

# School Nutrition Update

January 22-26, 2024



## *In this Issue:*

### **Program Operations Information**

- Be Advised – Food Safety Recall
- Complete the Second Review of Applications Report – Due 2/15
- Register for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases – Due 3/1
- Get Ready for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute – Apply by 3/1

### **School Nutrition Spotlight**

- Cheer on the 2024 N.C. Jr. Chef Finalist Teams!
- Follow/Like Us on Social Media
- Share Your School Nutrition Photos
- Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

### **Job Opportunity**

- Apply for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Child Nutrition Area Supervisor Position
- Work with the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition

### **Grant Opportunity**

- Apply for and Promote the GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant 2024 – Due 2/9
- Learn About and Apply for RFA on Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs – Due 3/18

### **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

- Engaging Kids with Local Food and Farms – NEW Toolkit

### **Continuing Education**

- Learn Strategies for Planning Inclusive and Safe School Meals – 1/25, 3 pm ET

- Celebrate Champions at the 2024 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/27
- Access Virtual Training Resources

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## Program Operations Information

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### *Be Advised – Food Safety Recall*

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Division of Public Health Food Protection and Facilities Branch notified the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition about the distribution of products that have been recalled by the Quaker Oats Company. Currently, it is advised to remove any of the affected products from both recall dates from your inventory and for them not to be used. If any of these products are being used in any School Nutrition Programs, including a la carte, or other programs you are aware of, please do not feed or offer them and follow your local procedures for disposal of the products in a way that prevents human or animal consumption. Please review both recall notices for the complete list of products impacted.

The FDA recall notices can be found below:

- [Original recall notice, 12/15/23](#)
- [Updated recall notice, 1/11/24](#)

For questions or more information, please contact Katrina Perry, [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov).

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### *Complete the Second Review of Applications Report – Due 2/15*

All School Food Authorities (SFAs) processing Free and Reduced-Price School Meal Household Applications are required to conduct a Second Review of Applications. The report is now in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). Please consult the [instructions](#) on how to complete the report. The report is due by Thursday **February 15, 2024**.

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 2023-24 School Year through October 31, 2023. However, the SFA must continue to document any discrepancies for the entire school year.

Should you have questions, please contact your School Nutrition Consultant or Jacquelyn McGowan, Compliance Specialist, [jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov).

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### *Register for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases by 3/1*

[Register](#) to participate in a N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcase by **March 1**! The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition will be offering two opportunities across the state to participate in this unique event. Each event will take place over two consecutive days. Please plan to attend **only one** showcase event.

- **March 18-19, 2024** - Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center (Williamston)
- **March 21-22, 2024** - Masonic Center of Winston Salem (Winston-Salem)

Workshop times are as follows:

- Day 1 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Day 2 - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Check-in starts 30 minutes prior to the start time each day. Participants are responsible for all travel expenses including breakfast, beverages, snacks, lodging, and mileage. Lunch and one snack will be provided each day.

While the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes were for your School Nutrition Managers, this event is for you and your central office staff (Supervisors, Menu Planners/Dietitians, and Training Specialists). Please join Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 Team from Culinary Solutions as they sample our North Carolina K-12 Culinary recipes, share updated information about the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes, demonstrate new school meal recipes and quick-scratch techniques, and share helpful resources to assist you with incorporating the skills and recipes from the institutes into your School Nutrition Program. Photos and success stories from N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops over the years will be highlighted.

Do not miss this opportunity to "taste" the difference that the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute can make in your program and to talk with a "seasoned" team of chefs with years of School Nutrition experience! For questions or more information, reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov).



## ***Get Ready for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute – Apply by 3/1***

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition, in conjunction with Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 team, will be offering six [North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institute](#) regional workshops during the summer of 2024. The Institute is intended for School Nutrition professionals who are currently managing and/or responsible for the supervision of site-level nutrition operations (e.g., School Nutrition Managers and School Nutrition Assistant Managers). The purpose is for participants to master fundamental culinary skills to enhance school meals and be empowered to teach-it-forward to their team members at the local level.

The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute is a wonderful opportunity for School Nutrition Managers! These workshops will prepare participants to serve as Chef Ambassadors in their districts and beyond. Selected workshop participants will learn fundamental culinary techniques such as knife skills, food production strategies like batch cooking for quality, quick-scratch cooking techniques, and merchandising tips for new K-12 Chef-developed recipes specifically for North Carolina schools. Participants will also learn effective teach-it-forward techniques so they can communicate new knowledge and skills with others in their districts.

