

# School Nutrition Update

February 21-25, 2022



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## Program Operations Information

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### **Complete the School Nutrition Spring Conference Survey – Deadline 2/25**

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition Division is tentatively planning a virtual School Nutrition Spring Conference during the last week of April 2022 (Tuesday – Thursday, 1-4:30 PM ET). The conference will include two dynamic speakers plus professional development. We want to plan a conference that is meaningful for you and your teams especially given these challenging times. To that end, please complete a very brief [survey](#) (2-4 minutes) by Friday, February 25, providing us with input on the length and professional development topic(s) of interest to you.

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### **Finish the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education – Deadline 2/28**

The Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE) Online Courses for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are currently open. All School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Community Organization Sponsors that will operate the SFSP for the summer of 2022, must complete the annual continuing education by **Monday, February 28, 2022**.

*\*NOTE: At this time, SFAs contemplating continuation of the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), are not required to complete RACE Online.*

Two self-paced, online courses have been developed - **Nourish NC Kids** and **Eat and Learn NC**. See guidance below on how to select the appropriate course to complete for your SFA/Sponsor. **Completion of ONE course will satisfy the annual continuing education requirement for SFSP. TWO individuals with administrative responsibilities for your SFA/Sponsor must complete the SAME course. \*VERY IMPORTANT\*** Individuals **DO NOT** need to complete both courses.

#### **How to select the appropriate course:**

SFAs/Sponsors will select the appropriate course based on how meals will be provided.

- **SFAs/Sponsors with catering contracts** that 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/Sponsors** that prepare ALL their own meals and will NOT use an outside vendor – Follow the steps below to complete **Eat and Learn NC**.

#### **How to enroll in the appropriate course:**

*The enrollment for each course is different, so please carefully read the steps below.*

##### COURSE OPTION 1: **Nourishing NC Kids**

1. Register for the course at <https://forms.office.com/r/xqmdEss7fv>.
2. Review the instructions to set up/access a Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) account: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DvublmzqOli-PiWXLhbifXScoqao6NOn?usp=sharing>.
3. Establish a Canvas LMS account and enroll.

**New Canvas Account Enrollees:** Once you register, Donna Knight will create a School Nutrition Canvas account for you based on your name and email address and enroll you into the Nourishing NC Kids (RACE online) course. Course enrollment is done manually, typically within 2 business days. Immediately after the account is created, new users will receive an email from **NCDPI** with "Finish Registration: Canvas" in

the subject line. **\*IMPORTANT\*** Please follow the Canvas instructions (linked in step #2 above) to finalize your new account.

**Enrollees with an Existing Canvas Account:** After you register for the course, we will check to see if a Canvas account already exists based on your name and email address. If there is a match, you WILL NOT receive the email to “Finish Registration: Canvas” You will be directly enrolled in the course and will only receive the “**Course Invitation**” email from **NCDPI**. Please allow 2 business days to receive the email. Once you receive the invitation email, please open the email and follow the steps to access the course.

4. Once enrolled and logged in, familiarize yourself with the course structure and complete the self-paced modules.

#### COURSE OPTION 2: **Eat and Learn NC**

1. Review the course registration instructional video: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y6-N\\_QEY4dCKBhllpwj5zTk0Z9Fv5t2O?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y6-N_QEY4dCKBhllpwj5zTk0Z9Fv5t2O?usp=sharing)
2. Register for the course on [www.eatandlearnnc.com](http://www.eatandlearnnc.com) following the instructions.
3. Once registered, log into the course.
4. Complete the self-paced modules. Review the navigation instructional video for assistance if needed, [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y6-N\\_QEY4dCKBhllpwj5zTk0Z9Fv5t2O?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Y6-N_QEY4dCKBhllpwj5zTk0Z9Fv5t2O?usp=sharing).

#### **After course completion:**

1. Upon finishing a course, participants will complete an evaluation survey to receive a certificate.
2. Save your certificate on your computer. Then, upload it into the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) as part of your SFSP application, and maintain as part of documentation, if audited.

