

School Nutrition Update

September 18, 2020



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Program Operations Information

USDA Extends Free Meals for Kids through December 31, 2020

On August 31st, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced that it is extending a suite of nationwide waivers for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) through the end of 2020, or until available funding runs out. This includes:

- Allowing SFSP and SSO meals to be served in all areas and at no cost,
- Permitting meals to be served outside of the typically required group settings and meal times,
- Waiving meal pattern requirements as necessary, and
- Allowing parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children.

View the USDA waiver extension [press release](#). The waiver memos are available from the USDA [website](#). USDA also issued a [Questions and Answers resource, SP 25-2020](#), relating to extending SFSP and SSO.

Meal Counts are Due Daily

North Carolina is still in a state of emergency related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As such, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction must report daily meal counts to the N.C. Emergency Operations Center. Please use the [new link](#) to the updated survey to submit meal count data daily by 6 pm. If you have questions or issues submitting the data, please reach out to [Janet Johnson](#).

You asked... We listened!! Introducing the N.C. Online Meal Ordering System!

NCDPI, School Nutrition Services continues to collaborate with Chef Cyndie and the N.C. K-12 Culinary Team to provide resources to assist you in nourishing students' minds, bodies and souls. COVID-19 may have changed the landscape of School Nutrition, but it has not changed the mission to provide safe, wholesome, appealing meals to students.

NCDPI applauds School Nutrition Program efforts to develop online meal ordering systems. Thank you and congratulations to the many SFAs across the state experiencing success!



If you have not yet set up online ordering for school meals but are short on time, resources, or software to make the dream a reality, the N.C. Online Meal Ordering System may be of assistance. The N.C. Online Ordering System Template is a free and easy tool created by Chef Cyndie and the N.C. K-12 Culinary Team using Google Forms which allows School Nutrition Programs to set up your own online meal ordering system. Use the [video tutorial](#) and [instructions](#) to learn the steps for customizing the tool and using it to manage online meal orders. The instructions include a link to the customizable online ordering tool.

Financial Management Reminders

The following are important financial management reminders for your School Nutrition Programs:

- The 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarter FC 1A Financial Reports should be submitted at this time for Traditional Public Schools.
- Charter Schools, RCCIs and Non-public Schools should have the mid-year financial forms submitted to [Janet Johnson](#) and copy your Zone Operations and Management Consultant as soon as possible. The forms can be accessed from the [Financial Management page](#) on the NCDPI, School Nutrition website. If you have trouble accessing the form, please contact your Zone Operations and Management Consultant.
- The Annual FC 1A Financial Report (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) is due on or before October 1, 2020 for all School Food Authorities (SFAs).
- The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is part of the National School Lunch Program. These funds are coded to 5-3811-035-000. When a sponsor participates in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), these funds are coded to the USDA Grants-Summer Feeding Program 5-3814-035-000.

For questions, contact your Zone Operations and Management Consultant. Find contact info [here](#).

Complete Food Safety Inspection Reports

The Food Safety Inspection Report is an annual requirement that must be completed by all School Food Authorities except Special Milk Program sponsors. If you did not complete the report during the 2020-21 Annual Agreement renewal process, please complete the report by September 30, 2020. The following steps should be taken by an individual with Application User access:

- Log in to the SN Technology System for the 2020-21 SY.
- Select Application Tab.
- Select Food Safety Inspections.
- Select Modify for SY 2019-2020.
- Provide the number of Inspections completed at each site (provide detailed explanation for any site with fewer than 2).
- Select Save.

If you have any questions, contact your Zone Consultant or Jacquelyn McGowan, Compliance Specialist.

2020-21 Application Guides Now Available

Application guides are now available for returning SFSP SFA sponsors, new SFSP SFA sponsors, and SSO sponsors. These guides can be found in the Download Forms of School Nutrition Technology System. These guides have been made with instructions and clarifications specific to starting or updating the 2020-21 application for operations October-December 2020. Please refer closely to the appropriate guide as your work on your application. The deadline for the initial submission of your 2020-21 SFSP application or update of your SSO application is noon on September 21, and the application packet must be completely approved by October 1. You will be able to update your application as needed throughout the fall, but all changes must be approved before they are implemented. Please reach out to your consultant with any questions as you begin your application.

Road Map for Developing Accountability and Integrity Procedures

School Food Authorities and Community Organization Sponsors should have procedures in place to ensure accountability and program integrity for School and Summer Nutrition Programs. As you review, develop and/or revisit procedures, please consult the *Road Map for Developing Accountability and Integrity Procedures in School Nutrition Programs* emailed to School Nutrition administrators on September 14. Submission instructions will be forth coming.

Temporary Flexibility for Transportation Allocation

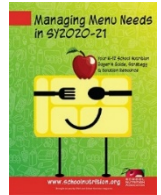
The 2020 NC General Assembly short session ended, Sine Die, with ratification of the HB 1105 Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0, by both the House and Senate, which Governor Cooper consequently signed into law. HB 1105 includes a temporary flexibility for transportation allocation which allows local education agencies (LEAs) to use funds provided from the transportation allotment (PRC056) for school nutrition, childcare, sanitizing schools and buses, in-person instruction, and remote instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. For complete details on HB 1105 Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0, please visit the NC General Assembly [website](#).

Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit - Updated September 17th

The [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit](#) and accompanying [FAQs](#) were updated September 17th. Please review and implement the updated version of this interim guidance as appropriate.

New Resource – Managing Menu Needs

Managing Menu Needs is a comprehensive new tool from the School Nutrition Association to help School Nutrition directors, chefs, supervisors and site managers facing the challenges of serving school meals to students whether they are learning at home or in school buildings--complete with a buyer's guide and DIY survival guide! [Check it out](#).



Nutrition Education & Promotion

New Promotional Resource – Safe, Nutritious School Meals

Check out the new [flyer](#) created by the School Nutrition Association to help promote school meals to families. *Safe, Nutritious School Meals—Something You Can Count on for SY 2020-21* includes details and links to help reassure parents and the community that school meals continue to be a safe, nutritious choice to fuel student success.



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 (@Ray4NCKids and @NCSchoolMeals).

Continuing Education

Virtual Conference – Dig In!

Join the Poe Center on September 26, 8:30 am-1 pm ET for the Dig In! conference, an educational event focused on school, community, and childcare gardening, as well as urban agriculture. [Learn more.](#)

Virtual Training Opportunities from ICN, SNA and NCDPI

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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