

School Nutrition Update

February 15, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Plan to Utilize USDA Foods

The USDA Foods in Schools program supports domestic nutrition programs and American agricultural producers through purchases of 100% American-grown and -produced foods for use by schools and institutions. Here are some tips to help you plan wisely to utilize your USDA Foods entitlement:

- Promote participation in your School/Summer Nutrition Programs. Ensure families know how to access safe, nutritious meals for their children.
- Work with the [N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services \(NCDA&CS\), Food Distribution](#) team regarding your USDA Foods entitlement and orders.
- Check out the [USDA Foods Toolkit](#), a collection of valuable resources to assist School Nutrition professionals in effectively using their USDA Food entitlement and educating students, staff, and the community about the healthy contributions that USDA Foods provide to meal programs. The toolkit includes list of available foods, product information sheets, fact sheets, a cost analysis tool, webinars, e-letters, infographics and more.
- Plan menus that incorporate recipes with USDA Foods. Employ recipes with USDA Foods from [USDA Team Nutrition](#), the [Institute for Child Nutrition \(ICN\)](#), and the [N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute](#).
- Track inventory received, including expiration or best buy dates. Avoid letting USDA Foods expire or go out of date before use. Your program could be held liable and be required to repay the value.
- Move any USDA Foods that you be unable to use by the expiration date to [Bob's List](#) with NCDA&CS. Check out Bob's List if you are need of extras.
- Choose to move entitlement dollars to DoD, if needed.
- Order USDA Foods for School Year 2021-22 by March 19, 2021. SY 2021-22 entitlement is based on 2018-19 school meals served. Order fruits and vegetables March 20-29 for July-September 2022. Nineteen produce items are available in the catalog.
- Reach out to Walter Beal (walter.beal@ncagr.gov), Ted Fogleman (ted.fogleman@ncagr.gov), David Usher (david.usher@ncagr.gov), or Tysha Sherard (tysha.sherard@ncagr.gov) with NCDA&CS, Food Distribution for assistance if needed.

Remember to Submit FC1-A and Financial Reports

The December 2020 FC1-A Report is due on March 1, 2021 and should be submitted in the School Nutrition Technology System under the Financial Report option under the Application tab. The Semi-annual Report for Charters, Non-Public and Residential Child Care Institutions is also due on March 1. The Semi-annual Report was provided to the School Food Authorities (SFAs) by the Zone consultants on February 5. For any questions, please reach out to your [Zone teams](#).

Don't Forget to Submit the Second Review of Applications Report

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 (FNS-874).

The required reporting period spans from the start date of processing the Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Household Applications in the 2020-21 School Year through October 31, 2020. 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.

Should you have questions on completing the forms, please contact your Zone Team or Jacquelyn McGowan, Compliance Specialist.

Form:	Due Date:	Submit to:
FNS-874 Local Education Agency Second Review of Applications Report Template	Friday, February 19, 2021	Please email the completed form to Jacquelyn McGowan at: Jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov
Documentation 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.

Have Questions to be Answered During the Wednesday Webinars?

Please submit any questions you have for the Wednesday Briefing for School Food Authorities (SFAs) via the [online form](#). Answer the first two questions and then enter your questions one question per box. If you have more than ten questions, please click on the link to the form and submit your additional questions.

Complete Meal Counts Survey Daily

North Carolina remains in a state of emergency related to COVID-19. As such, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must report daily meal counts to the N.C. Emergency Operations Center. Please use the survey [link](#) to submit meal count data daily by 6 pm. If you have questions or issues submitting the data, please reach out to [Janet Johnson](#).

School Nutrition Spotlight

Lifting Up Our NC School Transportation and Nutrition Teams

Shoutouts have been happening across the state for School Bus Driver Appreciation Week. Many of our School Nutrition professionals also serve as bus drivers, and our School Transportation professionals have collaborated closely with our School Nutrition teams to ensure children have access to safe, free, nutritious meals. See the shoutouts on social media, using #LoveTheBus, #BusDriverAppreciationWeek and @ncpublicschools. Thank a School Bus Driver today, if you have not already done so. #OurNCSchoolHeroes



Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition team or professional that has received an award, honor or other recognition or should be spotlighted, please share for an upcoming School Nutrition Spotlight. Please send details to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Score Big with School Breakfast

Whether you are operating the School Breakfast Program or Summer Nutrition Programs currently, you can plan to promote the importance of breakfast and benefits of breakfast from school for National School Breakfast Week (NSBW), March 8-12. Share our students can “Score Big with School Breakfast”, this year’s theme. The School Nutrition Association offers a [toolkit](#) or resources to help you celebrate. Share your NSBW celebration via social media using #NSBW21. Tag @ncschoolmeals, too



Job Opportunity

Apply for Supervisory Program Analyst with Ft. Bragg Schools

Ft. Bragg Schools is seeking applications for a Supervisor Program Analyst for Student Meal Programs. To apply, please submit your application and supporting documentation in accordance with the "How To Apply" section of the job announcement. Position closing is February 16. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Continuing Education

Don't Miss the 2021 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference - 2/17-18

The N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference is an annual day of celebration and inspiration for everyone in our state interested in making sure kids have access to healthy food. The 2021 conference will be presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative. This year, the conference is free and online. Sessions span over two days, February 17 and 18. Invite your supervisors, managers, and other team members to pop in for hour sessions that are of interest or when they have time. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Access Virtual Training Opportunities

The Institute for 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 (RDs) 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. Contact information for your Zone teams can be found [here](#).

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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) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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