

School Nutrition Update

June 21, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Review the USDA Q & A on Child Nutrition Program Operations

On June 11, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued the [Policy Memo SP 15-2021 \(CACFP 13-2021, SFSP 08-2021\) Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-22](#). Please review this policy memo for key information for your program operation.

Opt In or Out of the Triennial Assessment Waiver

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](#).

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 \(Food Protection Manager Certification\)](#)

Make Sure You Receive the Latest News - 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. The directory is used to disseminate the School Nutrition Update and other timely information and resources you need for your School Nutrition Programs.

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

Watch SNA President Reggie Ross Advocating for School Meals

Reggie Ross, SNS, School Nutrition Association (SNA) President, joined the Office of Governor Ned Lamont, anti-hunger advocates, and educators at Meriden Public Schools, in Connecticut, to highlight the importance of summer meal programs and to advocate for universal school meals. The event was hosted by Hunger Free America and Meriden Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services Director Susan Maffe, MS, RD, SNS, who also serves on SNA's Public Policy and Legislation Committee. Watch President Ross speak on [Facebook](#). We are fortunate to have Reggie as President for SNA and as a School Nutrition Operations and Management Zone Consultant with NCDPI. Thank you to all our School Nutrition leaders and advocates in North Carolina and across the nation.



Shout Out to North Carolina SNDs in the National Spotlight

Three of our North Carolina School Nutrition Directors (SNDs) are in the national spotlight. They are presenting at the upcoming School Nutrition Association Annual Conference. In their #ANC21 education session, Kristen Bealler, School Nutrition Association of North Carolina President and SND for Hickory Public Schools, Alison Francis, SND of Haywood County Schools, and Lynn Essick, School Nutrition Supervisor of Davidson County Schools, will share key learnings from their transition to the Central Office and tips on how to market yourself to make the next leap in your career. [Learn more and register to attend ANC 2021.](#)



Congratulations to Pitt County School Nutrition

Pitt County School Nutrition Services was recently awarded a \$5,000 Kellogg's Rice Krispies "Be a Treat Star" Grant. Congratulations!

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, by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to when the School Nutrition Update will be released the following week.

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.



Watch and Share Cooking Matters at Home Classes

Cooking Matters at Home classes from the Carolina Hunger Initiative are returning for a summer series on Wednesdays at 7 pm. It's free, it's online, and it's lots of fun! There's also a special session Tuesday, June 22, on children forming healthy relationships with food. [Learn more and sign up.](#)

Continuing Education

Learn about Smoothie & Parfait Programs to Drive Participation – 6/23, 3 pm ET

Summer is busy but it is also one of the best opportunities to explore new ideas! Join the School Nutrition Association during National Dairy Month and learn about dairy's journey from farm to school, the nutritional benefits of dairy in children's diets, and most importantly how to add or update your district's smoothie and parfait programs. Multiple recipes, batch cooking techniques, marketing tools, and more will be shared! [Learn more and register.](#)

Check Out the New ICN Spanish Nutrición 101 Course

Check out the new Spanish Course - Nutrición 101 4th Edition from the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN)! School Nutrition staff and managers must understand basic nutrition. Upon completion of this course, participants will have a foundation in nutrition, up-to-date dietary guidelines, the importance of physical activity for health, and an awareness of personal taste preferences and healthy food options. [Learn more.](#)

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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