

# School Nutrition Update

June 24-28, 2024



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# Program Operations Information

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## *Understanding Your HACCP Plans – Webinar Series*

Please join the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition in a virtual opportunity to dive deeper into our NCDPI HACCP Plan templates. Each webinar in the series will focus on a different template (Commercial, Transported Meals, Warehouse, and Homestyle) and will begin with a basic overview of the history of the HACCP Plan templates and key reference areas in Part 1 of the template. The majority of the webinar will focus on Part 2a, Part 2b, key monitoring logs (Part 3), key continuing education forms (Part 4), and important areas of Part 5. See links below to register. Please reach out Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov), with any questions about this opportunity.

- **Commercial Plan:** Wednesday, July 10 / 1:30-3:30 pm – [Register for the webinar.](#)
- **Transported Meals Plan:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 / 1:30-3:30 pm – [Register for the webinar.](#)
- **Homestyle Plan:** Monday, July 22, 2024 / 1:30-3:30 pm – [Register for the webinar.](#)
- **Warehouse Plan:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 / 1:30-3:30 pm – [Register for the webinar.](#)

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## *Complete the Quarterly Supply Chain Assistance Report*

As a reminder, the Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Reports are to be completed quarterly by all School Food Authorities (SFA) that received Supply Chain Assistance funds. This is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirement and continues until all the SCA funds are exhausted. If you have any questions, contact your Service Area Consultant. Remaining reporting dates for 2024 are listed below:

- April, May, June 2024 – Report by Wednesday, July 31, 2024
- July, August, September 2024 – Report by Thursday, October 31, 2024
- October, November, December 2024 – Report by Friday, January 31, 2025

The reporting is short, simple, and done electronically, with only a few questions.

- Access the [SCA Quarterly Report](#) form.
- Utilize [step by step guidance](#) complete the survey.
- Reference a [Q & A](#) on Supply Chain Assistance funds.

Please keep in mind the following:

- USDA requires that SCA funds be used exclusively for the purchase of domestic food products that are unprocessed or minimally processed.
- Fluid milk and other dairy foods such as cheese and yogurt and 100% juices count as minimally processed.
- Produce that is cut, pureed, frozen, canned, or dried is considered minimally processed.
- Baked goods, chicken nuggets, and pre-packaged sandwiches or meals are considered to be significantly processed or prepared and cannot be purchased using SCA funds.

## Check Out New Promotional Resources for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs

Free, new resources in English and Spanish are available to help you promote summer meals from the [Carolina Hunger Initiative and No Kid Hungry](#) and the [N.C. Department of Public Instruction \(NCDPI\), Office of School Nutrition](#). The resources include flyers, banners, social media graphics, and more.

Please let families know how they can find summer meals and encourage them to check back throughout the summer for updates to summer meal site information:

- Text FOOD (English) or COMIDA (Spanish) to 304-304.
- Call the USDA National Hunger Hotline: 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) for information in English or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (877-842-6273) for information in Spanish.
- Check their school or district website or social media.
- Use an interactive, online map. Visit [summermeals4nckids.org](https://summermeals4nckids.org). Click on FIND MEALS. Scroll down to find the link to the N.C. Site Finder Map.
- Learn more at [summermeals4nckids.org](https://summermeals4nckids.org) or <https://go.ncdpi.gov/ncsummermeals>.



Make sure your Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site applications are up to date in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). Data from the SNTS is submitted weekly to the texting service powered by No Kid Hungry, the USDA National Hunger Hotline, and the NCDPI, N.C. Site Finder Map. It may be helpful to double check that the information is correct and current for your summer meal sites in these resource listings.

## Explore the Child Nutrition Dashboard

The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service recently launched an online dashboard that shares data from USDA Child Nutrition Programs through visual tools. This data can be harnessed by federal, state, and local organizations to assess trends in Child Nutrition Program activity and better inform meal service for our nation's children. Program data is available for the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program. The dashboard provides national and state-level visualizations of meals served, participation, and funding data. [Explore the Child Nutrition Dashboard](#).

