

# School Nutrition Update

November 10, 2020



## *In this Issue:*

### **Program Operations Information**

- Utilize the 2020-21 SY Agreements Regarding Disclosure of Student's Eligibility Status for Free and Reduced-Price Meals
- Prepare for Next Collection of School Nutrition Data – Due 12/1
- Search the USDA COVID-19 Waiver Recap Tool
- Submit Meal Counts Daily

### **Summer Nutrition**

- Need Assistance with Cartwheel?

### **School Nutrition Spotlight**

- SNA President Reggie Ross Interviewed by EdNC
- Jr. Chef Competition Highlighted in National Techniques Magazine
- Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight

### **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

- Connect and Promote through Social Media

### **Grants**

- Apply for the No Kid Hungry Education Leaders Grant – Due 11/20
- Check out the 2021 Youth Garden Grant – Due 12/18

- Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grants – Due 1/31

### Continuing Education

- Sign Up for ICN Virtual and Instructor-Led Trainings
- Access Virtual Training Resources

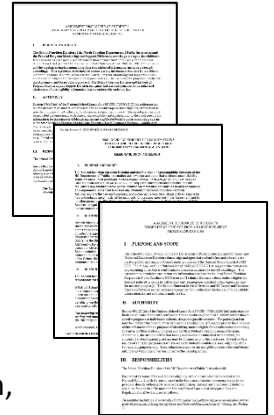
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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Utilize the 2020-21 SY Agreements Regarding Disclosure of Student's Eligibility Status for Free and Reduced-Price Meals***

Children's free and reduced-price meal eligibility information obtained under provisions of the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1751 et. seq.) or Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 USC 1771 et. seq.) and the regulations implementing those Acts is confidential information and must be treated accordingly. Section 9(b)(C)(iii) of the National School Lunch Act (42 USC 1758(b)(2)(C)(iii)) authorizes the limited disclosure of student's confidential free and reduced-price meal eligibility information to specific programs. Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) between the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition and District Operations Division and the Accountability Services Division, Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division and the Career and Technical Education Division for school year 2020-21 are now available. The three MOAs will be posted to the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#). Reach out to your Zone team if you have questions regarding any of the MOAs.



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### ***Prepare for Next Collection of School Nutrition Data – Due 12/1***

The next Collection of School Nutrition Data will take place on December 1 at which time School Nutrition Directors will be required to submit a data file to their Accountability Coordinators. The file will be used at the State level for many purposes including the:

- (Possible) issuance of P-EBT if it will be available to families this year,
- Allotment of funds for certain programs and public school units (PSUs),
- Approval for students (who qualify) to waive the cost of ACT and other tests, and
- Use by the agency for academic performance measures.

Please consider working with your PSU's Public Information Officers to promote the household application in your community, so we may hear from as many households who need these benefits as possible.

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### ***Search the USDA COVID-19 Waiver Recap Tool***

The Recap of COVID-19 Waivers from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service is now available in both a Word and Excel format. The new Excel format will help to facilitate



sorting and searching by type of waiver, regulations, dates, etc. Both formats will be posted to the SNTS and NCDPI, School Nutrition website.

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### **Submit Meal Counts Daily**

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

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## Summer Nutrition

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### **Need Assistance with Cartewheel?**

Cartewheel Meal Counter Initialization is now working under the 2020-21 program year for SFSP sponsors. (This function previously wasn't working.) If you are using Cartewheel, sites will need to be re-initialized each time site applications are updated in SNTS. If you have meal counting questions or you are interested in using Cartewheel, please contact Jessica Barkiewicz, [jessica.barkiewicz@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:jessica.barkiewicz@dpi.nc.gov).

**Optional Office Hours** - Jessica will be available to answer any specific Cartewheel questions during the following times. (Cartewheel is optional to use during COVID operations.)

- Thursday, Nov. 19th @ 2-3pm  
Join by [video](#), Meeting number: 171 738 2093, Password: pQEHf7Wbv85  
Join by phone: +1-415-655-0003 US Toll OR +1-904-900-2303 United States Toll (Jacksonville)  
Access code: 171 738 2093

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### **SNA President Reggie Ross Interviewed by EdNC**

Reggie Ross, School Nutrition Association President and NCDPI School Nutrition Consultant, was recently interviewed by EdNC about how he came to love the field of School Nutrition and how our School Nutrition Programs have adapted to continue to provide nutritious, appealing meals even in the midst of COVID-19. [Read the article here.](#)



### **Jr. Chef Competition Highlighted in National Techniques Magazine**

The Southeast Jr. Chef Competition was featured recently in the "Farm to School: A Pathway to Student Engagement" article in *Techniques Magazine*. The Apex High team from Wake County who won first place in both the 2019 North Carolina and Southeast Jr. Chef Competitions was highlighted in the article. Lisa Payne, Buncombe County School Nutrition Director and one of the advisers for the 2018 Erwin High team who won first in the state and third in the regional competition, was quoted along with Tracey Bates from NCDPI, School Nutrition. Congratulations to all our amazing Jr. Chef teams!



Apex High Team at 2019 Southeast Jr. Chef Competition

### ***Submit a School Nutrition Spotlight***

We love lifting up our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes! If you know of a North Carolina School Nutrition professional that has received an award, honor or other recognition, please share for an upcoming School Nutrition Spotlight. Please send details to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov).

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## **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

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### ***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).

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## **Grants**

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### ***Apply for the No Kid Hungry Education Leaders Grant – Due 11/20***

No Kid Hungry is offering a grant to support the efforts of school district administrators, including school boards, superintendents, chief financial officers, school business officials, etc., in working to increase district-wide food access to their student body via collaboration with neighboring school districts, community organizations, non-profit partners, and local government agencies. Grants of up to \$75,000 will be given to facilitate partnerships in supporting efforts to ensure kids in their community have access to the federal meals programs, backpack programs and food pantries. This grant will also support the needs of school districts to run these programs. Deadline to apply is November 20. [Learn more.](#)

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### ***Check out the 2021 Youth Garden Grant – Due 12/18***

The Youth Garden Grant, from Kids Gardening, supports school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities. Any non-profit organization, public or private school, or youth program planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth, ages 3-18, is eligible to apply. Winners are chosen based on demonstrated program impact and sustainability. Five grant packages valued at \$1700 and 25 grant packages valued at \$500 will be awarded. Grant packages include \$250 along with tools, supplies, curricula and resources to comprise the remaining grant value. Deadline to apply is December 18. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### ***Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grants – Due 1/31***

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is teaming up with industry partners to provide new kitchen equipment to deserving districts. Apply for the 2021 SNF Equipment Grant Program, featuring applications for four grants (the Winston Equipment Grant, the Vulcan Equipment Grant, the Hobart Equipment Grant, and the Collection Grant). The application period ends January 31, 2021. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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# Continuing Education

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## ***Sign Up for ICN Virtual and Instructor-Led Trainings***

Register now to attend free, live, interactive training sessions for School Nutrition professionals from the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN). Sessions are coming up in November and December on Food Allergies, Food Safety Basics, Norovirus in Schools, Basic Culinary Math, Nutrition 101, Foundations for Training Excellence and Training for Culturally Diverse Groups. Learn more and register [here](#).

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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 (RDs) 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**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (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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