

School Nutrition Update

August 12-16, 2024



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Program Operations Information

Learn About the What, Why, When and How of Menu Certification – 8/21, 3 pm ET

Please join the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition on August 21 at 3 pm ET for an informational webinar on the new menu certification process for North Carolina: "The What, Why, When and How of Menu Certification". This webinar is open to all School Food Authorities (SFAs) but will be particularly helpful for the following groups:

- Those scheduled for an Administrative Review (AR) during the 2024-25 School Year.
- Those who do not currently use a USDA approved menu planning software including nutrient analysis software.

Connect to Microsoft Teams for the webinar using the information and link below:

- [Join the meeting](#)
- Meeting ID: 289 142 502 446
- Passcode: GJDgTZ

For questions about the webinar, reach out to Area School Nutrition Consultants, Jennifer Brown, jennifer.brown@dpi.nc.gov, or Trip Warren, trip.warren@dpi.nc.gov.

Comment on Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in Summer Meal Programs – Deadline 8/27

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) extended the public comment period on the interim final rule, [Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs](#), published April 19, 2024 at [89 FR 28572](#), to August 27, 2024. USDA, FNS encourages interested persons to submit comments on this interim final rule on or before August 27, 2024. The public may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Online via the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#): Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
 - Mail: Send comments to Community Meals Policy Division, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.
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Explore Back-to-School Resources from the Institute of Child Nutrition

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) has tools to make back-to-school planning easy as ABC! Don't miss out on these resources:



- [Back-to-School Toolbox](#): Find trainings, new employee resources, and a handy back-to-school checklist.
- [Child Nutrition Sharing Site](#): Use this online information center to collaborate with other Child Nutrition Program operators. Share your Program's resources and best practices and learn from others too!
- [Culturally Inclusive Recipes Toolkit](#): Find resources and information for School Nutrition Program operators and the school community to collaborate on the process of identifying, developing, testing, and incorporating culturally inclusive recipes in school meal programs.
- [Facility Design and Equipment Purchasing Manual](#): Download this free guide packed with practical advice and expert recommendations to revamp your school's kitchen and effectively upgrade your nutrition program.
- [Shaking It Up! Resources](#): Get tangible, practical guidance for implementing sodium reduction strategies in school foodservice operations.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Celebrating Summer Nutrition All-stars – Catawba County

The Catawba County Summer Nutrition Program team of all-stars served over 10,000 meals to their community! They took it upon themselves to figure out how to effectively, safely, and efficiently serve the community a wide variety of breakfast and lunch meals from two bus locations and serve a neighboring county's daycare program. Any time you visit them, they have a smile on their face, and they talk about how much they love what they do! The summer feeding program is more than a job; it is their passion. Leo Morton, the supervising manager, shared a message with Caren Berrier, Catawba County School Nutrition Director, "Thank you for allowing us to serve meals to students who really need them in the summer!". Many families in the community rely on summer meals, and this team made sure they met their needs. We love our School and Summer Nutrition Teams!



The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition would like to highlight and lift up N.C. School and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state as often as we can. If you have a School or Summer Nutrition Shoutout, please tag the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition when you post on social media, @NCSchoolMeals or @Ray4NCKids. You can also send an article with photos, if available, to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Share Your N.C. Farm to Summer Success Stories

Share your success stories for celebrating N.C. Farm to Summer with us. We would love to lift up how you served local foods as part of meals and/or snacks and taught about agriculture, nutrition and local food through

farm to summer activities. [Learn more and complete the #NCFarmtoSummerChallenge form](#) to share about your farm to summer activities, or send a brief story to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

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 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

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 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. 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.**

If you have a job opportunity to share, please send the position title, a brief paragraph describing the position role, responsibilities, and requirements, closing date (if applicable) and a link to the job description and online application accessible to individuals outside of your public school unit. Consider including unique aspects of the role, facts about your public school unit and School Nutrition Program, or other information that may entice applicants.

