

School Nutrition Update

June 1, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Take Action - Cartwheel Meal Counter Items

- If you were not able to join the recent Cartwheel training, you can watch the recording with the link and password below:
 - <https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/lsr.php?RCID=1da62ed7837a41918a60e0457110d715>
 - Recording Password: bMJgUip6
- To provide detailed reporting to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding our TIG grant, we would like for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors that have used Cartwheel to provide feedback of how Cartwheel has impacted your meal counting and claiming. Please use the following survey link to respond to 10 quick questions: <https://forms.office.com/r/zRSq74HTfm>
- Reminder: SFSP sites are to start using Cartwheel for meal counting by July 1, 2021.
- Contact Jessica Barkiewicz, jessica.barkiewicz@dpi.nc.gov, with questions.

Complete the Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment

Please remember to work with your Local Education Agency (LEA) Local Wellness Policy (LWP) official to ensure the triennial assessment of the LWP is completed by June 30, 2021. USDA has not issued additional waivers for this requirement at this time. Per requirements, LEAs must conduct an assessment of the wellness policy every 3 years, at a minimum. This assessment will determine compliance with the wellness policy, how the wellness policy compares to model wellness policies, and progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy. The results of the assessment must be made available to the public and available for review during future Administrative Reviews.

If your School Food Authority (SFA) has been in operation for less than three years, please contact your [Nutrition Specialist](#) for further guidance. See the [Local Wellness Policy Final Rule Summary](#) and [SP24-2017: Local School Wellness Policy: Guidance and Q&A's](#) for a refresher on the triennial assessment requirements.

Review CDC Guidance for School Nutrition Professionals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released updated guidance for School Nutrition professionals on best practices for COVID-19 mitigation and school reopening. School administrators and operators of School Nutrition Programs can use this information to reduce the risk COVID-19 among employees and volunteers preparing and serving meals and the students, families, and other school staff who support or participate in school meals programs. [Learn more.](#)

Don't Forget the Annual Agreement Renewal for the 2021-22 School Year

The written Annual Agreement Renewal for the 2021-22 school year is available. For your convenience, the Application Process Flow Chart, Annual Agreements and Free and Reduced Priced Meal Application packet are available on the School Nutrition [website](#). If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your [Zone Team](#).

Agreement Renewal Deadlines

- **June 11, 2021**
 - Update Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Site Applications for June 2021, July 2021, and August 2021 through the last day of summer before school starts.
 - Complete the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Application Process for 2020-21 (July, August and September 2021 starting with the first day of school for SY 21-22).
- **June 30, 2021** is the deadline for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Annual Agreement Renewal (Online Renewal Application, and Written Agreement) and all hard copy documents must be received in the state agency office. Please plan accordingly to ensure your required documents are uploaded and received in the State Agency office by close of business on that day.
- **July 30, 2021** - Complete the SSO Application Process for 2021-22 for October 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

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

Way to go, WCPSS Child Nutrition Team!

The Child Nutrition Team from the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) received some sweet notes of appreciation in the past week from their school and community members!! Every one of these notes touches each of their hearts, as many of their staff have been working hard on the frontlines since the pandemic began 15 months ago. Way to go!



Submit Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

We aim to include lots of items of interest to our School Nutrition professionals across the state in the School Nutrition Update e-letter. Issues are scheduled to go out at the first of each week. If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event or other news item for the School Nutrition Update e-letter, please send those to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to when the School Nutrition Update will be released the following week.

Share 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

Promote N.C. Summer Meals

Make sure children, families, staff, and communities know how to find summer meals for children in need.

- Share the texting tool. Families can text FOODNC or COMIDA to 877-877 to find nearby meal sites.
- Broadcast the [N.C. Site Finder Map](#) for families and the public to find free nutritious meals for children in North Carolina. The map will be updated at least weekly during the traditional summer operating months (June - August).
- Keep your site applications up to date in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) to ensure accurate data is available in the 877-877 texting tool and N.C. Site Finder Map.
- Utilize [promotional resources from NCDPI, School Nutrition](#) and the [2021 Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit from No Kid Hungry](#).
- Be on the lookout for gas pump toppers and digital billboards around the state promoting summer meals.
- Tag @NCSchoolMeals and @Ray4NCKids on social media so that NCDPI can help with outreach.



Take the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge

Plan to participate in N.C. Farm to Summer Week July 18-24 and the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge. How can you take the challenge? First, [register for the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge](#) and then:

- Serve local foods as part of summer meal and snacks.
- Offer agriculture and nutrition education activities.
- Promote farm to summer activities through social media.
- [Sign up for the 2021 N.C. Crunch](#).



The [N.C. Farm to Summer Toolkit](#) offers ideas and resources to help. The N.C. Crunch offers an opportunity for kids and adults to taste and learn about North Carolina-grown produce on October 20, 2021 or any time during Farm to School Month. When you register for the N.C. Crunch, you will receive access to a free guide with tips and resources to help you celebrate Farm to School and School Nutrition. Tag @Ray4NCKids and @NCSchoolMeals on your #NCFarmtoSummer and #NCCrunch2021 social media posts.

Continuing Education

Check Out iLearn from ICN

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) recently updated their eLearning Portal. It has a fresh new look and name - iLearn. [iLearn](#) provides self-paced, free online learning and offers users the flexibility to complete courses in multiple sessions on desktop, laptop, or mobile devices. ICN has added new features that enhance the eLearning experience, including:

- **Personalized Profiles:** Users can select English or Spanish and their Child Nutrition Program to complete their personalized profile. Courses are now organized to align with USDA's Professional Standard Codes and SNA Key Areas, allowing users to find what is needed to complete their goals! Users will be required to update their profile, language, and area of emphasis in the new iLearn platform when first logging in.

- Online Courses in Spanish: iLearn includes ICN’s first Spanish online course, Nutrición 101 4ta Edicion. Users can also select Español in their profile for a translated online experience.
- iLearn @ ICN Mobile App: School Nutrition Professionals can download the app and iLearn @ ICN on the go! The iLearn mobile app is available in Google Play and in the Apple App Store.
- Coming Soon - Live Webinars! School Nutrition Professionals can register and attend ICN's scheduled live webinars on iLearn and keep all information and certificates in one location.

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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