

# School Nutrition Update

June 14, 2021



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Check Out Breaking News – Additional Time for Triennial Assessment***

On June 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued the [Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessments in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs](#) to provide LEAs with additional time to focus on wellness activities. The new deadline to complete a triennial assessment is June 30, 2022. The second triennial assessment would be due by June 30, 2025. This waiver has been added to the USDA Waiver section in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). School Food Authorities (SFAs) can opt into the waiver by going to their application, selecting USDA Waivers list, and selecting "Participating in waiver." They can also opt to select "No waivers have been received" if they will not participate in the waiver. School Nutrition Specialists will review this waiver during upcoming Policy Updates. If you have questions, reach out to your [Zone teams](#).

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### ***Plan for Summer P-EBT***

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) was recently approved to continue the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) through Summer 2021. Summer P-EBT is an extension of school year 2020-21 benefits. Eligibility will be determined based on student or child circumstances as of the last full month of the 2020-21 school year (May 2021). Eligibility for the summer period is not determined based on school attendance or learning mode, therefore students attending summer learning programs will be eligible for the full summer P-EBT amount. Eligible children will receive a one-time payment of \$375 that will cover the entire summer period of June through August 2021. Children who are eligible as of May will receive their benefit in late July. Children that become newly eligible over the summer by applying for and being approved for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) or free or reduced-price school meals will receive their benefit in late September.

The NCDHHS [website](#) offers P-EBT information and resources. Summer P-EBT outreach toolkits will be provided to schools in early to mid-June. Additional summer toolkit materials will be provided prior to the first summer issuance (end of July). Please work with your local Public Information Officers (PIOs)/Communications Teams to coordinate outreach to families.

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### ***Ensure Certified Food Protection Managers are On-site***

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) issued a memo notifying local health departments and food service establishments that starting July 1, 2021 points will be deducted if there is not a Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) on-site with a current certificate during an inspection. Due to

COVID-19, it was difficult for Certified Food Protection Managers to main a current certificate over the past year. Given this, food safety inspectors in North Carolina paused deducting points for not having a current certificate to allow time for renewal. This memo rescinds the flexibility provided during COVID-19.

The North Carolina Food Code requires FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS to have a PERSON IN CHARGE (PIC) who is a CFPM on site at all times the establishment is in operation. To verify the PIC has an approved CFPM certification, as specified in Paragraphs 2-102.12(A) and Section 2-102.20 of the N.C. Food Code Manual, the PIC must have successfully passed an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited CFPM examination.

Several organizations offer ANSI accredited exams which will provide the certification required by the Food Code. It is important to remember it is successful passing of the EXAM, not participation in a COURSE which provides the certification. Below is a listing of currently approved exams and some of these organizations offer online proctoring and/or online course instruction. It is not a requirement to participate in a course to take an exam although doing so may increase successful exam scores.

- [360training.com, Inc. \(Learn2Serve® Food Protection Manager Certification Program\)](#)
- [AboveTraining/StateFoodSafety.com \(Certified Food Protection Manager, CFPM, Exam\)](#)
- [National Registry of Food Safety Professionals \(Food Protection Manager Certification Program; International Certified Food Safety Manager\)](#)
- [National Restaurant Association \(ServSafe® Food Protection Manager Certification Program\)](#)
- [Prometrics, Inc. \(Food Protection Manager Certification Program\)](#)
- [The Always Food Safe Company, LLC \(Food Protection Manager Certification\)](#)

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### ***Update Contact Information***

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition Division is in the process of updating the [directories for School Food Authorities](#). Please ensure that your local contact information is correct in the School Nutrition Technology System.

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### ***Using ESSER Funds, Summer School, and School Nutrition Expenses***

Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II, and III funds can be used for atypical School Nutrition related expenses that are a result of COVID-19. With the additional School Nutrition expenses associated with summer school due to COVID-19, there may also be eligible excess typical expenses if the federal reimbursement for meals served doesn't cover the total cost. Things to remember when using these funds for School Nutrition expenses:

1. If your organization is considering using ESSER funds for School Nutrition related purposes, please ensure your application has indicated this type of usage.
2. A federal reimbursement for meals will be provided for summer school related meal services and must be used first to pay for the typical expenditures associated with these meals. School Nutrition federal reimbursement typical expenses include salaries, benefits, supplies, materials, and food expenses associated with the preparation of meals.

