

# School Nutrition Update

June 7, 2021



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Don't Forget the Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Deadline***

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.

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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.

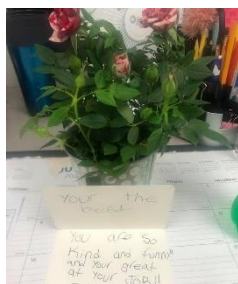
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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### ***Shout Out to the Stokes School Nutrition Team!***

On May 25, 2021, Stokes County School Nutrition had served 1,000,682 meals since the pandemic. The hard work that this team puts forth every single day to serve students is remarkable! Thanks for all you do!



### ***Showing the Love to Pitt School Nutrition!***

Students have been showing the love to Pitt County School Nutrition staff with the end of the school year. Staff have received cards, flowers and more from students to show their appreciation. As an example, Senece Wallace, Ridgewood Elementary School Nutrition Manager, received a sweet note and flowers from a fifth grade graduate. "You are so kind and funny and you're great at your job," said the student. "You're my favorite part of the day."

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### ***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, award announcement, or other news item for the School Nutrition Update e-letter, please send those to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov), by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to when the School Nutrition Update will be released the following week.

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# Nutrition Education & Promotion

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## **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.



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## **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.

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## **Turnip the Beet this Summer**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Turnip the Beet Award* recognizes outstanding summer meal sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. For 2021, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors in good standing that serve meals between May 15 and September 15, 2021 are eligible to apply. Award applications are due to NCDPI by 5 pm September 10. Check out the award overview, scoring rubric and nomination form [here](#).



# TURNIPTHE BEET

with high quality summer meals!

## **Utilize Free USDA Resources**

Did you know that schools can sign up to be Team Nutrition Schools and receive access to free posters and other resources from USDA? MyPlate just turned 10! In honor of MyPlate's Birthday, Team Nutrition Schools can request free decals for their classrooms and cafeterias.

[Learn more](#) about how your schools can become a Team Nutrition Schools and check out the available resources.



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## **Continuing Education**

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### **Register for the Edible Schoolyard Series**

The Edible Schoolyard Project (ESP) is hosting their second Summer Training at Home, June 14-25, 2021. This year's virtual professional development sessions will be open to all, and completely free to attend. The ESP team has planned activities that invite participants to create, cook, taste, and share experiences.

Participants will leave this event series feeling invigorated and prepared to do the work of supporting youth to learn about food in a way that allows them to live and build a healthier and more just future. [View the calendar and register.](#)



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### **Learn about Social Determinants of Health and Child Obesity – 6/17, 12 pm ET**

Join the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) on June 17, 12-1:00 pm ET, for the webinar, "Childhood Obesity Research Across Borders: Social Determinants of Health." Panelists will discuss the role that social determinants of health, specifically in terms of migration and social environment, play in childhood obesity in the United States and Latin America. [Learn more and register.](#)

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### **Learn to Master Difficult Conversations with Your Staff**

[Register](#) for "Facilitating 'LEARN to Master Difficult Conversations' Training with Your Staff" to tour the first module and training guide of this exciting new LEAD to Succeed series from the School Nutrition Foundation.

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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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- (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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