

School Nutrition Update

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Program Operations Information

CARES Act Funds Update

Additional guidance regarding CARES Act Funds (PRC 125) will be provided soon, including a decision tree to identify appropriate expenditures for the funds. For any atypical expenses, School Nutrition Programs must demonstrate that these funds are vital to operation of the program and the funds will be used exclusively for School Nutrition expenses.

Opening Public Schools Guidance Updated July 24th

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) has updated the #StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit and FAQs as of July 24th regarding opening plans, face coverings, social distancing with transportation, use of water fountains and timeline and procedures for returning to school. Please review the updated toolkit, utilize this [guidance](#) in planning and share the guidance with staff. For questions, communicate with your school district administration and your local health department.



Q & A on School Opening from NCDPI, School Nutrition

The Q & A from NCDPI, School Nutrition COVID-19 Response Office Hours and Webinars have been updated and are in the Downloads section of the School Nutrition Technology Systems (SNTS). If you have additional questions not addressed in the Q & A, please reach out to your regional consultants.

Transportation of Meals under Plans B or C upon Opening of Schools

In order to utilize yellow buses and transportation funds to operate yellow buses to transport meals when schools open for the 2020-21 school year, three conditions are required:

- Continuation of the Governor's Emergency Declaration that activates the General Statute 115C-242(6) for emergency use of yellow school buses (NOTE: Executive Order 116 declared the State of Emergency and authorizes the use of yellow school buses for emergency purposes until it is rescinded by the Governor.),
- Approval of each local Board of Education for emergency use, and
- Approval of Transportation funds (PRC-056) for emergency use. (Note: This item is still pending; a request has been made to the Office of the Governor to extend the budget flexibility for the use of transportation funds (PRC-056) to deliver meals to students as school reopens in August. We will inform you as soon as we receive a response.)

If you have questions regarding the use of yellow buses or transportation funds, please reach out to your Zone teams.

P-EBT Update

Thanks to collaborative efforts of state and local agencies over 643,000 households have received P-EBT benefits, reaching over 930,000 children in need in North Carolina. Over 330 million dollars in benefits were distributed and 279 million have been spent to date.

SY 20-21 Federal School Meals' Reimbursement Rates

On July 22, USDA issued reimbursement rates for the 2020-21 school year for the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Special Milk Program and the Afterschool Snack Program. The chart of reimbursement rates is posted on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).

HACCP Plan Updates

The Commercial and Homestyle Kitchens, Transported Meals and Warehouse HACCP Plans and monitoring logs are updated and posted in the HACCP/Food Safety section of the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#).

Steps to Take if a Break in Meal Service May Occur

If your Summer Nutrition Program meal service may take a break or cease, immediately email Dr. Lynn Harvey, Lynn.Harvey@dpi.nc.gov. NCDPI must notify the N.C. Emergency Operations Center of any break or discontinuation of meal service. In addition, per protocol, reach out to your local Emergency Management. Together brainstorm and reach out to community partners to identify strategies to continue meal service. Also, work with vendors to explore alternative menu items/quantities for meal service.

Submit Your Data Daily

Please submit your daily counts for sites and meals by 3 pm via the [Non-Congregate Meal Service - Data Collection survey](#). The link to the survey is also available on the home page of the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#). If you encounter issues with submitting this data by the deadline, please contact Janet Johnson, janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov.

Summer Nutrition

Technical Assistance Time Outs

NCDPI, School Nutrition will be offering a series of Technical Assistance Time Outs. These short, recorded webinars will provide clarification, reminders, and best practices to help your Summer Food Service Program operate safely, effectively, and in compliance. The second in the series focuses on meal counting and using the Cartwheel Meal Counter. Links to all the Technical Assistance Time Outs will be emailed and posted to the Downloads section of the School Nutrition Technology System.