3. ESSER funds should not be used towards typical expenses that are covered through the federal reimbursement for meals served unless the reimbursement is insufficient to cover the costs incurred by the program. In the event there are excess expenses and to avoid the risk of duplicate payments, the organization should determine the amount of typical expenses that may be covered through these funds on a monthly basis. To determine if there are excess costs the organization must:
  - Identify Federal Meal Reimbursement Revenue Remaining from the prior month reconciliation
    - Add: Actual Federal Meal Reimbursement Revenue (received in current month for the prior month)
    - Subtract: Current Actual Meal Expenditures
    - Equals: Excess Costs or Additional Meal Reimbursement Revenue (excess cost may be reclassified to ESSER)
4. Atypical school nutrition related expenses that are not allowable or typically reimbursed under the meal reimbursement revenue, can be directly charged to ESSER, if approved in the plan and funds are available.

The NCDPI, School Nutrition Division can provide additional guidance related to the monthly reconciliation if needed. Federal Programs should be contacted for ESSER related questions.

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### ***Use Eligible Student Summary Report (ESSR) Data for the 2021-22 School Year***

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Eligible School Summary Report (ESSR) will be based on poverty data from the 2019-20 school year. A best of Economically Disadvantaged Student (EDS) data file has been provided from NCDPI Accountability to Testing Coordinators in public school units (PSUs) to use as a resource and possible data set. The highest EDS rates for the 2020 school year were compiled by comparing rates from three EDS collections and pulling the higher of the rates throughout the year. The EDS data file is reported by school(s) and provided directly to each PSU.

The file is located on the Accountability Secure Shell in the root of the 2020 folder and is PSU specific. The file name is Title1\_EDS\_Rates\_\*\*\*.xlsx. The Testing Coordinator should download this file and securely provide it to Title 1 personnel. This data is provided as an aid in completing the upcoming ESSR.

The 2019-20 poverty data must be used in conjunction with 2020-21 Average Daily Membership (AMD) to complete the ESSER in PowerSchool. If you should have any questions, please contact Alex Charles ([alex.charles@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alex.charles@dpi.nc.gov)).

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### ***Employ Redesigned HACCP – Commercial Kitchen Resources***

The [Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point \(HACCP\) Plan for Commercial Kitchens](#) has been redesigned with the following goals to assist our North Carolina School Nutrition Teams:

- Promote ease of completion by managers and staff,
- Decrease time spent managing the plan,
- Minimize findings and corrective action during Technical Assistance and Administrative Reviews,
- Continue to meet Federal and State requirements, and
- Manage printing requirements.

What changes were made?

- Overall - Resources and instructions were separated from forms to manage print requirements. The Food Code references were updated as needed, highlighted in yellow.
- Part 1 – Forms were removed. Instead of printing all the forms, some records may be maintained electronically.
- Part 2 – Forms were added.
  - 2A-Annual Revision - Reviewed and revised if needed annually.
  - 2B-Annual Completion - Completed annually.
- Part 3 - Monitoring Logs were organized by month instead of piece of equipment.
- Part 4 - All employee related forms and continuing education are now included.
- Part 5 - Minimal clarifications were made.

NCDPI School Nutrition Specialists will review the redesign during upcoming Zone Policy Updates. Updates to the Transport, Homestyle, and Warehouse HACCP Plans are scheduled for SY 2022-23 pending success/feedback of the commercial plan redesign. For any questions, please reach out to your [Zone Nutrition Specialist](#).

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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

### ***Watch Henderson County Public Schools News Story***

Henderson County Public Schools is excited to roll out a second school bus this summer with the “Meals on the Bus” graphics to reach children in need with free, nutritious summer meals. Watch the [WLOS ABC 13 News story](#) on their N.C. Summer Nutrition Program.



### ***Shout Out to Asheville City Schools Summer Nutrition Program***

[WLOS ABC 13 News](#) recently featured the Asheville City Schools Summer Nutrition Program. Details about locations, meal pick-up times and eligibility for the free summer meals were shared with the community.

### ***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](#).



# TURNIP THE 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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### **Learn More - 2021 SNA-NC Annual Conference**

The School Nutrition Association of North Carolina is hosting their Annual Conference June 22-24, 2021 at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel and Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center. For more info, visit the [SNA-NC website](#).



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### **Participate in the National Farm to School Community Gathering – 6/23**

The National Farm to School Network is hosting a virtual Community Gathering on June 23 to dig into how farm to school and farm to early care and education can be part of the work to shift power and cultivate racial justice in our food system. Participate in one or more of the sessions. [Learn more and register](#).

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### **Register for the Racial Equity in Farm to School 2021 Workshop Series**

The Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina is hosting a Racial Equity in Farm to School 2021 training series. This free 5 session, 2-hour virtual workshop series will be led by Ronda Bullock and her team from We Are (www.weare-nc.org). Registration is required for each workshop. Sessions will be 3-5:00 pm on the last Tuesday of every month June-October. Join with others from your own school or community. These sessions will follow the outline of last year's series but an optional, informal, hour-long discussion space around implementation has been added the week after each of the first four trainings, where we can share what actually doing this work looks like in our day to day efforts. [Click here](#) for all registration links and details.

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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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