#### **Questions:**

- If you have questions or need assistance with setting up or accessing a Canvas LMS account or accessing and completing the Nourishing NC Kids course, please contact Donna Knight ([donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov)).
- If you have questions or need assistance registering for or completing the Eat and Learn NC course, please contact the CN Resource team at [training@cnresource.com](mailto:training@cnresource.com).
- If you have questions or need assistance with uploading your certificate into the SNTS, please contact Cynthia Ervin ([cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov)) or Lynne Privette ([lynne.privette@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lynne.privette@dpi.nc.gov)).

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### **Complete the 2021-22 Verification Reapplied & Reapproved Survey – Due 3/3**

Please complete the [2021-22 Verification Reapplied & Reapproved Survey](#) by March 3, 2022. This survey has been developed for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) that completed a verification report with the exception of Special Milk Program SFAs, District-wide Continuing Eligibility Provision (CEP) SFAs, and Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) without day students. The purpose of the survey is to capture the data on Reapplied and Reapproved Applications and Students on or before February 15, 2022.

Please provide the number of student(s) and the number of application(s) for each category listed in the survey for households that were originally selected for verification (October 1-November 15) for which benefits were terminated and the household reapplied for benefits between November 16, 2021 and February 15, 2022.

Please remember the original termination of benefits may have been because:

- the household did not respond to verification;
- the household responded to verification, but benefits were changed from "Free" to "Denied";

- the household responded to verification, but benefits were changed from "Reduced" to "Denied".

\*VERY IMPORTANT\*

- It is important that you submit data for "Students" and "Applications" in each category in the survey.
- If there is no data for a particular category, please enter a "0".

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## ***Read the School Meals Report, 2020-21 School Year***

The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) has released their 2022 report – The Reach of Breakfast and Lunch: A Look at Pandemic and Pre-Pandemic Participation. The report found student participation in school breakfast and lunch dropped dramatically across the country when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and School Nutrition Programs are still recovering. View the report [here](#).



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## **School Nutrition Spotlight**

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### ***Check Out the 2022 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference Resources***



The Carolina Hunger Initiative hosted the 2022 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference February 17. If you missed it or would like to look back at the agenda, silver lining stories, culinary demos, and more, navigate to the [conference home page](#). You can also access photos, videos, and more from previous year's conferences. Thanks to all the organizers, presenters, and participants for making the virtual conference a success, and thanks to all our Child Hunger Leaders across the state for making a difference every day!

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### ***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](mailto: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.

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## **Job Opportunity**

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### ***Work with Onslow County – Dietitian and Assistant Director Positions***

Onslow County Schools is currently looking for a Dietitian and Assistant Director. Interested candidates can fill out and submit an [online application](#) with Onslow County Schools. Information, such as the job description with the paygrade, is located with the job posting under the heading "Additional Information".

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## **Grant Opportunity**

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### ***Apply for the Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant Program – Due 3/11***

The Whole Kids Foundation knows that the more kids know and feel connected to their food, the more curious they become about how things grow or taste, and the more willing they are to try new foods. Their Garden Grant program provides a \$3,000 monetary grant to support a new or existing edible educational garden located at either a K-12 school or a non-profit organization that serves children in the K-12 grade range. [Learn more and apply here](#). Grant applications are due March 11.

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## Continuing Education

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### ***Learn Strategies for Leading a Heart-Healthy Lifestyle – 2/24, 3 pm ET***

In observance of American Heart Month, the February STAR webinar on February 24 at 3 pm ET from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) will feature the American Heart Association (AHA). AHA will highlight practices to lead a heart-healthy lifestyle and provide tips and resources to promote healthy eating in School Nutrition Programs. This webinar will also feature best practices to aid School Nutrition professionals with implementing sodium reduction strategies in School Nutrition operations. [Register now](#).

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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 [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.

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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