

School Nutrition Update

October 16-20, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Register for a Unique Mealtime Needs Workshop – Deadline 10/27

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Offices of School Nutrition and Exceptional Children (Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology) are pleased to announce a Unique Mealtime Needs (UMN) Workshop on November 3 at the Sheraton Four Points in Asheville, 9 am-4 pm. Lunch will be provided. [Register](#) by **October 27**.

NOTE: Unique Mealtime Needs Workshops were offered in the spring in the central and eastern regions of the state. This November workshop in Asheville serves the western region and offers the same content as the spring workshops. If you attended a spring UMN Workshop, you do not need to register for the fall workshop.

This workshop is designed to help public school units (PSUs) develop teams to meet the unique mealtime needs of students. We hope that staff from School Nutrition, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology along with Administrators will attend together to build relationships to better meet the needs of this growing population. Priority will be given to teams but individuals from these disciplines or others may attend separately, if space permits. A certificate for 6 hours of continuing education credit will be provided after participants complete an online evaluation.

Questions about this course can be directed to:

- Office of Exceptional Children
 - Perry Flynn, State Consultant for Speech-Language Pathology, pfflynn@uncg.edu, or
 - Bridgette LeCompte, Consultant for Occupational Therapy, bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov.
- Office of School Nutrition
 - Jennifer Bailey, Section Chief, jennifer.bailey@dpi.nc.gov, or
 - Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov.

Navigate to Destination SummerPalooza! Deadline – 11/17

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Summer Nutrition Team, in partnership with the Carolina Hunger Initiative, is inviting all public school units, private nonprofits, public organizations, and advocates interested in eliminating summer hunger for youth to participate in the upcoming SummerPalooza! Summits. Attendees will learn innovative strategies to make their 2024 Summer Nutrition Programs THE DESTINATION for kids and teens for food, fitness, fun, and farm to summer! [Register](#) by **November 17** for a summit at one of the following locations:



- November 28 – Western - Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Drive SE, Hickory
- November 29 – Central - McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh
- November 30 – Eastern – Eastern AHEC, 2600 W. Arlington Boulevard, Greenville

For more SummerPalooza! info or questions, reach out to summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Celebrating National School Lunch Week with USDA in Johnston County

In celebration of both the National School Lunch Week theme of “Level Up with School Lunch” and the start of the N.C. State Fair, themed the “Best Day Ever”, Johnston County Public Schools (JCPS) featured a game and fair themed menu of Mario’s Mini Corndogs, Donkey Kong Donut Burger, Princess Peach Parfait, Fry Guy Fry Bar, Bowser’s Broccoli, Lougie’s Loaded Apples (North Carolina-grown), Shy Guy Salad Bar, Yoshi’s Unflavored Milk, and Toad’s Chocolate Milk on October 12. The Benson Middle School café was decorated with the “Level Up” theme. School Nutrition Services staff dressed up in Mario Brothers themed costumes. Students and school staff were also encouraged to dress up. Activity tables, coloring sheets, and giveaways were available. The JCPS Superintendent and Board of Education were invited, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Southeast Regional Office (SERO), and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Office of School Nutrition, attended. Check out photos on the JCPS School Nutrition Facebook [page](#). What a fun way to celebrate NSLW!



Identify N.C. Summer Nutrition Program Champions – Deadline 10/27

The NCDPI, Summer Nutrition Team knows that the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Summer Seamless Option (SSO) sponsors in our state are implementing innovative and creative practices to expand their Summer Nutrition Programs. We want to celebrate you!

We encourage all sponsors to consider applying to one or multiple of the North Carolina Summer Nutrition Champion Awards. Sponsors may be self-nominated or nominated by a third party such as a community partner.

- Going the Distance Innovation Award
- Rising Star Award
- Superior Site Award
- Farm to Summer Best Practices Award

A PowerPoint presentation of 3-5 slides, no more than 40 words per slide plus notes, is required for submissions along with supporting documentation, as needed. For any of the 2023 Summer Nutrition Champion Awards, please send the presentation and all attachments in ONE email to carolinahungerinitiative@unc.edu with the title “2023 Summer Nutrition Champion Awards – Your Sponsor/Stakeholder Name” in the subject line of the email. Label the documents and/or attachments with the title of the award you are entering and your sponsor/stakeholder title. All nominations should be submitted no later than **5 pm on October 27**. This is an opportunity for you to show how you met and exceeded your goals in 2023! [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 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.



Brunswick 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 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.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Celebrate the #NCCrunch with the #BestDayEver!

If you visit the N.C. State Fair, plan to participate in the N.C. Crunch while you are there. The N.C. Crunch is an opportunity for youth and adults to taste and learn about North Carolina-grown fruits and vegetables and thank all those involved in feeding our communities. Look for the N.C. Crunch station in the *Got to Be NC Agriculture* pavilion in Dorton Arena. Many pavilion culinary demos are featuring North Carolina-grown produce to support the N.C. Crunch. Snap a #NCCrunch photo, post to social media and share how you are celebrating the N.C. Crunch, and tag @NCAgriculture, @NCStateFair, @F2SCoalitionNC, and the @NCFarmtoPreschool Network. Also, check out the Children’s Barnyard, Mobile Dairy Classroom, Garden Show, learning stations in the Graham Building and the Agri Supply Exposition Center, and the educational activities and farm to school student artwork in the Field of Dreams exhibit.