Job Opportunity

Work with Union County Public Schools, School Nutrition Services – Clinical Dietitian and Marketing Specialist

Union County Public Schools is recruiting applicants for a Clinical Dietitian and Marketing Specialist with School Nutrition Services. Under limited supervision, the Clinical Dietitian and Marketing Specialist will strive to provide a nutritionally sound and cost-efficient food services program that will meet the needs of students while maintaining compliance with all state and federal guidelines as they relate to the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and After School Snack Programs. This position will drive the marketing and publicity for the School Nutrition Program through in person and digital campaigns. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in nutrition and dietetics, credentialing as a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist, and a North Carolina license as a Dietitian/Nutritionist. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Apply for Haywood County School Nutrition Supervisor Position

Haywood County Schools is seeking applicants for a School Nutrition Supervisor position. A bachelor's degree in food service management, nutrition, or a related field is required. Three to five years of experience in food service management or a related field, with some experience in a leadership role is preferred. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Work with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools – Child Nutrition (CN) Area Supervisor

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) is recruiting applicants for a Child Nutrition (CN) Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating all aspects of the school-based CN program to ensure that school meals are nutritious, appealing, and cost effective. The Supervisor provides expert knowledge of the food service industry to assist in developing CMS and CN policies and procedures used in the management of staff in compliance with State/Federal laws and regulations. The Area Supervisor is responsible for recommending facility and equipment improvements; monitoring food production, food security, sanitation, employee safety, human resource management, and meal accountability; and monitoring departmental key performance indicators for their assigned schools. Position closes August 16. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Submit Application – Johnston County Culinary and Dietetic Specialist

Johnston County School Nutrition is currently hiring for a Culinary and Dietetic Specialist position. The Culinary and Dietetic Specialist will be responsible for developing cost-effective menus and standardized recipes that maintain nutrition integrity and meet all local, state, and federal guidelines and regulations, assessing customer preferences, industry trends, and current research to plan menus that encourage participation in School Nutrition Programs; working with the menu/food related operations of the school system not limited to, but, including evaluating food orders, assisting in physical inventory of the central warehouse, completing nutrient analysis, updating software with all food item/nutrient content and purchased commodity food information and working with and assisting in the development of bids and bid materials; supervising Catering and Events Manager and Warehouse operations/drivers; overseeing the development of marketing materials for the promotion of food items and/or meals offered in the program; and conducting compliance audits in regards to unique mealtime needs, marketing, and quality assurance. For unique mealtime needs, the Culinary and Dietetic Specialist will review all submitted Medical Statements and develop appropriate menu substitutions for students with unique mealtime needs communicating with the physician, parent, cafe manager, and school nurse, source products and update product inventory for unique mealtime needs, complete and communicate carb count information to nurses, parents, and cafe manager, and provide on-going unique mealtime needs training for staff. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university in Nutrition and Dietetics, Food Service Management, Business, or related field is required. A culinary background, registered dietitian (RD) and/or a licensed dietitian nutritionist (LDN), and/or experience in K-12 Nutrition program operations and/or large volume dining is preferred. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Award/Grant Opportunity

Turnip the Beet 2024! – Award Deadline 9/12



TURNIP THE BEET
with high quality summer meals!

The Turnip the Beet Award, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious. All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors, may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award. Sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party. The Turnip the Beet nomination form must be completed and submitted along with a detailed one-month menu. No more than five (5) supporting documents can be submitted. Submit 2024 Turnip the Beet Award applications to NCDPI at summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov by **5 pm on September 12**. More details, including the nomination form, scoring rubric, and a one-pager are accessible from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). If you have questions about the Turnip the Beet Award reach out to Tracey Bates, School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Prepare for N.C. Summer Nutrition Champion Awards

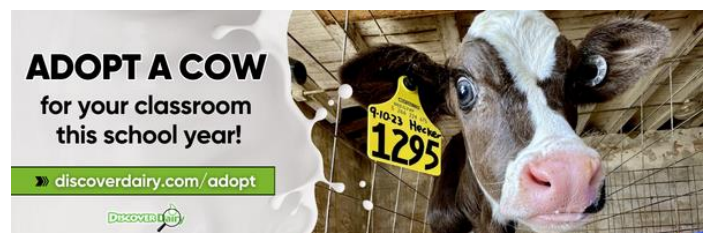
Keep track of your great work this summer with N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs so you're ready to apply for awards! Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors in good standing are eligible to apply for the N.C. Summer Nutrition Champion Awards. The award applications will open in the fall, and award winners will be recognized at the SummerPalooza! Summits in November 2024. You can review the criteria for the awards below and prepare now. Pictures, videos, menus, and partnership recaps are examples of materials used for these award applications. [Learn more](#). If you have questions about the awards, reach out to the NCDPI, Summer Nutrition Team at summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov.

