

# School Nutrition Update

October 2, 2020



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Review Updated USDA Waiver Recap Tool***

The Recap of Approved USDA Waivers, from NCDPI, School Nutrition Services, has been updated through Child Nutrition Response #58. The recap tool lists each waiver, the regulations and programs the waiver applies to, what you need to know and do, when the waiver was issued and when it expires. The tool includes links to the USDA waiver memos. The recap is posted to the School Nutrition Technology System and the NCDPI, School Nutrition website. All waiver memos are available on the USDA [website](#). USDA also issued a [Questions and Answers resource, SP 25-2020](#), relating to extending SFSP and SSO.

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### ***Submit Meal Counts Daily***

North Carolina is still in a state of emergency related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As such, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must report daily meal counts to the N.C. Emergency Operations Center. Please use the [new link](#) to the updated survey to submit meal count data daily by 6 pm. If you have questions or issues submitting the data, please reach out to [Janet Johnson](#).

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### ***Ensure FY 2020 Claims are Submitted On-time and Accurately***

As we transition from the FY 2020 to FY 2021, please log into the School Nutrition Technology System to ensure that all claims for meal reimbursement have been submitted and are correct. For questions, contact your Zone Operations and Management Consultant. Find contact info [here](#).

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### ***Hold Nutrient Analysis Submissions Until Spring***

Nutrient analysis that is typically submitted to NCDPI, School Nutrition Services in October will now be due in the spring.

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### ***Check Out the N.C. Online Meal Ordering System***

If you have not yet set up online ordering for school meals but are short on time, resources, or software to make the dream a reality, the N.C. Online Meal Ordering System may be of assistance. The N.C. Online Ordering System Template is a free and easy tool created by Chef Cyndie and the N.C. K-12 Culinary Team using Google Forms which allows School Nutrition Programs to set up your own online meal ordering system. Use the [video tutorial](#) and instructions to learn the steps for customizing the tool and using it to manage online meal orders. The instructions include a link to the customizable online ordering tool.



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## Nutrition Education & Promotion

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## Recognize Farm to School Month and the N.C. Crunch

Join the Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina and N.C. Farm to Preschool Network in recognize National Farm to School and Early Care and Education Month by participating in the N.C. Crunch, an opportunity for kids and adults to taste and learn about North Carolina grown produce.

This year we want to make sure to acknowledge North Carolina agriculture, healthy eating, and our farm to school heroes that grow, deliver, prepare, serve and teach others about local produce. Schools, early care and education centers, groups, organizations, agencies, businesses, individuals and families can all participate. Kids and adults are encouraged to crunch into a locally grown fruit or vegetable at noon on October 21, or anytime during the month that works best. We would like for as many folks to have the opportunity to participate as possible. Also, please lift up and share stories about our local farm to school heroes.



A N.C. Crunch Guide has been created with information on sourcing local produce, curriculum connections, and social media and press release templates to help you share your Crunch with the local community, and more. We know that the N.C. Crunch will look different this year—that's okay! This year's N.C. Crunch Guide adaptations for COVID-19. [Learn more and register for the N.C. Crunch!](#) Share your N.C. Crunch activities and photos on social media using #NCCrunch2020, @F2SCoalitionNC and @NCSchoolMeals.

## Utilize North Carolina Farm to School Resources

A variety of farm to school resources are available from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and NCDPI, School Nutrition Services that can help you prepare, serve, teach about and promote local foods. The [N.C. Farm to School Cookbook](#) offers quantity recipes featuring North Carolina grown ingredients. [Storybooks](#), [activity guides](#) and [posters](#) follow apples, blueberries, peaches, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and watermelons from the field to school meal and thirty [fact sheets](#) are available on fruits and vegetables grown in our state and offered through School Nutrition Programs.



## Celebrate National School Lunch Week

October 12-16 is National School Lunch Week (NSLW), an opportunity to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a student's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. The 2020 NSLW theme "Now Playing: School Lunch!" will put a spotlight on hit menu items that students love while capitalizing on the popularity of movies. Just as there are award winners for the movies, let's lift up our essential School Nutrition professionals during #NSLW2020 and all month for their amazing efforts to provide safe, appealing, nutritious school meals every day. Recognize our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes with a thank you card, social media post, etc. [NSLW resources](#) from the School Nutrition Association can help you celebrate.



## Connect and Promote through Social Media

We would love to highlight your efforts to provide nutritious meals and nutrition education to children. Remember to tag and follow us on social media (@Ray4NCKids and @NCSchoolMeals).

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### ***Lisa Payne Wins Farm to School Best Practice Award***

Buncombe County Schools (BCS) Nutrition Director Lisa Payne recently received the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Best Practice Award, which recognizes School Nutrition Directors who use the NCDA&CS Farm to School Program in an innovative way that changes the scope of the program. The award recognizes Ms. Payne's successful efforts to partner with Franklin-based Brasstown Beef as a fresh, local meat supplier for Buncombe County Schools. Thanks in part to Ms. Payne's efforts, Brasstown Beef has grown to become a meat supplier to school districts across the state.

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### ***Lisa Pell Named Employee of the Month***

Congratulations to Lisa Pell, School Nutrition Manager of Pilot Mountain Middle School, for being named Employee of the Month for Surry County Schools. We love our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes!

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## Continuing Education

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### ***Participate in N.C. Healthy Schools Webinar - Healthy Active Children Policy: Updates and Requirements for the New Year***

Join the N.C. Healthy Schools for a webinar on October 7, 3 pm ET, to review the components of the Healthy Active Children Policy and learn about guidance and resources to help meet each component. Participation and reporting requirements for the 2020-21 school year will also be discussed. [Register here.](#)

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### ***Access Virtual Training Opportunities from ICN, SNA and NCDPI***

The Institute for 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 [COVID-19 professional resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#).

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## Questions

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If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants. Contact information for your Zone teams can be found [here](#).

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