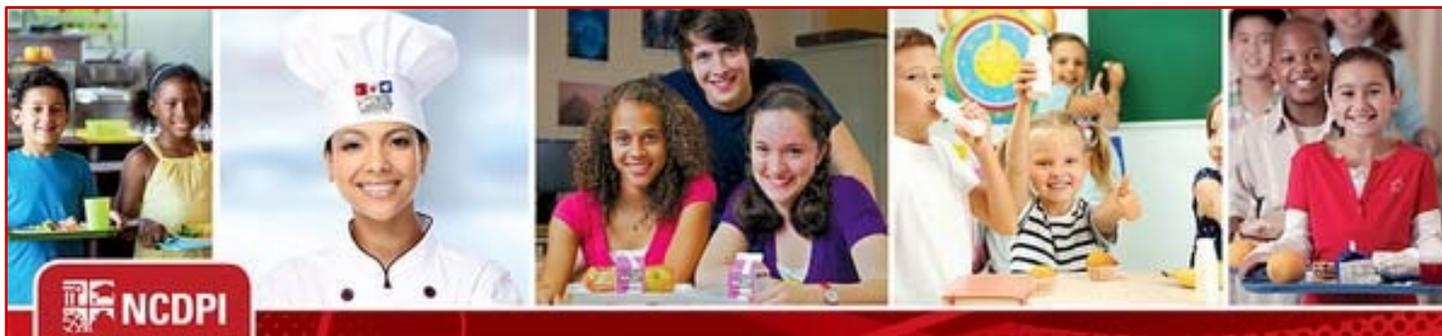


School Nutrition Update

March 1, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Remember to Submit 2020-21 Verification Reapplied and Reapproved Survey

Please submit the [2020-21 Verification Reapplied and Reapproved Survey](#) by March 3. 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 Community 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, 2021.

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, 2020 and February 15, 2021. 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", or
- the household responded to verification, but benefits were changed from "Reduced" to "Denied".

It is important to 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". For any questions, please reach out to your [Zone teams](#).

Stay Tuned to the #StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit for Updates

Stay tuned to the #StrongSchoolsNC [Toolkit](#) from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) for updates on COVID-19 guidance. The Interim Guidance was recently updated and Vaccine Operational Guidance for Schools was issued.

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

Spend a Day with a #NCSchoolNutritionHero

Carteret County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Rob Jackson, recently spent a day with a local #NCSchoolNutritionHero, Melanie Rose, School Nutrition Manager for Atlantic Elementary. Ms. Rose is a team of one in the smallest school in the district. Read about Dr. Jackson's experience in this [blog post](#). Let us know if one of your Principals or Superintendents spends a day in the life with one of your local #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes.



Find Out How Food Truck Feeds Fellow Frontline Workers

The Burke County Public Schools Food Truck has been helping to feed healthcare workers at the local COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Freedom High School. The school district allocated funds to cover the cost of the School Nutrition Program providing this community service to fellow frontline workers. The food truck has been serving on most Fridays for lunch with a different menu each time offering burgers, salads, and even vegetarian options. The food truck is a convenient alternative to help feed the hospital staff at the school during their break. The district appreciates all the hard work that our local healthcare teams have been putting forth to make the vaccination clinic possible.



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

Congratulate the 2021 N.C. Jr. Chef Finalist Teams

Four teams of high school Career and Technical Education students enrolled in Culinary Arts and Hospitality, Food and Nutrition, or Food Science and Technology courses will vie for the state title in the virtual 2021 North Carolina Jr. Chef Competition. Based on applications and recipes submitted, Apex High (Wake County Public Schools), Clyde A. Erwin High (Buncombe County Schools), East Chapel Hill High (Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools) and Swain County High were selected as finalist teams. This is the fourth year of the competition, but it is the first time teams will compete in a virtual format. Read the finalists announcement [press release](#) from NCDPI.



For the next phase of the competition, teams will submit a video of their Jr. Chefs preparing and plating their school lunch entrée recipe. Along with the video, teams will re-submit their applications, recipes and recipe photos, incorporating feedback from the recipe review panel by March 19. In addition, they will turn in a time management plan for how they can prepare their dish within the 90-minute time limit.

Teams will present their dishes during virtual, live interviews in early April with judges. All finalist teams will be recognized and the results of the competition will be announced during a virtual ceremony on April 16 as part of the N.C. FCCLA State Leadership Conference. All students will receive certificates and medals based on their team scores. Members of the top three teams will be offered scholarships to attend Sullivan University in Kentucky. For more N.C. Jr. Chef Competition info, visit the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).

Take the USDA Breakfast Bite Challenge for NSBW

In recognition of National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) March 8-12, the USDA Southeast Regional Office (SERO) is issuing a Breakfast Bite Challenge to all State Agencies and School Food Authorities (SFAs) in the Southeast. Similar to the Apple Crunch in the fall, State Agencies and SFAs are invited to grab a breakfast fruit or vegetable of choice and prepare to take a bite with us. All are encouraged to participate by setting a time to “Take a Bite” during NSBW as part of the Breakfast Bite Challenge.



Participants are encouraged to share their Breakfast Bite Challenge photos and videos with NCDPI and USDA SERO. Please provide your photos, videos or other Breakfast Bite Challenge submissions to Tracey Bates at Tracey.Bates@dpi.nc.gov and Samantha Benjamin-Kirk at Samantha.Benjamin-Kirk@usda.gov. Completed and signed permission forms are required to allow NCDPI and USDA to use any Breakfast Bite Challenge photos or videos. A Breakfast Bite Challenge media use and release permission form is in the process of being developed. It will be shared with our North Carolina SFAs as soon as it is approved. We look forward to your submissions and participation in the challenge as a way to highlight the important roles that nutritious school breakfast meals play in fueling students for success!

Job Opportunity

Apply for Child Nutrition Supervisor Position with Caldwell County Schools

Caldwell County Schools is seeking applications for a Child Nutrition Supervisor. Applicants should be ServSafe certified with three or more years of experience in foodservice management or a related field or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. Knowledge of principles of sound nutrition, special diets and federal, state and local requirements for Child Nutrition is desired. An Associate’s degree or better is preferred along with experience in a leadership/supervisory role. The position closes March 4. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Continuing Education

Register for ICN Workplace Safety Training - 3/16, 4:30 pm ET

Join the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) on March 16 at 4:30 pm ET for a virtual instructor led training on workplace safety. Learn more about the training [here](#). [Register here](#).

Register for ICN Human Resource Management Training - 3/18, 3 pm ET

Join the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) on March 18 at 3 pm ET for a virtual instructor led training on human resource management. Learn more about the training [here](#). [Register here](#).

Register for ICN Customer Experience, Merchandising and Food Presentation Training - 3/23, 3 pm ET

Join the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) on March 23 at 3 pm ET for a virtual instructor led training on the customer experience, merchandising and food presentation. [Learn more here](#). [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 (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. 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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