

School Nutrition Update

August 21-25, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Be Aware - Fourth Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance Funds for School Nutrition Programs

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service has recently announced the availability of a fourth allocation of Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) funds to meet the significant and ongoing challenges with supply chain disruptions and labor shortages during the 2023-24 School Year. The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service is providing an additional \$1.2 billion in funds to assist School Nutrition Programs in their efforts to provide consistent and nutritious school meals to children. This assistance is intended to enhance efforts to strengthen local food supply chains and help schools overcome financial and operational barriers while maintaining children's access to nutritious meals.

Similar to the prior three distributions, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition will distribute this fourth round of SCA funding to eligible School Food Authorities (SFA). The allocation includes two components - a base payment of \$5,000 to all eligible school districts and a proportional funding amount based on each SFA's share of statewide student enrollment. SCA funds remain limited to the purchase of unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products. Once USDA makes this fourth allocation of SCA funds available, the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition will provide additional details about applying for this fourth allocation.

Determining Eligibility of Free and Reduced-Priced Applications for SY 2023-24

Determining correct meal eligibility status for students is an important part of School Nutrition Program accountability. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition is offering a Determining Eligibility of Free and Reduced Application webinar on August 31, 9-11 am, which will provide information about handling and processing meal benefit applications per Federal guidelines.

The webinar information is provided only for School Food Authorities (SFAs) using the Free and Reduced-Priced School Meals Application to determine student or household eligibility for school meals. If your SFA processes household applications to determine meal benefits, please make sure the appropriate personnel participate in this webinar. Please share this information with anyone in your SFA who will benefit from this instruction. This continuing education opportunity will be recorded for future reference and viewing. [Learn more and register](#). For questions, reach out to Jacquelyn McGowan, Compliance Specialist, jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Celebrating Dairy Day

The Franklin County Schools, Summer Nutrition Program recently celebrated “Dairy Day” at the Franklin County Boys & Girls Club. They had visitors from The Dairy Alliance, N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS), and the Franklin County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. The students learned where milk comes from and how to milk a cow with NCDA&CS. They also learned about milk nutrition facts and sampled a smoothie with Registered Dietitian and Youth Wellness Manager, Cami Lewis, from The Dairy Alliance. Then, they made their own butter and learned about dairy farming with the Farm Bureau. There was even a visit from Ms. Gloria Cow! A moo-velous time was had by all. What a great way to celebrate #NCFarmtoSummer! To learn more and see additional photos from the event, visit the Franklin County School Nutrition [Facebook page](#).



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 and complete school or summer meals 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 of meals from across the state on social media.



Perquimans County 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, 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.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Learn About North Carolina Agriculture and Career Pathways

Career exploration is important to students of all ages! A new North Carolina Careers Ag Mag from the N.C. Farm Bureau (NCFB) Ag in the Classroom provides information about North Carolina agriculture and its importance to our state, career pathways, highlights, and interviews with real people working in agriculture. Four lesson plans are bridged to the Ag Mag, and a Quizlet is also included for students to further their learning. The digital version of the Ag Mag is accessible for free on the NCFB Ag in the Classroom website. Printed copies can be ordered for \$5.00 per pack of twenty-five. [Learn more.](#)



More and more of the population is removed from the farm. The N.C. Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom is working to connect children with agriculture and show them where their food comes from. [Learn more](#) from Heather Willoughby, Director of the NCFB Ag in the Classroom.

Turnip the Beet 2023! – Award Deadline 9/8

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 2023 Turnip the Beet Award applications to NCDPI at summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov by **5 pm on September 8**. More details, including the nomination form, scoring rubric, and a one-pager are accessible from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).



TURNIPTHE BEET
with high quality summer meals!

Continuing Education

Explore the Back-to-School Toolbox

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) has prepared the Back-to-School Toolbox for returning, new, and aspiring School Nutrition professionals. In the toolbox, you can filter resources by type and importance, i.e., required, important back to school training, new employee resources, and best practices. The ICN toolbox is also conveniently organized by staff categories - Frontline Staff, Managers, Menu Planners, and Directors – to help you plan professional development for you and your staff. Each category provides links to ICN Trainings, iLearn Online Courses, Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) opportunities, and ICN Resources for download. [Learn more.](#)



Learn About Child Nutrition on Demand

The Child Nutrition on Demand Video Series from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) brings together Child Nutrition professionals to share their experiences while providing an educational and actionable outcome. Topics cover recruiting and retaining employees, orientation and training, financial management, inventory management, customer experience, and marketing. [Learn more.](#)



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](#).

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- (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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