

School Nutrition Update

January 8-12, 2024



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Program Operations Information

Register for the March N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases

[Register](#) to participate in a N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcase! 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 discuss the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes your School Nutrition Managers attended this summer, 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. You will even have the opportunity to taste-test some of the recipes! For questions or more information, reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Starting Off the New Year with a Perfect Score!

A number of North Carolina schools are starting off the year with a perfect 100 sanitation score. What an amazing accomplishment! We are excited to hear this good news and appreciate the hard work and dedication of our School Nutrition heroes across the state to the nutrition, health, safety, and well-being of our students. Thanks for all you do each day to nourish students' bodies, minds, and souls!



Vaughan Elementary -
Warren County Schools



Rosman Elementary -
Transylvania County Schools

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.

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. 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.



Beaufort 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, 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.**

Grant Opportunity

Apply for a USDA Farm to School Grant – Due 1/12

The USDA, Farm to School Program is excited to announce the official release of the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Farm to School Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA). USDA will award up to \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities through the grant program this fiscal year. Each grant will help implement farm to school programming that increases access to local food in eligible schools, connects children with agriculture for better health, and inspires youth to consider careers in agriculture. The RFA includes five tracks - Implementation, State Agency, and three Turnkey grants - to support a variety of projects and implementation stages. A wide variety of entities are eligible to compete for funding through this grant opportunity: schools and other institutions operating the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or Summer Food Service Program; State agencies; local agencies; Indian Tribal Organizations; small- to medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- to medium-sized agricultural producers; and non-profit organizations. The application closing date is **January 12**. [Learn more and apply](#).

Submit Proposals – Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS) – Due 1/22

The Chef Ann Foundation is seeking proposals for projects led by groups of local partners with systemic and equity-driven approaches to transforming school food supply chains. Projects should seek to build and strengthen relationships among community-based food system stakeholders and School Food Authorities (SFAs) as well as expand scratch cooking in schools in order to build more nourishing school meal programs. This program is funded by the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative and is administered by Chef Ann Foundation in partnership with Kitchen Sync Strategies Collaborative, Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, and the National Farm to School Network. Applications are due **January 22**. [Learn more and apply](#).



Apply for a Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems Sub-Grant – Due 1/26

The Center for School and Community Partnerships at Boise State University's Request for Applications for the Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems Sub-Grants (SCALES) is now open. SCALES will award up to thirty-five rural School Food Authorities (SFA) across the nation. Grant awards will be up to \$150,000. SCALES will work with SFA directors over a two-year period to build partnerships for innovative solutions to increase local procurement in school meal programs. Applications are due January 26. [Learn more and apply](#).



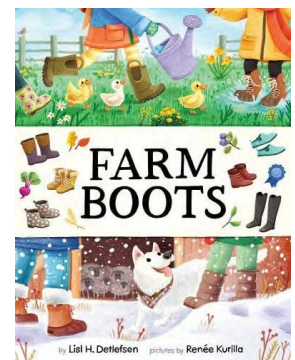
SCALES
Supporting Community Agriculture
& Local Education Systems

A project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Explore Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

Check out this month's N.C. Ag in the Classroom book, "Farm Boots," a delightful romp around farms through the season and an exploration of the many types of boots that are needed to get the job done. In this book, you will follow farm families as they work and play in boots all year long. Whether it is springtime puddle-splashing, riding at the summer fair, or herding sheep into the barn in winter, there is a type of boot for every kind of weather and activity. Each season brings adorable farm animals, farming equipment, and of course boots in this exploration of farm and country life.



N.C. Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom (NCAITC) is an educational program that is dedicated to fostering an understanding of the importance of agriculture in North Carolina. The program strives to achieve this mission in recommending books for use as additional resources to PreK-12th grade educators. Each month, NCAITC offers a book for anyone looking for a valid ag-related resource to utilize in the classroom. Each book will have

accompanying activities of high-quality that can be integrated into lesson plans at various grade levels. The total purchase of one book is \$5.00 and can be purchased until copies are sold out. [Learn more.](#)

Continuing Education

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
January 12	Deadline to apply for a USDA Farm to School Grant
January 22	Deadline to apply for a PLANTS Grant
January 26	Deadline to apply for a SCALES Sub-grant
February 1	On-site Reviews Due (Traditional Public Schools and RCCIs)
March 1	Financial Form (FC-1A) Due for July 1 thru December 30 (Semi-Annual Report)

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained [online](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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