Make sure your schools, public school units, agencies, organizations, counties and/or families participate in the 2023 #NCCrunch! The goal is to reach all 100 counties and 500,000 kids and adults. Currently, we have 58 counties plus the Qualla Boundary and 1,080 sites registered to reach 170,448 participants. Sign up for the N.C. Crunch to count your efforts and receive access to free promotional and educational resources. [Learn more.](#)

NC Crunch 2023 Participation



Cook Up New School Meal Recipes with the N.C. Jr. Chef Competition

High school students can work with their teachers and local School Nutrition Programs to create school lunch entrée recipes that adhere to National School Lunch Program standards, feature at least two North Carolina-grown ingredients and one USDA Foods item, and appeal to students. The first place N.C. Jr. Chef team advances to the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition. Student members of the top three teams at the state and regional level win scholarships. See below for the 2024 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition key dates and action steps. For competition information and materials, visit the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).



2024 NC Jr. Chef Competition (NCJCC) Timeline:

- January 5, 2024 – Teams submit the online Submission Form, Application (Excel or Google Sheet), Recipe Photo and a signed NCJCC Permission and Release Form for each student team member. The Application includes team information, recipe ingredients and instructions, nutrient analysis, and cost analysis.
- January 22, 2024 – Based on a review of applications and recipes, up to eight finalist teams will be selected to compete in the NCJCC cook-off phase. Teams will be notified regarding finalist selections.
- February 19, 2024 – NCJCC finalist teams will submit their final application with recipe, nutrient analysis, cost analysis, recipe photo, time management plan, and an unedited recipe preparation video.
- March 11 or 12, 2024 – NCJCC teams participate in live virtual interviews with panel of evaluators.
- March 13, 2024 – NCJCC results announced via press release and social media. A virtual ceremony will be held to recognize all finalist teams and announce the results.
- April 25, 2024 – NCJCC first place team submits application, recipe, recipe photo, permission form and media release for Southeast Jr. Chef Competition.
- May 9-10, 2024 – State teams compete at the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition.

Continuing Education

Explore Paid Agricultural Experiential Learning Programs to Serve N.C. K-14 Teachers – 10/23 or 10/25

Please join Dr. Kathleen Liang at NC A&T on October 23 or 25 at 6:30 pm for the second information session to learn about a new project in supporting K-14 teachers, staff, and administrators to engage in a 7-day innovative agricultural experiential learning program. This training is open to all disciplines. The information session will discuss expectations, timeline, financial support, and application process. The objectives of the program are to (1) deliver integrated training involving innovative hands-on research, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary curriculum design to fulfill soft skills and technical competency for K-14 teachers and administrators, and (2)

fulfill shared efficacy to equip participants with knowledge and training materials of the historical context of diversity and equity in agri-food systems and supporting networks. [Learn more and register.](#)

Learn about What the Farm to School Census Means for North Carolina – 10/24



The USDA, Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program is conducting its fourth Farm to School Census in Fall 2023! This Census is the only national survey that examines local food purchasing, school gardens, and agricultural education efforts in schools. High participation rates will help illustrate the scale and impact of farm to school within North Carolina and show us where there is room to grow. Join USDA, NCDPI,

NCD&CS, N.C. Cooperative Extension, and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) on October 24 at 1 pm ET to learn what the Census means for our state and how you can be involved. School Food Authorities (SFA) representatives, Extension agents, non-profit partners, and farm to school advocates are encouraged to attend this webinar. [Register](#) to participate.

Webinar objectives include:

1. Outlining the purpose and importance of the 2023 Farm to School Census.
 2. Demonstrating the impact of past Census data.
 3. Highlighting Census resources provided by the USDA and other state-level farm-to-school partners.
 4. Sharing how SFAs and community partners can participate in the Census.
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Glean Strategies for Marketing School Nutrition Programs – 10/26

In the School Nutrition Program’s landscape of marketing, it is essential to establish innovative strategies that impact the health and well-being of students, as well as captivate their attention. Join the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) on October 26 at 3 pm to learn proven strategies designed to elevate your program's visibility, impact, and participation. This webinar will provide practical techniques for effectively engaging students, families, teachers, and the community at large. [Learn more and register.](#)

Discover Key Components of a Youth-Led Entrepreneurship Cooperative – 10/26

City Blossoms, the Farm-Based Education Network, and the U.S. Botanic Gardens have teamed up to offer a four-part workshop series highlighting the ins and outs of farm and garden youth entrepreneurship programs. Join the series and a group of guest presenters to explore how to support young people as they start, manage, and grow their own youth-driven businesses. The first session in the series on October 26, 3:30-5 pm ET, explores the components of a youth-led entrepreneurship cooperative. [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 [Area 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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