

School Nutrition Update

June 28, 2021



In this Issue:

Program Operations Information

- Renew NSLP Annual Agreement
- Participate in Farm to Summer/Turnip the Beet Webinar – June 29, 2 pm ET
- Ensure Certified Food Protection Managers are On-site
- Make Sure You Receive the Latest News - Update Contact Information
- Submit Questions to be Answered During the Wednesday Webinars

School Nutrition Spotlight

- Honk if You See the New Wayne County School Nutrition Vehicle!
- Submit Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

Nutrition Education & Promotion

- Take the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge
- Utilize Free Resources to Promote N.C. Summer Meals

Continuing Education

- Take a Fresh Look at Community Eligibility for SY 2021-22 – 6/29, 3 pm ET
- Learn about SY 2021-22 Program Options & Operations – 6/30, 3 pm ET
- Explore Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens – 7/1, 3 pm ET
- Access Virtual Training Resources

Program Operations Information

Renew NSLP Annual Agreement

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.

Participate in Farm to Summer/Turnip the Beet Webinar – June 29, 2 pm ET

Join the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Division for a webinar on June 29 at 2 pm to learn strategies and resources to participate in the N.C. Farm to Summer initiative for 2021 and apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Turnip the Beet Awards for Summer Nutrition Programs. [Register now.](#)

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

Honk if You See the New Wayne County School Nutrition Vehicle!

Wayne County School Nutrition recently received a grant from No Kid Hungry that helped them purchase a new vehicle. The NKH School Nutrition Grants focused on helping districts and schools continue to ensure children and families have access to healthy meals at school and at home during the school year and/or summer months. The WCPS School Nutrition team is so excited to have the new vehicle to transport meals to reach more children in need.



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

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.

Utilize Free Resources to 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.



Continuing Education

Take a Fresh Look at Community Eligibility for SY 2021-22 – 6/29, 3 pm ET

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a key tool that allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch at no charge. The past year has shown the importance of serving free meals to all students to combat childhood food insecurity. Given rising levels of need because of pandemic-related economic hardship, more schools than ever are finding Community Eligibility to be a financially viable option for their school nutrition operations. Although USDA has extended the summer waivers through the end of the 2021-22 School Year, adopting Community Eligibility now will allow schools to lock in higher Identified Student Percentages and to continue providing meals free of charge to all students beyond the pandemic. As June 30 approaches and state agencies notify schools and districts of their eligibility to participate, this Food Research Action Center (FRAC) webinar on June 29 at 3 pm will provide helpful tools and tips for schools and districts considering adopting Community Eligibility for the 2021-2022 school year. [Learn more and register.](#)

Learn about SY 2021-22 Program Options & Operations – 6/30, 3 pm ET

Join No Kid Hungry June 30 at 3 pm to learn about the USDA waivers, Q&A guidance, and program options available for the 2021-22 School Year. You'll also hear from two districts as they develop their plans for serving students this coming school year. [Learn more.](#)

Explore Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens – 7/1, 3 pm ET

[Register now](#) for the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar: Menu Strategies for Special Diets and Allergens, July 1, 3 pm. Explore tips and strategies to help you move from menu challenges to customer service opportunities!

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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