The objectives for the Institute are to:

- Improve student health, well-being, and academic success through nutritious, appealing meals at school,
- Increase participation in high quality, enticing school nutrition programs,
- Expand capacity of local school nutrition programs to purchase, prepare and serve fresh, locally grown produce,
- Increase consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain rich foods, and
- Provide continuing education opportunities for school nutrition personnel.



The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops will be hosted by School Food Authorities (SFAs) across the state and facilitated by the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute team, including State Agency staff. The following workshops will be offered this summer:

- June 25-27 – Alexander County Schools and Pitt County Schools (Two workshop options)
- July 9-11 – Columbus County Schools
- July 23-25 – Northampton County Schools
- July 30-August 1 – Cherokee County Schools
- August 6-8 – Alamance-Burlington School System

Interested School Nutrition Managers and Assistant Managers must submit a [Chef Ambassador Application](#) by **March 1** to be considered for a spot and must have the support of their School Nutrition Director/Administrator, Principal, and/or Supervisor to attend. Submitted applications will be reviewed and selected participants will be notified by email. Selected participants must confirm their spot. Please reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov), with any questions.

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### *Cheer on the 2024 N.C. Jr. Chef Finalist Teams!*

Three finalist teams will compete in the 2024 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition (NCJCC) cook-off.

- First Flight High, Dare County Schools
- Garinger High, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Northern High, Durham Public Schools



For the competition, teams of high school students collaborate with their teachers and local School Nutrition Program to create a school lunch entrée that features at least two North Carolina-grown ingredients and two USDA Food items, adheres to National School Lunch Program (NSLP) regulations, and appeals to students. By **February 19**, finalist teams will submit updated applications with recipe photos, a work plan for how they will prepare their recipe in the 90-minute time frame, and a video of their team preparing and plating their recipe. On **March 11 and 12**, evaluators will prepare and sample team recipes and conduct live virtual interviews with the teams. All finalist teams will be recognized, and the competition results will be announced during a virtual recognition ceremony on **March 13**. More information about the N.C. Jr. Chef Competition is available on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).

## *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.



*Wilkes County Schools*

## *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.**

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## **Job Opportunity**

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### *Apply for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Child Nutrition Area Supervisor Position*

Child Nutrition Services with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is seeking applicants for an open Child Nutrition Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating all aspects of the school-based Child Nutrition Program to ensure that school meals are nutritious, appealing, and cost effective. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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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 be recruiting for a School Nutrition Consultant to join its team. The position is regionally based and covers Mecklenburg, Union, and Anson Counties. A Nutrition Consultant serves in a professional consultative and auditing capacity, ensuring School Food Authorities (SFAs) are informed of and comply with all policies, procedures, and laws applicable to the federally assisted and state-administered School Nutrition Programs. We look forward to the position being posted soon on the Office of State Personnel’s [website](#).



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## Grant Opportunity

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### *Apply for and Promote the GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant 2024 – Due 2/9*

The 2024 GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, brought to you by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States. In March, 170 programs will receive \$500 in funding to start or improve their garden or greenspace. In addition, fifteen programs will receive an additional \$1,000 through their Plus, Pride, and Equity Specialty Awards. Whether you are creating an aquaponics program, developing a native plant garden, updating your raised bed garden, or starting an after-school program garden club, consider applying for the grant opportunity. Applications are due **February 9**. [Learn more and apply](#).

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### *Learn About and Apply for RFA on Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs – Due 3/18*

USDA has announced a Request for Applications (RFA) for the [Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement](#) on [Grants.gov](#). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will award \$2 million in total grant funding to up to four (4) organizations to provide regionally focused training and technical assistance (TA) to School Nutrition professionals on procurement, preparation, and crediting of traditional Indigenous foods, including the use of cooperator and FNS-developed resources and tools. The cooperators, with FNS guidance and approval, will also develop culturally relevant nutrition education materials for students to accompany the traditional Indigenous foods that are served, and the cooperators will train School Nutrition professionals and other school staff on providing nutrition education to students.

The Lead Applicant entity must be led and staffed primarily by members of Federally Recognized Tribes and/or Native Hawaiians but may have partners that are not. Eligible entities include non-profit organizations; School Food Authorities that participate in the National School Lunch Program; tribal government owned entities, arms, or instrumentalities; Native Hawaiian Organization as recognized by the Department of the Interior; and/or other non-governmental entities including Tribal Colleges & Universities. Applicants must demonstrate existing relationships, experience and expertise in training, TA, School Nutrition, Indigenous foods, and nutrition education. Fiscal sponsorships of eligible entities are allowed.

