

# School Nutrition Update

March 22, 2021



## *In this Issue:*

### **Program Operations Information**

- Utilize the New P-EBT Resources
- Find Your Spot to Get Your Shot
- Check Out the Updated Waiver Recap Tool
- Update 2020-21 Site Applications by June 11
- Plan to Complete RACE Online
- Assess ADP
- Refresh Your Resources with N.C. K-12 Culinary
- Submit Questions to be Answered During the Wednesday Webinars

### **School Nutrition Spotlight**

- Recognize a Year of Resilience: 141 Million Meals Served
- Learn about Hoke County School Nutrition Director's Leadership Journey
- Celebrate 2 Million Meals with Pitt County Schools
- Shout Out to Surry County Schools
- Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

### **Continuing Education**

- Join the Forum on Expanding Healthier School Communities - 3/24, 2 pm ET
- Register for ICN STAR Webinar: Alternative Meal Service Models - 3/25, 3 pm ET
- Save the Date for the N.C. School Nutrition Conference and Summer Summit
- Access Virtual Training Resources

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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Utilize the New P-EBT Resources***

New resources have been added to the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Toolkit for public school units to use in communicating with families, including a P-EBT eligibility for students chart, 2021 P-EBT benefits timeline, and key messages to know for top questions and topics. Toolkits will be distributed two business days prior to the monthly issuance of P-EBT benefits to reflect new information. Most of the materials will be in both English and Spanish. Please be on the lookout for and utilize these communications resources.

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### ***Find Your Spot to Get Your Shot***

North Carolina's goal is to get everyone vaccinated as quickly, safely, and equitably as possible. Free COVID-19 vaccinations are now available for front-line personnel involved in food, transportation, and other areas. Learn about vaccine safety and effectiveness, find your vaccine group and your local vaccination center, and keep up with the most current information from the [N.C. Department of Health and Human Services](#). NCDHHS has created an online toolkit of ready-made materials, at <http://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov>, to help you communicate about safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.



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### ***Check Out the Updated Waiver Recap Tool***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the nationwide extension of several waivers that allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals this summer when schools are out of session. These flexibilities are now available through September 30, 2021. The Recap of Approved USDA Waivers in Response to COVID-19, in Word and Excel formats, has been recently updated and posted in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) and on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).

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### ***Update 2020-21 Site Applications by June 11***

For operations effective July 1 forward, submit updated Site Applications on or before June 11. Applications may not be extended beyond September 30. For SFSP - Question 32, the POS should represent a location where meals are served and eaten in a supervised setting, i.e., each classroom, curbside, bus stop, etc. Remember for Question 36 describe exceptions, holidays, closure and other services other than described by meal type. RACE Online must be completed with the certificate uploaded on or before April 16, 2021. Update accountability procedures and waivers, as applicable. For the Non-duplication Form, collaborate with non-SFAs in providing meal services for children. If you have questions, please reach out to your [Summer Nutrition Program Regional Consultant](#) or [Zone team](#).

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### ***Plan to Complete RACE Online***

Your organization's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Contact, Primary Authorized Representative and Claims Contact have been automatically registered for the RACE Online course. Remember that any two administrative staff members from your organization must complete the RACE Online course by April 16,

2021. Certificates are being sent this week for those who have already completed the modules. You no longer need to reach out to Debbie Crawford to register. For anyone who still needs to register, please use the following link: <https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-DPIRACEO&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000001>.

## Assess ADP

For Summer Nutrition Programs, as school operation plans change, assess ADP weekly and adjust your Site Application's ADP as needed. ADP upward adjustments will not be approved after 5:00 PM on the State last business day. If you have questions, please reach out to your [Summer Nutrition Program Regional Consultant](#) or [Zone team](#).

## Refresh Your Resources with N.C. K-12 Culinary

NCDPI and the entire N.C. K-12 Culinary Team have collaborated on new resources for the ever-evolving COVID-19 landscape. From fact sheets to assist with staff trainings, to posters for kitchen and dining areas, to Meal Appeal resources for packaged meals...no matter the plan, A, B, or C, there is something to help you succeed! All the new resources are available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).



## Submit 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.

# School Nutrition Spotlight

## Recognize a Year of Resilience: 141 Million Meals Served

The past year has been a challenge. Our N.C. School Nutrition Teams never faltered from our goals:

1. Provide meals to food-insecure, vulnerable students as part of the emergency public health response,
2. Protect the safety, health and well-being of children, staff, families and communities by implementing social distancing and personal hygiene protocols; and
3. Promote program sustainability and integrity.

Thank you to our N.C. School Nutrition Teams who have worked tirelessly over the past year to nourish children's bodies, minds and souls across the state. You are our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! We appreciate all our education, nutrition and health professionals that have come together to educate and care for our children. Please watch this [video](#) highlighting the strength and resilience of our students, staff, families and communities over the past year.



## ***Learn about Hoke County School Nutrition Director's Leadership Journey***

A born teacher who started her career in the classroom, Hoke County School Nutrition Director Deborah Carpenter makes it a priority to train and mentor her staff so they can step up to the next level. Learn more about her approach, her attitude and her amazing spirit in the School Nutrition Association [My Leadership Journey](#) spotlight. Thank you, Deborah, for your leadership and service!



## ***Celebrate 2 Million Meals with Pitt County Schools***

On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, exactly one year since public schools closed due to concerns over the Coronavirus, Pitt County Schools served its two millionth meal at curbside and bus delivery sites. PCS hasn't only served meals to its students since March 2020, it has also served as a critical community resource for children in Pitt County. [WNCT TV](#) highlighted the efforts of the PCS School Nutrition Team.



## ***Shout Out to Surry County Schools***

Surry County School Nutrition has served 1,457,458 meals over the past year on buses, through curbside, and in hallways and classrooms. This group is inventive, resourceful and committed! We appreciate their unwavering commitment to feeding children in the most challenging circumstances. #surryschoolmealsrock



## ***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](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov).

# Continuing Education

## ***Join the Forum on Expanding Healthier School Communities - 3/24, 2 pm ET***

Join @GENYOUthNow for the free Issues and Actions: Expanding Healthier School Communities Forum on March 24, 2-5:30 pm. There will be conversations on whole child wellness, post-pandemic readiness and building community partnerships. [Register now](#).

## ***Register for ICN STAR Webinar: Best Practices for Using Alternative Meal Service Models – 3/25, 3 pm ET***

Many schools across the nation continue to seek innovative solutions for providing safe and nutritious meals to their students. Join the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) for a webinar on March 25 at 3 pm to hear panelists share their best practices for using alternative meal service models to feed students who are receiving in-person, virtual, or hybrid learning. [Register here](#).

## **Save the Date for the N.C. School Nutrition Conference and Summer Summit**

Plan to participate in the virtual N.C. School Nutrition Conference and Summer Summit on April 27-28 TBA and April 29 9:00 am-4:30 pm. More details are forthcoming.

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### **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](#).

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## Questions

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

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