

# School Nutrition Update

May 3, 2021



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***COVID-19 SFA Webinar Postponed/New ESSER Funds Webinar Set for 5/5, 11 am***

The COVID-19 Webinar for School Food Authorities (SFAs) scheduled for 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 5 is postponed. A new webinar to discuss ESSER II funds has been scheduled for 11:00 am on May 5. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Division has been notified of a meeting with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to discuss the newly-issued waivers. The meeting will provide additional waiver guidance to State Agencies before they adopt implementation strategies and guidance for SFAs. Unfortunately, the USDA meeting was scheduled for this Wednesday, May 5, at 2:00 pm, which conflicts with the regularly scheduled SFA COVID-19 Wednesday Webinar. Since we will not have all USDA guidance pertaining to the waivers, we are not prepared to discuss the waivers this week. Instead, we are going to schedule an alternate webinar at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 5 for the purpose of reviewing guidance pertaining to the use of ESSER II funds in School Nutrition Programs. Many SFAs have raised questions about the allowable use and accountability for these funds as part of the district's summer enrichment program. The School Nutrition Division has been in discussions with NCDPI's ESSER experts (authoritative sources) and can begin to provide preliminary guidance about how these funds may be used during the summer, how they must be documented and accounted for, how they should be addressed in the local ESSER application, and other important details. We will provide a web link to the ESSER II funds discussion on Tuesday. If this topic is of interest to you, please plan to join us at 11:00 am on Wednesday, May 5.

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### ***Follow Up from N.C. School Nutrition Conference and Summer Summit***

Thanks to all our participants, presenters, facilitators, volunteers, and N.C. Virtual Schools for helping to make our first ever virtual N.C. Summer Nutrition Conference and Summer Summit a success. We hope that everyone was able to take away some new strategies and resources to help aim for the stars and navigate the future of summer meals. Conference handouts and resources were provided via an [online folder](#). A notification will be sent out when the session recordings are available. Please complete the [conference evaluation](#) form by May 7, 2021 to provide feedback on each session attended. Your voice is vital to continuous improvement.



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### ***Please Remember to Prepare for P-EBT Data Collection***

Please be prepared to provide a file to the Testing Coordinator on the first business day of each month for the remainder of SY 2020-21. As with all reporting requirements, if the first falls on the weekend, the file will be due on the following Monday. The data collections are set for:

- Monday, May 3, 2021
- Tuesday, June 1, 2021
- Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Please note that if there have been no changes to students (through processing of a household application or direct certification) the June 30, 2021 will not be needed.

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## **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.

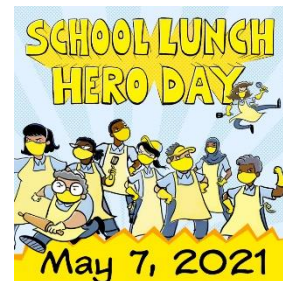
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## **School Nutrition Spotlight**

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### **Recognize Our School Nutrition Heroes!**

May 7 is School Lunch Hero Day. Plan to recognize your local School Nutrition heroes for the amazing work they do nourishing children's bodies, minds, and souls every day. Free [recognition resources](#) are available from the School Nutrition Association. Take a moment to learn more about the inspiration behind the day - watch the [video](#) from artist and author, Jarrett Krosoczka, and view his [Ted Talk](#). Jarrett will also be hosting a [live webinar](#) at 1 p.m. ET May 7, and students can join in the fun!



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### **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).

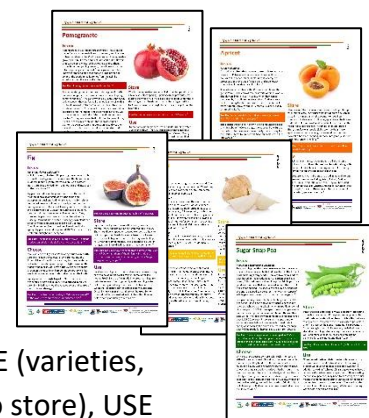
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## **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

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### **Check Out the New Fruit and Vegetable Fact Sheets**

Did you ever want to learn more about apricots, figs, jicama, pomegranates, or sugar snap peas? Well, five new fruit and vegetables fact sheets are now available, one for each of these tasty produce items, to help you and your students learn more. Thirty-five fact sheets in all are available on produce grown in North Carolina and served in School Nutrition Programs. The fact sheets feature a full color photo of each fruit or vegetable and provide information divided into the following sections: GROW (type, origin and growing tips), CHOOSE (varieties, availability and strategies for selection), STORE (information on where and how to store), USE (how to wash and prepare), EAT (nutritional benefits), TEACH (facts, trivia and educational activities), and FIND (resources and links). Check out these [free resources](#) from NCDPI, School Nutrition.



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### **Strive to Thrive for Spring!**

Join the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Strive to Thrive!  
Participate in some friendly competition with your peers and join in



the fun activities. Spring is here, and it is the perfect time to refresh and get active outdoors. Let the sun shine on you as you ease your way back into fitness after the winter and increase the SPRING in your STEPS.

Staying active has proven beneficial for both physical and mental health, so join us in healthy activities for your body, mind, and spirit - let's get moving together and thrive! SNA Strive to Thrive starts on Thursday, April 15, at 12:01 am ET and ends on Wednesday, June 30 at 11:59 pm ET. [Learn more and join in the fun.](#)

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## Continuing Education

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### ***Register for the SNA Back to School Summit – 5/4 and 6, 2-5 pm ET***

Join the School Nutrition Association for the Rebuilding Together: Back to School Virtual Summit on May 4 and 6, 2-5 pm ET. Hear from State Agencies, industry representatives and School Nutrition leaders from across the country. Strategize and network with colleagues as we prepare for the upcoming school year.

[Learn more and register.](#)



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### ***Learn More about Community Eligibility: Tips and Best Practices for Making it Work at Lower ISPs – 5/6, 3 pm ET***

Join the Food Research & Action Center on May 6 at 3 pm ET for a webinar on Community Eligibility: Tips and Best Practices for Making it Work at Lower ISPs. This year has highlighted the value of offering school meals at no charge to all students. Community Eligibility provides an excellent opportunity for high poverty schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students beyond the 2021-22 school year. The community eligibility reimbursement formula determines what percent of meals are reimbursed at the free and paid rates. Thousands of schools across the country have experienced the benefits of community eligibility by participating with ISPs below 60 percent. [Join this webinar](#) to learn about the strategies and resources available for making community eligibility work at schools with low ISPs.

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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](#).

#### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter 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) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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