

School Nutrition Update

February 14-18, 2022



In this Issue:

Program Operations Information

- Review #StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit – Updated 2/10, Effective 2/21
- Conduct a Second Review of Applications
- Complete the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education - Deadline 2/28
- Comment on Final Rule: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium – Deadline March 24

School Nutrition Spotlight

- Shout Out to Pamlico County Primary School!
- Congrats to 5 Finalist Teams in 5th #NCJrChef Competition
- Send in Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

Job Opportunity

- Work with Wake County – Senior Administrator/Business Manager

Farm to School

- Inspire Youth - North Carolina Youth Institute (NCYI) – 4/1, Register by 3/4
- Get “The Dirt”
- Check Out Farm to School Resources in the ICN CNSS Resource Hub
- Join Growing School Food Gardens Community

Continuing Education

- Celebrate Silver Linings – N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/17
- Navigating the GAP Audit: Food Safety Best Practices for Produce Farms - Training Series
- Check Out USDA Supply Chain Assistance for Schools Resources
- Access Virtual Training Resources

Program Operations Information

Review #StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit – Updated 2/10, Effective 2/21

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services updated the [#StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit](#) on February 10, 2022. The changes are effective February 21, 2022. Updates are noted in red in the toolkit. Highlights include:

- Current public health guidance is that individual contact tracing and exclusion from school of asymptomatic people after an identified exposure is no longer recommended statewide in K-12 schools.
- A link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) new [guide to masks](#) (January 21, 2022) has been included.
- For management of COVID cases or individuals presenting with COVID-like symptoms, the chart of exclusion criteria, scenarios, and criteria to return to school has been updated.
- The guidance regarding the management of individuals potentially exposed to COVID-19 has been updated.
- Up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccines is now defined as the status of a person who has received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccines, including additional doses and boosters.

Please review the toolkit guidance and share with your district and school staff.

Conduct a Second Review of Applications

All School Food Authorities (SFAs) processing Free and Reduced-Price School Meal Household Applications are required to conduct a Second Review of Applications. If your district or school is 100% Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), you are not required to complete this report.

The required reporting period spans from the start date of processing the Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Household Applications in the 2021-22 School Year through October 31, 2021. However, the SFA must continue to document any discrepancies on the North Carolina tool, Documentation of Change, as a result of Second Review of Applications for the entire school year.

Forms	Due Date:	Submit to:
FNS-874 Local Education Agency Second Review of Applications Report Template	Friday, February 18, 2022	Please email the completed form to Jacquelyn McGowan at: jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov .
Document of Change as a result of Independent/Second Review of Applications	N/A - Provide Upon Request by State Agency	Maintain on file in the SFA.

Should you have questions on completing the forms, please contact your Zone Consultant or Jacquelyn McGowan, Compliance Specialist, at jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov.

Complete the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education – Deadline 2/28

Courses are currently open. If you are sure you will operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for the summer of 2022, please complete the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE Online) by February 28, 2022. If you are contemplating continuing the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), you are not required to complete RACE Online, at this time.

The two self-paced, online courses below are required for SFSP annual Sponsor training. Everyone will complete 1 course. Choose the training course for your organization based on how you will provide meals (VERY IMPORTANT). At least 2 individuals with administrative responsibilities from each sponsor will complete the SAME course.

SFAs with catering contracts - use an outside company (school district, restaurant, caterer) to provide some/all meals – Follow the steps below to complete [Nourishing NC Kids](#).

Self-Prep SFAs - prepare ALL your own meals, will NOT use an outside vendor – Follow the steps below to complete [Eat and Learn NC](#).

Either course will fulfill the training requirement, you do NOT need to enroll in both. The enrollment for each course is different, so please read below.

Course Option 1: [Nourishing NC KIDS \(NNCK\)](#)

STEPS TO ENROLL:

1. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xqmdEss7fv>
2. Instructions: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DvubImzqOli-PiWXLhbifXScoqao6NOn?usp=sharing>
3. Establish Canvas LMS account and enroll.