Additional information:

- Two informational webinars about the RFA are scheduled.
  - [Register](#) for the **February 8, 1:00 pm ET** informational webinar.
  - [Register](#) for the **February 13, 3:00 pm ET** informational webinar.
- USDA FNS requests that entities planning to submit applications provide a Letter of Intent by **February 19, 2024**.
- The deadline for submitting proposals is **March 18, 2024**.
- Grant applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).
- Use this [USDA CloudVault link](#) to download PowerPoint slides that can be used to raise awareness of this opportunity.

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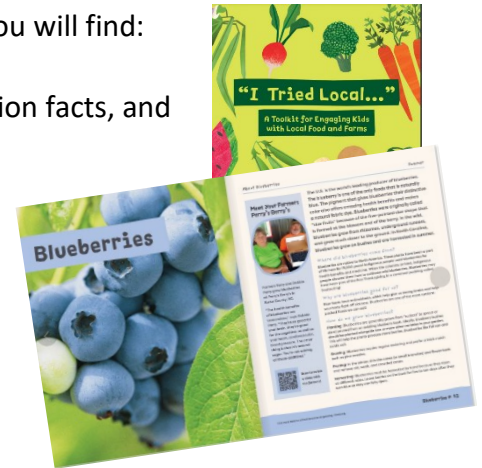
# Nutrition Education & Promotion

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## *Engaging Kids with Local Food and Farms – NEW Toolkit*

The Growing Minds program from the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) just published a new farm to school curriculum, [\*“I Tried Local...” A Toolkit for Engaging Kids with Local Food and Farms\*](#). The immersive curriculum is designed for use in early care and education (ECE) through second grade and is divided into ten units based on crops grown locally in North Carolina. In each unit, you will find:

- An overview of the crop, including geographic and cultural origins, nutrition facts, and growing tips,
- A lesson plan that aligns with educational standards,
- A video from the ASAP Meet Your Farmer video series showcasing a North Carolina farmer growing the crop,
- Children’s books with discussion prompts,
- A fun coloring page, and
- A recipe featuring local produce that can be made in the classroom or shared with families.



Growing Minds will offer virtual training sessions to support educators and others interested in using the toolkit. These sessions will provide an overview of the curriculum components and the opportunity to hear success stories from farm to school champions across the state. The first will be held **February 20, 3:30 to 4:45 pm**. [Register](#) in advance to participate. If you attend one of the trainings and are an educator in North Carolina, ASAP will send you a free hard copy of the toolkit, so make sure to include your address in the registration form.

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## Continuing Education

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### *Learn Strategies for Planning Inclusive and Safe School Meals – 1/25, 3 pm ET*

This webinar series from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) will kick off on January 25 at 3 pm ET with insights and actionable strategies to effectively accommodate students with dietary restrictions participating in School Nutrition Programs. Topics will include the importance of accurately identifying the difference between food allergies and food intolerances, best practices for preparing allergy-friendly meals to emphasize the importance of following established protocols and minimize allergen exposure, and more. [Learn more and register](#).

## Celebrate Champions at the 2024 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/27

The theme for the 2024 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference has been announced, “YOU are the CHAMPIONS!”. Do not miss this opportunity on **February 27** to celebrate the accomplishments of your School Nutrition teams and other Child Hunger leaders across the state. The N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference, presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative, is an annual day of celebration and inspiration for anyone invested in making sure kids have access to healthy food. Attendees will have a chance to connect with other child hunger leaders from across the state, learn about new strategies and success stories, and leave reenergized to continue the fight against child hunger. [Learn more and register](#).



Tuesday, February 27, 2024 • Chapel Hill, NC



*“YOU are the CHAMPIONS!”*

## 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).

## Important Dates

Date	Action Step
<b>February 1</b>	On-site Reviews Deadline (Traditional Public Schools and RCCIs)
<b>February 9</b>	Application deadline for GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant
<b>February 15</b>	Second Review of Applications Report Deadline
<b>March 1</b>	Financial Form (FC-1A) Deadline for July 1 thru December 30 (Semi-Annual Report)
<b>March 1</b>	Registration deadline for N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases
<b>March 1</b>	Application deadline for N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Workshops
<b>March 18</b>	Application deadline for Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in the Child Nutrition Programs Cooperative Agreement



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

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