- Going the Distance in Innovation Award
 - Rising Star Award
 - Superior Site Award
 - Farm to Summer Best Practice Award
 - Non-Congregate Best Practice Award – NEW, Criteria coming soon!
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Nutrition Education & Promotion

Adopt a Cow

Adopt a cow for your café, classroom or school this year! Registration is now open. Join the Discover Dairy program that has impacted more than 1.2 million students worldwide! [Learn more and register](#).



1. Use for virtual or in-person instruction
2. Follow Next Generation Science Standards and Common CORE standards in math, reading, and science through our lesson plans

3. View calf updates seven (7) times throughout the school year through the Adopt A Cow portal and Discover Dairy app.
 4. Enjoy additional bi-monthly dairy resource emails to enhance your classroom experience.
 5. Receive everything for FREE, thanks to the support from program partners and donors.
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Continuing Education

Learn Expansion Strategies for Afterschool Suppers and Snacks – 8/22, 3 pm ET

While there has been important progress made on expanding the reach of afterschool suppers over the last ten years, there is still room to grow! Afterschool suppers and snacks are a critical support for the students that rely on free and reduced-price meals. As we head into the new school year, this webinar from the Food Research Action Center (FRAC) on August 22 at 3 pm ET will feature existing and new promising practices for expanding access to afterschool suppers and snacks in every state. [Learn more and register.](#)

Exploring Math in the Garden – 8/22, 7 pm ET

Join KidsGardening for a webinar exploring math in the garden on August 22 at 7 pm ET. Educators, Scott Morrison, Ed.D. and Katie Baker, Ed.D. from Elon University will provide a brief overview of current research on the academic, social, and emotional benefits of outdoor and garden-based education, share five core routines to structure and guide lessons outside, and offer engaging examples of K-8 math lessons that can be taught in gardens or other outdoor environments. [Learn more and register.](#)

Participate in the 2024 Hunger-Free Communities Virtual Summit

The Hunger-Free Communities Annual Summit brings together the Alliance to End Hunger's extensive national and community networks, the Hunger Free Communities Network, and attracts hundreds of hunger fighters from across the country. This group explores solutions and best practices for ending hunger at the community level and the policies that underpin this work at the federal level. The HFC Summit brings together people representing multiple sectors including government, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, corporations, foundations, students, and community residents. The goal of the Summit is to highlight effective policies, programs, and methods for reducing community food insecurity and impacting root causes of hunger, sharing best practices and resources, demonstrating effective multi-sector collaborations, and building skills among participants. Early Bird Registration is only \$25 until September 3. [Learn more and register.](#)

Learn More – Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act Final Rule

On April 24, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division issued a [Final Rule revising Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#). The rule requires state and local governments to make their websites and mobile applications accessible for people with disabilities using the technical standards of [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1 Level AA](#). School Nutrition Programs will need to take steps to learn about and prepare for compliance with the Final Rule. For School Nutrition Programs, this will impact websites, menus, social media, documents, and other electronic communications. This can include procured contract services provided by third party vendors, i.e., websites, online menus and menu apps, social media, newsletter, etc.

To assist Public School Units (PSUs), the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has created an online [Digital Accessibility dashboard](#) of information and resources. In addition, NCDPI is offering in-person workshops for PSU teams and online webinars to provide more information about the Final Rule, offer best practice strategies and resources for accessibility, and assist PSUs with conducting audits of electronic media and developing action plans to achieve compliance. [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).

Important Dates

Date	Action Step
Each Month – By the 10 th (On or Before)	Claim for Reimbursement Due (NSLP, SBP, ASSP)
Each Month – By the 15 th (On or Before)	Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Reimbursement Claims Due

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, audiotope, 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.

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