

School Nutrition Update

February 7-11, 2022



In this Issue:

Program Operations Information

- Submit Required Info and Agreement for iPad Mini Distribution – Deadline 2/11
- Comment on Final Rule: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium – Deadline March 24
- Complete the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education
- Help Recruit Sponsors for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs

School Nutrition Spotlight

- Highlight Hawk Hero!
- Send in Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

Job Opportunity

- Work with Johnston County – Director of School Nutrition Services

Grant Opportunity

- Apply for the JumpStart Grant

Nutrition Education & Promotion

- Teach Sweet for Sweet Potato Promotion Month

Continuing Education

- Plan to Get Your Best Value with USDA Foods - 2/23, 3 pm ET

- POWER UP Your School Breakfast Program for #NSBW2022 (Recording)
- Access Virtual Training Resources

Program Operations Information

Submit Required Info and Agreement for iPad Mini Distribution – Deadline 2/11

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition Division is excited to offer an iPad Mini for each school in your district to be utilized to improve and streamline School and Summer Nutrition Program accountability and expansion. School Nutrition Directors received email communications last week with instructions and the iPad Mini agreement and request form. Please send the required shipping information and completed request form and iPad Mini User Agreement to the summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov mailbox on or before **Friday, February 11, 2022** (the sooner the better) with ***iPad Mini Use Agreement*** in the subject line. If you have questions or concerns, reach out to Cynthia Ervin, Section Chief – Summer and Special Nutrition Programs, cynthia.ervin@dpi.nc.gov.

Educational sessions about the iPad Mini distribution process were provided on February 1. If you were unable to participate in the live sessions, you may view the recording utilizing the following:

Educational and Accountability Opportunity

Password: 7fVsgJKY

Recording link: <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/lr.php?RCID=82a1ad9a08514250a84e3af238464c7b>

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 about the rule and instructions for submitting written comments can be found on the USDA [website](#).

Complete the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education

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/1DvublMzqOli-PiWXLhbJfXScoqao6NOn?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_QEY4dCKBhllpwj5zTkOZ9Fv5t2O?usp=sharing
2. Register for the course on www.eatandlearnnc.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.

Help Recruit Sponsors for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs

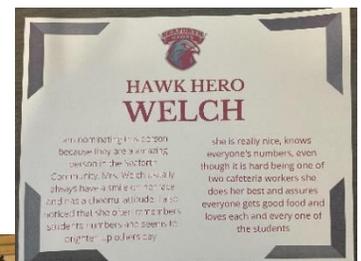
NCDPI works with schools and community organizations to serve as sponsors and sites for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs. Please help us share this opportunity in your communities to ensure no child goes hungry this summer. We have created graphics and videos that can be shared on social media. The [N.C. Capacity Builder Map](#) also helps school districts and communities recognize the areas of highest need, identify any gaps in summer meal service, and strategize to reach all children in need. You can access these resources and more information about N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs at <https://summermeals4nckids.org> or the NCDPI, School Nutrition Division [website](#).



School Nutrition Spotlight

Highlight Hawk Hero!

Seaforth High School Cafe Manager Ashly Welch was recently recognized as a Hawk Hero for her cheerful attitude, taking time to know her students, and giving her best to the students and school under stressful and difficult conditions. Mrs. Welch, at this time, is operating as a dual campus manager for School Nutrition to ensure not only Seaforth students have hot delicious meals, but also Moncure School students do. Mrs. Welch stated, "This, this right here is why I love my job. I am in tears. Our job is often a seemingly unappreciated profession. I was nominated by some of the students here at Seaforth. This makes the hardest of days worth it!". Congratulations to Mrs. Welch on her well-deserved nomination!



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 Johnston County – Director of School Nutrition Services

Johnston County Schools is seeking applications for an open Director of School Nutrition Services position. Qualifications include a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the area of foods and nutrition, dietetics, home economics, or business administration (master's degree preferred)

and five (5) years of experience in food service in a commercial or institutional setting and at least two (2) years of experience at the management or administrative level. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Grant Opportunity

Apply for the Jumpstart Grant

The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project's (ASAP) Growing Minds Jumpstart Grant is now open! Eligible schools and organizations can apply for funding in the amount of \$500 to \$1,000 to support their farm to school project. Funding can be used to start new projects or to expand upon existing activities. Pre-k through 12 schools, homeschool groups, teacher and nutrition education programs, and community-based organizations serving children and families are eligible to apply. Schools/organizations must be located within the 23 westernmost counties of North Carolina (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey) or the Qualla Boundary. Applications are due on the 15th of each month through August 2022. [Learn more here.](#)

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Teach Sweet for Sweet Potato Promotion Month

The N.C. SweetPotato Commission collaborated with N.C. Ag in the Classroom and N.C. Family and Consumer Science teachers on a set of K-12 lesson plans, which all feature North Carolina sweetpotatoes. The N.C. Farm to School Program from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services also has a storybook, activity guide and poster following the sweetpotato from field to school meal. Use and share these [resources](#) to celebrate SweetPotato Promotion Month in February.



Continuing Education

Plan to Get Your Best Value with USDA Foods - 2/23, 3 pm ET

The USDA Foods planning process and requests for the 2022-23 School Year entitlement usage are upon us! How do you know whether to commit your entitlement to Direct Delivery, Department of Defense (DoD), or Processing? There are so many tools available – USDA Foods Cost Analysis from USDA, calculators from processors, district created spreadsheets that didn't come with any instructions – how do you find what is the best value for you and how can these tools work for you? Join the School Nutrition Association (SNA) on February 23 at 3 pm ET as presenters share hands-on examples of how to use some of these tools, how to help you determine where to place your entitlement that works best for you, and how to track your progress throughout the year. [Learn more and register.](#)

POWER UP Your School Breakfast Program for #NSBW2022 (Recording)



Chef Matt Jost and the School Nutrition Association (SNA) recently shared culinary demos on how you can add some excitement to your breakfast menu just in time for National School Breakfast Week 2022! If you missed it or would like to watch it again, check out the recording for this webinar from the [SNA Webinars On-Demand Center](#).

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.