New Canvas Account Enrollees: New users will have a School Nutrition Canvas account created. Course enrollment is done manually, typically within 2 business days. Immediately after the account is created, new users will receive an email with "Finish Registration: Canvas" in the subject line. ***IMPORTANT*** Please follow the linked Canvas instructions to finalize your new account.

Enrollees with an Existing Canvas Account: Because you already have a Canvas account you **will not** receive the "Finish Registration: Canvas" email. You will be directly enrolled in the course. Please allow 2 business days to receive an email.

4. Once enrolled and logged in, familiarize yourself with the course structure and begin the self-paced modules.
5. If you need assistance, please contact Donna Knight, donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov.

Course Option 2: **Eat and Learn NC**

STEPS TO ENROLL:

1. Instructions: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y6-N_QEY4dCKBhllpwj5zTk0Z9Fv5t2O?usp=sharing
2. Register for the course on www.eatandlearnc.com following the instructions.
3. Once enrolled, log into the course and review any videos to help with navigation.
4. Begin self-paced modules.

Remember, upon course completion you will complete a final survey and receive a certificate. Save your certificate on your computer, upload into the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) as part of your application, and maintain as part of documentation, if audited.

Comment on Final Rule: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium – Deadline March 24

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued the *Final Rule: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* in the [Federal Register](#) on February 7, 2022. This final rule becomes effective July 1, 2022.

- This final rule will establish transitional standards to support the continued provision of nutritious school meals as schools respond to and recover from the pandemic and while USDA engages in notice-and-comment rulemaking to update the meal pattern standards to more comprehensively reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025.
- This rule finalizes the proposed milk provision by allowing local operators of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program to offer flavored, lowfat milk (1 percent fat) for students in grades K through 12 and for sale as a competitive beverage.
- It will also allow flavored, lowfat milk in the Special Milk Program for Children and in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for participants ages 6 and older.
- Beginning in SY 2022-23, this final rule will require at least 80 percent of the weekly grains in the school lunch and breakfast menus to be whole grain-rich.
- Lastly, this final rule will modify the proposed sodium standards and establish Sodium Target 1 as the sodium limit for school lunch and breakfast in SY 2022-2023 as proposed but implement a Sodium Interim Target 1A effective for school lunch beginning in SY 2023-2024.

Please review the final rule and submit comments to reflect how implementation of this rule will impact your School Nutrition Program. No comment will be perceived by USDA as support for the rule. Written comments on this final rule should be received on or before March 24, 2022, to receive consideration. More information and instructions for submitting written comments can be found on the USDA [website](#).

School Nutrition Spotlight

Shout Out to Pamlico County Primary School!

The tireless Pamlico County Primary School Child Nutrition Team received a score of 100 on their most recent health inspection. Good job team! Thank you for all you do each day to feed students safe, appealing, and nutritious school meals.



Congrats to 5 Finalist Teams in 5th #NCJrChef Competition

Five finalist teams will vie in the 5th North Carolina Jr. Chef Competition. Congrats to Apex High (Wake County Public School System), Ashe County High, Monroe High and Parkwood High (Union County Public Schools), and Swain County High!

These teams of high school food and nutrition and culinary arts students have worked with their Family and Consumer Sciences teachers and local School Nutrition Program to create school lunch entree recipes featuring at least two North Carolina-grown ingredients and one USDA Foods item, adhering to National School Lunch Program regulations, and appealing to student tastes. [Learn more.](#)



Send in Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

We aim to include items of interest to our School Nutrition professionals across the state in the School Nutrition Update e-letter. Issues are scheduled to go out at the first of each week. If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, or other news item for the SN Update e-letter, please send those to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week. Include "SN Update" in the email subject line.

