applicants for an open Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for supervising food service operations within a geographical area by monitoring operations to ensure daily compliance with local, state, and federal policies, regulations, and best practices for sanitation, safety, financial/resource management, and general program operations. Additionally, this individual provides internal operations support by managing specialized functions within CNS, such as menu planning, product sourcing/evaluation, technology support, equipment evaluation/purchases, training, grants, dietary accommodations, marketing or other functions to address the evolving needs of CNS. To view the complete job description and apply, visit the [WCPSS Job Board](#).

---

## **Grant Opportunity**

---

### ***Apply for Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and/or Rural School Food Authorities – Due 5/26***

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](#), Action for Healthy Kids is offering competitive grants (up to \$150,000 per School Food Authority, SFA) for small and/or rural SFAs to support efforts to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals. The deadline for submitting a [grant application](#) is 5:00 pm ET, on May 26, 2023.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- SFA must participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program
- SFA must meet the following definitions of small and/or rural:
  - **Small SFA:** SFA with an enrollment of less than or equal to 5,000 students.
  - **Rural SFA:** The majority of students within the SFA are enrolled in a rural school as defined by a locality code of 41, 42, or 43, according to the [National Center for Education Statistics online tool](#).

The Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for small and/or rural SFAs are a key part of the USDA, FNS [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](#), which was established to improve the nutritional quality of school meals through food systems transformation, School Food Authority recognition and technical assistance, the generation and sharing of innovative ideas and tested practices, and grants. Questions about this announcement may be sent to [support@healthymealsincentives.org](mailto:support@healthymealsincentives.org).

---

### ***Transform Communities with the Lots of Compassion Grant – Due 6/2***

Mrs. Meyer’s Clean Day and KidsGardening have announced their new Lots of Compassion grant program, designed to support local leaders looking to transform vacant lots into gardens to help grow compassion in their community. In 2023, 10 grantees will receive \$20,000 each to transform a vacant lot into a garden. [Learn more and apply](#).

---

## **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

---

## ***Check Out USDA Farm-to-School Resources***

The Patrick Leahy Farm-to-School Program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers resources for public school units on a variety of helpful topics: establishing a farm-to-school team, procuring local food, menu planning, creating, maintaining, and utilizing school gardens, conducting nutrition education and promotion, and evaluating programs. [Learn more](#).

---

## **Continuing Education**

---

### ***Learn About Healthy School Meals for All – Successful State Strategies – 5/24, 1 pm ET***

Since federal waivers for meals at no cost have expired, many states have taken legislative and non-legislative measures to ensure children continue to benefit from healthy school meals. State advocates play an integral role in educating legislators, stakeholders, and the public about the importance of expanding school meal programs. Every state is different and the strategies that succeed in one may not work in another. In this School Nutrition Association webinar on May 24 at 1 pm ET, advocates from California, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, and Pennsylvania will come together to share successful strategies and lessons learned from their advocacy efforts. [Learn more and register](#).

---

### ***Celebrate Composting Awareness Month – 5/24, 3 pm ET***

This USDA People's Garden webinar on May 24 at 3 pm ET will share the many benefits of creating and using compost, from diverting food from the landfill to improving your garden soil. [Learn more and register](#).

---

### ***Engage the District Community with School Gardens – 5/24, 4 pm ET***

This is part two of a webinar series hosted by the School Garden Support Organization Network (SGSON) focusing on school district-wide school garden programs led by district staff and the unique opportunities and challenges they face. This webinar on May 24 at 4 pm ET will cover how district offices engage their district community in their school gardens, including how to run peer learning communities for teachers across a district and establish community partnerships. [Learn more and register](#). The recording of part one of the series and other webinars can be found at on the SGSON [website](#).

---

### ***Providing High-Quality Customer Service in Schools - 5/25, 3 pm ET***

It is important for School Nutrition professionals to stay inspired and deliver exceptional service while navigating the current parameters for program operations. The STAR webinar on May 25 at 3 pm ET from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) aims to provide School Nutrition professionals with practical techniques for delivering exceptional customer service in their programs. Hear from professionals in the field who will provide key strategies they are implementing to overcome difficult challenges that may impact customer service, identify the needs and expectations of their customers, and deliver effective and responsive service that meets those needs to enhance customers' experiences. [Learn more and register](#).

---

## Access Virtual Training Opportunities

The Institute of 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 [continuing professional education resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs).

---

## Questions

---

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your [regional consultants](#).

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.