

School Nutrition Update

October 26, 2020



In this Issue:

Program Operations Information

- Submit Meal Counts Daily
- Utilize USDA Team Nutrition Resources: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time

School Nutrition Spotlight

- N.C. School Nutrition Programs Highlighted in USDA SERO NSLW Celebration
- Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

Nutrition Education & Promotion

- Still Time to Participate in the #NCCrunch2020!
- View and Share North Carolina Farm to School Videos
- Connect and Promote through Social Media

Grants

- Apply for the Budding Botanist Grant - Applications Due 10/30
- Check out the FY 2021 USDA Farm to School Grants RFA

Continuing Education

- SNA Directors' Best Practices Conference - Virtual Event: 10/26-28
- USDA Webinar - Farm to School Grant Program Supporting Traditional Food Systems in Tribal Communities: 10/26, 3 pm ET

- ICN S.T.A.R. Webinar: Farm to School Efforts Supporting Resilient Local Food System: 10/29, 3 pm ET
- SNA Webinar - How to Become a More Inclusive Team Member: 11/5, 3 pm ET
- Access Virtual Training Resources from ICN, SNA and NCDPI

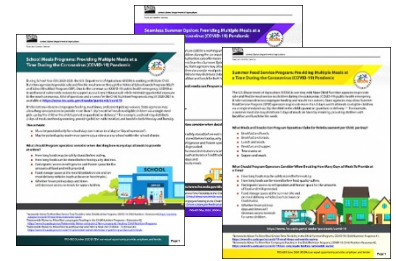
Program Operations Information

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](#).

Utilize USDA Team Nutrition Resources: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time

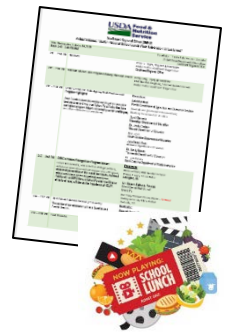
The U.S. Department of Agriculture Team Nutrition has developed guidance documents on providing multiple meals at a time for School Meal Programs, the Seamless Summer Option, Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Check out the resources [here](#).



School Nutrition Spotlight

N.C. School Nutrition Programs Highlighted in USDA SERO NSLW Celebration

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction was invited to share some success stories from North Carolina School Nutrition Programs for a National School Lunch Week Virtual Celebration hosted by the USDA Southeast Regional Office (SERO) on October 14. Thanks to the assistance of Yadkin County Schools, Yancey County Schools, Alamance-Burlington Schools, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Durham Public Schools, KIPP Charter Schools and Cumberland County Schools, NCDPI was able to share strategies and successes from diverse programs across the state. Much appreciation goes to these and all our N.C. School Nutrition Programs for everything you do every day!



Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition professional that has received an award, honor or other recognition, please share for an upcoming School Nutrition Spotlight. Please send details to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Still Time to Participate in the #NCCrunch2020!

There is still time to participate in the #NCCrunch2020 to recognize #F2SMonth and our #farmtoschool heroes that grow, transport, prepare, serve and teach about North Carolina grown produce. Offer kids and adults with your school, early care and education center, group, organization or families an opportunity to taste and learn about a North Carolina grown fruit or vegetable. Sign up for this year's N.C. Crunch at <https://growing-minds.org/north-carolina-crunch/> to receive a free guide with tips and resources. Share your activities and photos with us using #NCCrunch2020 and @F2SCoalitionNC. Thank a farm to school hero today!



View and Share North Carolina Farm to School Videos

New videos are available from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) about farm to school and the N.C. Farm to School Program. Check out the [videos](#) and share as appropriate with key farm to school stakeholders.



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).

Grants

Apply for the Budding Botanist Grant - Due 10/30

If your school will use a new or existing garden program to teach about environmental sustainability and the importance of biodiversity you should apply for a Budding Botanist Grant, worth \$1,200! Fifteen schools across the country will be awarded Budding Botanist grant packages. Whether learning remotely, in person, or in a hybrid model, any public school, charter school, or private school serving students in grades K to 12 in the United States that can demonstrate that at least 40% of their student population would qualify for free or reduced price meals is eligible to apply. Applications that propose projects focused on the creation of virtual garden-based learning opportunities or take-home gardening kits to better serve students engaged in remote learning will be accepted. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Check out the FY 2021 USDA Farm to School Grants RFA

The fiscal year (FY) 2021 USDA Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA) is now available through grants.gov. Be sure to visit the Grant Applicant Resources [page](#) to access other helpful resources, including links to webinars that provide specific assistance on applying for a Farm to School Grant. Submit a Farm to School Grant application at grants.gov.

Continuing Education

SNA Directors' Best Practices Conference - Virtual Event: 10/26-28

Join your peers for the School Nutrition Association Directors' Best Practices Conference to hear national participation trends, the best ideas to feed kids in response to virtual and blended learning environments and staggered academic schedules—all while using classroom, curbside, and other service models. Financial sustainability and ways to help district administrators understand the importance of school meals and the unique financial pressures currently facing School Nutrition Programs will be discussed. You'll learn what's working and what's not and collectively brainstorm solutions to complex challenges—practical ideas that will be developed in real-time and compiled as a take-home resource. Individual registration through the Training Zone will remain open throughout the conference. The on-demand version of the entire conference will be available within 72 hours of the last session on the last day. [Learn more.](#)

USDA Webinar - Farm to School Grant Program Supporting Traditional Food Systems in Tribal Communities: 10/26, 3 pm ET

The purpose of this webinar is to highlight the work done in Midwest tribal communities to promote farm to school efforts and traditional food systems. The webinar will share information about USDA Farm to School Grant Program recipients and highlight the work that former farm to school grantees have done to support tribal farm to school programs. The webinar will discuss how tribes and tribal partners can apply to the FY 21 USDA Farm to School Grant Program. The webinar is being hosted by the USDA's Office of Community Food Systems and will feature Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. [Register here.](#)

ICN S.T.A.R. Webinar: Farm to School Efforts Supporting Resilient Local Food System: 10/29, 3 pm ET

Join the Institute for Child Nutrition and Julie Brewer, the Director of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS), to learn about the USDA Farm to School Program. This webinar will explore resources and support that OCFS provides in order to support the implementation of local farm to school programs. The webinar will also highlight success stories from USDA Farm to School Program Grantees who are adapting their work around gardening, local procurement and agriculture education in creative ways to support children, families, and communities in response to the pandemic. [Learn more and register here.](#)

SNA Webinar - How to Become a More Inclusive Team Member: 11/5, 3 pm ET

Everyone wants to work on a team where they feel welcome, respected and valued. Join the School Nutrition Association and diversity, equity and inclusion expert, Dr. Nika White, for guidance to help you create a more inclusive environment. She'll also unlock the secrets to great teamwork and share how you can take small steps that will make a BIG difference every day! [Learn more and register here.](#)

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](#).

Questions

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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- (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) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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