Job Opportunity

Work with Wake County – Senior Administrator/Business Manager

The Senior Administrator/Business Manager (Band 3) provides leadership for the technology support and business operations teams. The Business Manager supports the Senior Director by serving as the liaison between Child Nutrition Services (CNS) and the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) financial staff to ensure alignment of CNS policies/practices with school system accounting processes and procedures and compliance with Child Nutrition regulations/rules/policies through oversight of operations, procurement, and financial reporting. See the links below to find more information and apply.

POSITION DETAILS

Applitrack ID: 44159 <https://www.applitrack.com/wcpss/onlineapp/default.aspx>

Salary Schedule (Admin, Band 3) [Admin and Tech Bands 2021-2022 Salary Book Jan - June 2022.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

Farm to School

Inspire Youth – North Carolina Youth Institute (NCYI) – 4/1, Register by 3/4

The NCYI is hosted by N.C. State University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences and is a part of the [World Food Prize's Global Youth Institute](#). This program provides a platform for youth to research and give recommendations to solve key global challenges that range from food insecurity, access to potable water, poverty, human rights, engineering issues, and more. Students research issues they care about and propose their ideas to solve these grand challenges. There is no

registration cost to participate in the Institute and meals will be provided during the event. However, both student and teacher/mentor participants must organize their own transportation to and from the event in North Carolina. Registration is due March 4, 2022. The NCYI will be held April 1, 2022. [Learn more here.](#)

Get “The Dirt”

Subscribe to receive *The Dirt* e-letter from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Community Food Systems to receive the latest info from USDA about farm to school happenings and resources across the country. Craven County Schools was recently featured in *The Dirt* for their Annual Food Festival bringing together Child Nutrition staff and local producers to discuss incorporating more locally sourced items into the menu. [Review issues and subscribe.](#)



Check Out Farm to School Resources in the ICN CNSS Resource Hub

New! The [Institute for Child Nutrition's \(ICN\) Child Nutrition Sharing Site \(CNSS\) Resource Hub](#) now includes a farm to school category. Check out these and other available resources in the hub. Have your schools or districts created farm to school resources that might be helpful for others? Farm to school stakeholders have the ability to upload resources created to the new Farm to School hub. To submit a resource, visit the Resource Hub Submission page and [complete the form.](#)



Join Growing School Food Gardens Community

KidsGardening is thrilled to announce that the new Growing School Food Gardens Community is live in the Kids Garden Community. With the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, they will facilitate peer-to-peer learning opportunities, mentorship programs, regional networking, and resource exchanges among food garden educators across the country. They hope that you will join them to: connect with other educators teaching in school food gardens, get support from experienced peer garden educators, share your expertise growing a school garden, and find vetted school food garden and farm to school resources to support your growing and teaching adventures. [Register and join the community.](#)

Continuing Education

Celebrate Silver Linings – N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/17

Join the Carolina Hunger Initiative on February 17, 9:30 am-4 pm for the free, virtual N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference. Hear stories of hope, innovation, and perseverance that have emerged from a challenging year of making sure kids have the healthy food they need. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn, network and rejuvenate. [Register now.](#)



Navigating the GAP Audit: Food Safety Best Practices for Produce Farms – Training Series

The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) is offering a free 5-part training series for farms planning to get Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Harmonized GAP Standard in 2022, February 21 - March 7, 2022, 4 pm - 5:30 pm ET. CFSA will take each section of the GAP audit in 1.5-hour chunks and break down, step-by-step, what you need to do to

get GAP certified this year. They will cover all the changes that became effective last May, and what they learned from helping farms get GAP certified throughout 2021. [Registration for each session is required.](#)

Check Out USDA Supply Chain Assistance for Schools Resources

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is excited to share a recording of its [“Supply Chain Assistance for Schools” webinar session](#), which was jointly hosted by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on January 21, 2022. This webinar provides an overview of the relief opportunities being implemented by USDA to help schools address the challenges they may be experiencing due to disruptions in the food supply chain. Also included is a [comparison chart handout](#) describing these various streams of supply chain assistance funding. Links to these and additional resources are available at the FNS’ official Supply Chain Assistance [webpage](#).

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.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.