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# School Nutrition Spotlight

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## *Celebrating Farm to School and School Meals – Buncombe County Schools*

Weaverville Primary, with Buncombe County Schools (BCS), hosted Under Secretary Stacy Dean and other guests from U.S. Department of Agriculture and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Office of School Nutrition, last week for an end-of school celebration of farm to school and school meals. Students dressed like farmers, learned about North Carolina grown foods and local farms from which the BCS School Nutrition Program purchases locally-grown ingredients for school meals, and participated in a taste test of cucumber soup, featuring locally-grown ingredients, with the ASAP - Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project! Locally-grown strawberries and roasted sweetpotatoes, along with student favorites of pizza and mozzarella cheese sticks, assorted fruit and milk, were featured on the school menu that day. [Read more](#) about the special event.



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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.

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## *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. **Submissions received after the deadline will be saved for the next issue.**

If you have a job opportunity to share, please send the position title, a brief paragraph describing the position role, responsibilities, and requirements, closing date (if applicable) and a link to the job description and online application accessible to individuals outside of your public school unit. Consider including unique aspects of the role, facts about your public school unit and School Nutrition Program, or other information that may entice applicants.

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## Job Opportunity

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### ***Work with the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition – School Nutrition Consultant***

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition is pleased to announce it will soon be recruiting for a School Nutrition Consultant to join its team. The position is regionally based and covers Service Area 7 (Alamance-Burlington, Caswell, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Orange, and Person counties). A School Nutrition Consultant serves in a professional consultative and auditing capacity, ensuring School Food Authorities are informed of and comply with all policies, procedures, and laws applicable to the federally assisted and state-administered School Nutrition Programs. This position will be posted only for a two-week period. If you are interested in applying, please monitor the Office of State Personnel website at [Careers with the State of N.C.](#) for the upcoming posting.

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### ***Work with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools – Area Child Nutrition Supervisor***

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) is recruiting applicants for a Child Nutrition (CN) Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating all aspects of the school-based CN program to ensure that school meals are nutritious, appealing, and cost effective. The Supervisor provides expert knowledge of the food service industry to assist in developing CMS and CN policies and procedures used in the management of staff in compliance with State/Federal laws and regulations. They facilitate departmental improvements through the creation of a positive work environment, analyzing program needs and developing program goals and action plans. The Area Supervisor is responsible for recommending facility and equipment improvements; monitoring food production, food security, sanitation, employee safety, human resource management, and meal accountability; and monitoring departmental key performance indicators for their assigned schools. They regularly interact with the school principal and staff to promote Child Nutrition as an integral part of the school program. Position closes August 16. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Submit Application – Johnston County Culinary and Dietetic Specialist***

Johnston County School Nutrition is currently hiring for a Culinary and Dietetic Specialist position. The Culinary and Dietetic Specialist will be responsible for developing cost-effective menus and standardized recipes that maintain nutrition integrity and meet all local, state, and federal guidelines and regulations, assessing customer preferences, industry trends, and current research to plan menus that encourage participation in School Nutrition Programs; working with the menu/food related operations of the school system not limited to, but, including evaluating food orders, assisting in physical inventory of the central warehouse, completing nutrient analysis, updating software with all food item/nutrient content and purchased commodity food information and working with and assisting in the development of bids and bid materials; supervising Catering and Events Manager and Warehouse operations/drivers; overseeing the development of marketing materials for the promotion of food items and/or meals offered in the program; and conducting compliance audits in regards to unique mealtime needs, marketing, and quality assurance. For unique mealtime needs, the Culinary and Dietetic Specialist will review all submitted Medical Statements and develop appropriate menu substitutions for students with unique mealtime needs communicating with the physician, parent, cafe manager, and school nurse, source products and update product inventory for unique mealtime needs, complete and communicate carb count information to nurses, parents, and cafe manager, and provide on-going unique mealtime needs training for staff. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university in Nutrition and Dietetics, Food

Service Management, Business, or related field is required. A culinary background, registered dietitian (RD) and/or a licensed dietitian nutritionist (LDN), and/or experience in K-12 Nutrition program operations and/or large volume dining is preferred. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Apply for Exciting New Opportunity – Davidson County School Nutrition Supervisor***