Farm to School/Summer

N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge

If you have been serving locally sourced foods with meals and snacks, offering farm to school education and posting about your activities on social media, please sign up for the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge so that we can celebrate your efforts. It's not too late to participate. The N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge runs through August 14. [Register](#) and complete all four tasks (Serve, Teach, Post and [Sign up for the #NCCrunch2020](#)). Challengers who complete all four tasks will be recognized at the 2020 SummerPaloozas! For more information on Farm to Summer and resources, check out the [N.C. Farm to Summer Toolkit](#). Please contact McCamy Holloway at mccamy.holloway@dpi.nc.gov with any questions or comments.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Dining Guide for Meals in the Classroom

As schools reopen following COVID-19 closures, districts will utilize different scenarios for feeding students. The School Nutrition Association recently released the [Dining Guide for Meals in the Classroom](#), a suite of customizable resources designed to help School Nutrition professionals easily communicate district procedures for serving meals in the classroom (MIC) to key stakeholders within their school community. MIC could refer to breakfast, lunch, supper and/or snacks.



Connect and Promote through Social Media

We would love to highlight your efforts to provide nutritious meals and nutrition education to children. Remember to tag and follow us on social media (#NCSummerMeals, @Ray4NCKids, and @NCSchoolMeals) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Continuing Education

Training Series – Racial Equity in Farm to School

The Farm to School Coalition of NC and We Are together are hosting a free training series on Racial Equity in Farm to School. The remaining webinars in the series are scheduled for 3-4:30 pm ET on August 11, August 18 and September 1. Find out more and register from the [F2SCNC website](#).

Webinars - Working Together to Serve Diverse Communities

Day One: Meeting the Needs of Individuals, Families, and Communities - August 5 (10-4 pm Central Time)
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice Community Relations Service, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health and Human Services will share information concerning housing, community healing, nutrition and food stability, childcare, child development, family assistance programs, and healthcare for older Americans, people with disabilities, and individuals suffering or at risk of addictive or mental disorders.

Join the Webinar: <https://ftc.webex.com/ftc/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb2a6bfe04740585db3e4630be971b5a9>
Join Audio Conference Only: Call +1-510-210-8882 and Enter Access Code 199 456 2878

Day Two: Addressing Economic and Financial Interests - August 6 (10-4 pm Central Time)
The U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Small Business Administration, Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas will share resources addressing economic and financial interests, including employment, entrepreneurship, fraud prevention, investing, and banking.

Join the Webinar: <https://ftc.webex.com/ftc/onstage/g.php?MTID=e78c611fc7f6ddfc7c34b42a7d4e48b47>
Join the Audio Conference Only: Call +1-510-210-8882 and Enter Access Code: 199 191 9244

Webinars – Produce Safety University

As a supplement to the 2020 Produce Safety University Program, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service Office of Food Safety, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and Chef Cyndie Story, PhD, RDN, CC, of Culinary Solutions, LLC have developed a four-part webinar series for School Nutrition professionals addressing the most popular Produce Safety University topics. Each webinar is an individual learning opportunity with separate registration for each. All webinars begin at 2 pm CST every Tuesday in August.

- [Register](#) for **How to Use AMS Market News Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information in School Meal Programs** - August 4
- [Register](#) for **Writing Produce Specifications** - August 11
- [Register](#) for **Good Agricultural and Good Manufacturing/Handling Practices for Fresh and Fresh Cut Produce** - August 18

- [Register](#) for **The Produce Lab: Quality, Condition, and Safe Handling and Preparation** - August 25

Webinar - Track Training Like a Star with the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

Join USDA and the Institute for Child Nutrition for a webinar on August 12, 2-3 pm ET to learn how to use the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool. [Register here](#).

Available Virtual Training Opportunities from ICN, SNA and NCDPI

The Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) has compiled videos, fact sheets, posters and other [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 (RDs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#). Document all continuing education in which your staff participates.

Grants

A variety of grants are available to assist with COVID-19 response. See below for more info:

- [Action for Healthy Kids – Emergency Meal Distribution Equipment Grants](#)
- [Assistance for Church Food Programming Affected by COVID-19](#) (Please reach out to Michelle Osborne at michelle@rafiusa.org or 919-704-6920 with any questions.)
- [Farm to School COVID-19 Related Funding](#)
- [Grant Station List of COVID-19 Related Funding for Nonprofits](#)
- The Dairy Alliance Mini-Grants - Interested School Nutrition directors should contact Health and Wellness Program Manager Cami Lewis at clewis@thedairyalliance.org or 678-822-2868.

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](#). Contact information for the Summer Nutrition Program Regional Consultants 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.

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