

# School Nutrition Update

October 9-13, 2023



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## Program Operations Information

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### *Register for a Charter School Boot Camp – Deadline Extended to 10/12*

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition will provide two upcoming workshops, the “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”.

- October 17, 2023 - Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13<sup>th</sup> Ave Drive SE #5186, Hickory
- October 18, 2023 - NCSU McKimmon Conference and Training Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh

Sign-in starts at 8:30 am. The workshop runs 8:45 am to 4:00 pm. [Register](#) by **Thursday, October 12**. The same content will be provided at each workshop, so please register for and plan to attend only one workshop. Participants are responsible for all travel expenses including meals, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage.

This intensive course was designed specifically for Charter School personnel who administer and/or operate School Nutrition Programs. Participants will review the basic requirements for operating a successful and compliant School Nutrition Program.

Upon completion, the workshop will provide 6 hours of credit for professional development as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the learning code 3000 Administration. Charter Schools’ 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.

If you have general questions about the workshop, please contact Katrina Perry at [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov). Do not miss this important professional development opportunity. We look forward to seeing you there!

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### *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](mailto:pfflynn@uncg.edu), or
  - Bridgette LeCompte, Consultant for Occupational Therapy, [bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:bridgette.lecompte@dpi.nc.gov).
- Office of School Nutrition
  - Jennifer Bailey, Section Chief, [jennifer.bailey@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:jennifer.bailey@dpi.nc.gov), or
  - Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov).

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## *Navigate to Destination SummerPalooza!*

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov).



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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### *Identify N.C. Summer Nutrition Program Champions*

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](mailto: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](#).

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### ***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.

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### ***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](mailto: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.



*Tyrrell 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](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.

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## **Job Opportunity**

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### ***Apply for New Wake County School Nutrition HR Senior Administrator Position***

Wake County Child Nutrition Services is recruiting for its recently created Senior Administrator level position responsible for Human Resources Staffing & Operations support. This is a great opportunity to join our senior leadership team and lead efforts involving recruitment, training, and performance management! A combination of higher education and administrator level experience is required. [Learn more](#) and [apply](#) (Job ID 57513).

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# Nutrition Education & Promotion

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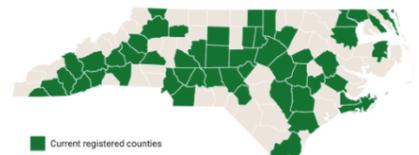
## ***Get on Board for the 2023 #NCCrunch and #NSLW!***

During their October meeting, the N.C. State Board of Education showed their support for the #NCCrunch by crunching into North Carolina-grown apples from [Flavor Full Farms](#) in Hendersonville, a grower for the [N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](#) (NCDA&CS), [N.C. Farm to School Program](#). In addition, Chair Davis recorded a [video message](#) encouraging schools to celebrate [Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month](#), the [N.C. Crunch](#), and [National School Lunch Week](#), students and staff to eat school meals, and everyone to thank our #NCFarmtoSchoolHeroes and #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes. Encourage your local Superintendent and Board of Education to show their support for farm to school and school meals by participating in the N.C. Crunch, eating school meals, and celebrating #NSLW.



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. With the #NCCrunch, youth and adults can taste and learn about North Carolina-grown fruits and vegetables and thank all those involved in feeding our youth and communities. Sign up for the N.C. Crunch to receive access to free promotional and educational resources. [Learn more.](#)

### NC Crunch 2023 Participation



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## ***Recognize Hispanic Heritage Month***

National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. Find [information and resources](#) from the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



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## ***Promote and Participate in Virtual Nutrition Education Series***

The Carolina Hunger Initiative is excited to announce an upcoming virtual nutrition education series using the *Food Smarts* curriculum. *Food Smarts* uses discussion and activities to empower you to create healthy habits and make nutritious food choices. The series will be offered at 6:30 pm ET on Wednesdays, October 18 - November 15. Lessons will be held on Zoom. Connection info will be sent out to registered participants. [Learn more and register.](#) Please also share the virtual nutrition education series info with your school community.

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## ***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 proposed timeline for the 2024 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition. The guidelines and application materials will be posted soon. Stay tuned to 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 19, 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.

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## **Continuing Education**

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### ***Celebrate Lunch Trays Many Ways – 10/12***

In celebration of National School Lunch Week, USDA Team Nutrition will present a Meal Talk Webinar on October 12 at 3:00 pm ET to highlight the many ways to offer school lunch with inspiration from across the country. Speakers from the Arizona Department of Education and Bellingham Public Schools in Washington will share strategies and success stories related to incorporating student food preferences and locally grown foods in USDA standardized recipes. Participants will also learn about USDA, Team Nutrition school lunch materials and the Healthy Meals Incentive Recognition Awards. This webinar will be recorded and made available at a later date on the Team Nutrition website. All who register will receive an email when the recording is available. [Learn more and register](#).

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### ***Explore Paid Experiential Learning Programs to Serve N.C. K-14 Teachers – 10/12***

Join Dr. Kathleen Liang, N.C. A&T University, on October 12 at 6:30 pm ET for an information session discussing a new project in supporting N.C. 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.](#)

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### ***Learn about What the Farm to School Census Means for North Carolina – 10/19***



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 19 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.](#)

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### ***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.](#)

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### ***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).

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## Questions

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

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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

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