Davidson County Schools is seeking applicants for a new School Nutrition Area Supervisor position. Davidson County Schools is a rural school district with thirty-two kitchens servicing thirty-five schools, twenty of which have been designated as CEP for school year 2024-25. The office is located in Lexington, which is thirty minutes south of Winston-Salem and forty minutes southwest of Greensboro. This supervisor will be part of a three-person team, each having direct oversight of ten to twelve kitchens, and will have office responsibilities to be determined based on experience and expertise. An associate or bachelor's degree with five or more years of experience is preferred. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Work with Lexington City Schools – School Nutrition Supervisor Opening***

Lexington City Schools is accepting applications for a School Nutrition Supervisor opening. Lexington City Schools has seven schools and a student population of 3,089. The LCS overarching district goal is to provide our students and our community with schools that are both equitable and excellent. For the School Nutrition Supervisor position, knowledge of USDA regulations and guidelines, a food protection manager certification recognized by the North Carolina Health Department, and a degree from a four year college in food services management, nutrition, or a related field, or an associate's degree with three to five years of experience in food service management, with some experience in a leadership role preferred, or an equivalent combination of education and experience are required. A registered dietitian is preferred. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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## **Award/Grant Opportunity**

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### ***Create Lots of Compassion Grant Opportunity – Due 6/30***

Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day and KidsGardening share a belief that the garden has the power to do more than grow flowers and herbs. It can grow people, communities, and even kindness, too. Together, they designed the Lots of Compassion Grant program to support local leaders looking to transform vacant lots into gardens to help grow compassion in their community. Through the Lots of Compassion initiative, Mrs. Meyer's Clean Day is pledging to provide up to \$1 million from Compassion Flower product sales to support community garden transformations over the next five years. Now in its second year, ten grantees will receive \$20,000 each to transform a vacant lot into a garden. A total of \$200,000 will be awarded in 2024. Nonprofit organizations, school districts, universities, religious organizations, or other tax-exempt organizations in the United States and U.S. Territories are eligible to apply. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Apply for Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation Grants – Due 6/30***

The Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation has announced grant opportunities supporting nutrition education and healthy lifestyles in schools and the community. Organizations may apply for one or more grants. See below for more info.

- **Sprouting School Gardens Grant - Deadline to Apply: June 30, 2024**

The Sprouting School Gardens Grant is designed to help schools create or expand their garden programs on school campuses with an emphasis on nutrition education. Grants range in size from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and may be used to support program operations, program supplies, learning tools, and educator stipends. [Learn more and apply.](#)

- **Growing Healthy Kids Grant – Deadline to Apply: June 30, 2024**

Help kids grow healthy with programs at home or in the community that support nutrition, health, and wellness. Nonprofits in the communities that Sprouts serves are eligible to apply for this grant. Grants range in size from \$5,000 to \$10,000. [Learn more and apply.](#)

- **Wellness Across the Lifespan Grant – Deadline to Apply: June 30, 2024**

Wellness Across the Lifespan Grants support programs that help young adults and vulnerable populations achieve and maintain healthy lifestyle behaviors and nutritious eating. Nonprofits in the communities that Sprouts serves are eligible to apply. Grants range in size from \$5,000 to \$10,000. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Submit Application for Growing Our Communities Grant – Due 6/30***

Each year, AgSouth Farm Credit supports non-profit organizations and farmers markets with grants of up to \$5,000 to help in their endeavors and to further the future of agriculture in our region of Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Examples of previous grant-funded projects have included farmers market programming for children, building of a school greenhouse, funding a bee-keeping education program for youth, and opening a demonstration farm in conjunction with a local school district. To be considered for funding, organizations' values and purpose must align with the grant program's mission. Applications must be submitted online. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Apply for NFL PLAY 60 FitnessGram Project***

NFL PLAY 60 is currently recruiting school districts to participate in the FitnessGram Project for the Fall 2024 School Year. FitnessGram is one of the most widely used physical fitness assessments utilized in schools that is data-driven and fitness-focused. Districts with ten or more schools generally work best for this project.

In partnership with the NFL Foundation, PLAY 60 works closely with Physical Education teachers to achieve the goal of making the next generation of youth the most active and healthy with free NFL PLAY 60 programming and FitnessGram. At no cost, each participating school in a district receives FitnessGram Software, training and professional development, an NFL FLAG Kit, a fitness equipment pack, and other free digital resources. Project requirements include administering FitnessGram pre and post-tests and completing two (2) project evaluation surveys throughout the school year. For more information, contact Jizyah Injii, [jinjii@cooperinst.org](mailto:jinjii@cooperinst.org) or 972-341-3204.

