

School Nutrition Update

August 8-12, 2022



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Program Operations Information

Learn about Supply Chain Assistance Relief

A second round of federal Supply Chain Assistance funding will help School Nutrition Programs purchase “minimally processed” or “unprocessed” foods to address supply chain challenges. Every North Carolina school system will receive money, amounting to \$26.7 million statewide. The N.C. State Board of Education approved the disbursement to schools last week. [Learn more.](#)

Check out the ICN Back to School Toolbox

Plan your professional development now to get started for the 2022-23 School Year with the Institute of Child Nutrition’s #BackToSchool Toolbox! If you are a returning, new, or aspiring School Nutrition professional, this toolbox is perfect for you! [Learn more.](#)



School Nutrition Spotlight

Prioritizing Texture, Flavor and Culturally Relevant Menus in Durham

Durham Public Schools are prioritizing texture, flavor and culturally-relevant menus for the coming school year. DPS School Nutrition Services held taste tests with students and staff to glean feedback on current and proposed menu items. Enhanced seasoning and new menu items were showcased, and taste-testers completed a formal evaluation for staff to review and take action. The department is hoping to make eating school meals not only nutritional but a joyful experience.



Jim Keaten, Director of School Nutrition, said Child Nutrition is really working hard this year to do their part in making school year 2022-23 Durham Public School’s best year ever. “We know it’s going to take time to get culturally-relevant recipes created and tested and make sure that they’re appropriate and meet nutrition standards, so in the meantime, we want to take the recipes we have, bring them forward, and say what can we do to make them even better,” said Keaten. [Learn more.](#)

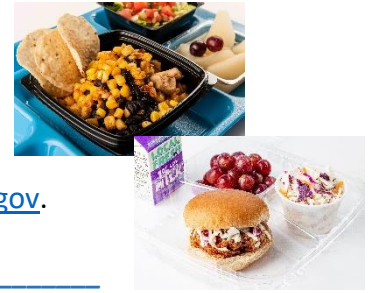
Celebrating Local Farmers and Farmers Markets in Wake County

Last week was #NationalFarmersMarketWeek and Wake County Public Schools Child Nutrition Services celebrated all week long! With their partnership with the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and the N.C. Farm to School Program WCPSS Child Nutrition Services brings fresh, local produce to students. Local farms that WCPSS Child Nutrition Services sources from and local farmers markets were featured. Sarah the Strawberry and Wally the Watermelon visited schools during school lunch. Check out the [WCPSS Facebook page](#) to learn more. What a great way to celebrate #NationalFarmersMarketWeek and #NCFarmtoSummer!



Share your School and Summer Meal Photos

The NCDPI, School Nutrition Division wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students each day. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines and complete school breakfast or school lunch meals with us. Please send those to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov. Make sure to include the school and district info so we can aim to credit the source.



Send in Articles 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 SN Update, please send a brief 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. Include “SN Update” in the email subject line.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Celebrate and Share #NCFarmtoSummer Stories!

Everyone is encouraged to take the #NCFarmtoSummerChallenge any time during the summer by completing one or more of the following steps: 1) Serve locally grown foods in meals and/or snacks, 2) Teach or learn about local food, agriculture and/or nutrition, 3) Post or share about farm to summer activities, and 4) Sign up for the [#NCCrunch](https://www.ncdpi.gov/#NCCrunch) for Farm to School Month.

- Find the #NCFarmtoSummer sign-up, a toolkit with tips and resources, and more on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). New for this year – social media graphics, a flyer, and bingo activity sheet are available to help you with farm to summer activities.
- Follow produce from the field to school or summer meals in [storybooks, activity guides and posters](#) on fruits and veggies from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, N.C. Farm to School Program.
- Learn how to grow, choose, store, prepare, and teach about fruits and veggies grown in North Carolina and served in school meals in [40 fact sheets](#) available from the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition.
- Check out [lesson plans and Ag Mags](#) from the N.C. Farm to Bureau, Ag in the Classroom.
- Learn more about items in season from the N.C. Cooperative Extension 10% Campaign [resources](#).
- Utilize [Harvest of the Month resources](#) from the Carolina Hunger Initiative.
- Take a virtual field trip to the [Lomax Incubator Farm](#), [N.C. State University Dairy Farm](#) or [N.C. State Farmers Market](#).



Purchasing and serving locally grown foods at their peak improves the quality and nutrient value of meals, can increase program participation, be more economical, and support farmers and the local community. Farm to summer activities can be engaging and fun for students, families, and staff!

We can't wait to hear about your farm to summer activities. Use #NCFarmtoSummer and tag @Ray4NCKids and @NCSchoolMeals with your social media posts. Share your #NCFarmtoSummer success story with Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Turnip the Beet for Summer 2022!



TURNIP THE BEET
with high quality summer meals!

The Turnip the Beet Award, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious. All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors, may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award. Sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party. Participation in the #NCFarmtoSummer initiative can help with Turnip the Beet award applications. The Turnip the Beet nomination form must be completed and submitted along with a detailed one-month menu. No more than 5 supporting documents can be submitted. Submit 2022 Turnip the Beet Award applications to NCDPI at summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov by 5 pm on September 16. More details and the nomination form are available from the USDA [website](#).

Continuing Education

Maintaining the Momentum: Launching & Sustaining Successful Breakfast After the Bell Programs - 8/11, 3 pm ET

Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) is the most effective way to increase breakfast participation. While many schools launched BAB programs as a pandemic necessity, these tried and true models had already been increasing breakfast participation for many years. Join No Kid Hungry on August 11 at 3 pm ET to learn about BAB, how you can launch a successful program, and expand and/or sustain your own BAB program. The three speakers showcasing their BAB programs represent districts of varying sizes and geographies to demonstrate how BAB can be successfully adapted to meet the individual needs of a district and its schools. [Learn more and register](#).

Crafting Your Narrative for Grant Applications – 8/11, 4 pm ET

Join Em Shipman, KidsGardening's Executive Director and lead fundraiser, as she walks you through how to write a compelling case statement or narrative about your grant program. [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 [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.

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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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