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## **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

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## Celebrate Dairy Month

Since 1939, National Dairy Month has encouraged families to make milk their beverage of choice based on its nutritional value. Dairy's rich history continues with communities, organizations, and people from across the region observing National Dairy Month in a variety of ways. In the Southeast, dairy farm families often open their gates to visitors for tours, while local fairs and festivals offer taste testing and events featuring delicious dairy products. This June, pay tribute to dairy farmers across the Southeast by participating in one of the many local, county, or state events planned for your area.



Schools operating year-round with school meals or offering summer meals as well as Community Organization Sponsors for Summer Nutrition Programs can celebrate Dairy Month. The Dairy Alliance offers a variety of [Dairy Month resources](#), including coloring and activity sheets, trivia, state fact sheets, and more. The [Dairy Good Sustainability video series](#) is designed to reach GenZ through social media.

## Take the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge

July 15-19 has been designated as N.C. Farm to Summer Week 2024. School districts and organization sponsors for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs along with individuals, families, and communities are encouraged to take the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge by completing one or more of the following during N.C. Farm to Summer Week through the end of the summer:

- Serve local foods as part of meals and/or snacks.
- Teach about local foods through farm to summer activities.
- Post about farm to summer activities on social media using #NCFarmtoSummer, #NCSummerMeals, @NCSchoolMeals, @Ray4NCKids, and @F2SCoalitionNC.
- Sign up for the #NCCrunch to celebrate farm to school in October.



New, free resources in English and Spanish are available to help you promote and celebrate #NCFarmtoSummer. Learn more, [sign up to take the #NCFarmtoSummerChallenge](#), and find the toolkit, social media graphics, and other resources on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).

## Continuing Education

### Navigate the New USDA School Nutrition Standards – 6/27, 3 pm ET

Join the Institute of Child Nutrition for a special 90-minute webinar on June 27 at 3 pm ET designed for School Nutrition professionals and advocates. This session will cover the latest USDA School Nutrition standards, including new limits on added sugars, sodium reductions, and whole grain requirements. You will gain practical tips for incorporating these standards and receive valuable resources and tools to help you

implement them successfully. You do not want to miss this opportunity to stay informed! [Learn more and register.](#)

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### ***Gear Up for Back to School with Afterschool Suppers and Snacks – 6/27, 3 pm ET***

The Afterschool Nutrition Programs are important resources for helping to fill the nutrition gap that may exist for millions of children when the school day ends. As schools and community partners start to plan for back to school, afterschool suppers and snacks should be part of the conversation. Join the Food Research Action Center (FRAC) on June 27 at 3 pm ET for a refresher on the available program options, tips for getting started, partnership ideas, and strategies for increasing participation at existing afterschool meal sites. [Learn more and register.](#)

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### ***Learn More – Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act Final Rule***

On April 24, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division issued a [Final Rule revising Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#). The rule requires state and local governments to make their websites and mobile applications accessible for people with disabilities using the technical standards of [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1 Level AA](#). School Nutrition Programs will need to take steps to learn about and prepare for compliance with the Final Rule. For School Nutrition Programs, this will impact websites, menus, social media, documents, and other electronic communications. This can include procured contract services provided by third party vendors, i.e., websites, online menus and menu apps, social media, newsletter, etc.

To assist Public School Units (PSUs), the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has created an online [Digital Accessibility dashboard](#) of information and resources. In addition, NCDPI is offering in-person workshops for PSU teams and online webinars to provide more information about the Final Rule, offer best practice strategies and resources for accessibility, and assist PSUs with conducting audits of electronic media and developing action plans to achieve compliance. [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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## Important Dates

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Date	Action Step
Each Month – By the 10 <sup>th</sup> (On or Before)	Claim for Reimbursement Due (NSLP, SBP, ASSP)
Each Month – By the 15 <sup>th</sup> (On or Before)	Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Reimbursement Claims Due
June 30	Last day to declare for CEP in SY 2024-25

### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained [online](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (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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