

# School Nutrition Update

November 16, 2020



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## Program Operations Information

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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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### ***Submit Meal Counts Daily***

North Carolina remains in a state of emergency related to COVID-19. As such, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (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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### ***Utilize the 2020-21 SFSP Application Guide***

The new Application Guide is now available in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) Download Forms. Please use this guide starting November 30 to complete your application packet to ensure you are meeting all the requirements for the program through June 2021. Please note this guide does not need to be uploaded with your application.

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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## **Buncombe County Schools Reaches 2 Millionth Meal Milestone**

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Buncombe County Schools, and schools across the nation, to rethink how to feed its students. This past week Buncombe County Schools hit a major milestone with its meals program, reaching 2 million meals distributed since schools closed March 16. School Nutrition staff have come together to make sure students and even members of the community have something nutritious to eat. Read more [here](#).



## **More than 221,000 Crunched for #NCCrunch2020**

More than 221,000 kids and adults crunched into a North Carolina grown fruit or vegetable for the 2020 N.C. Crunch. Check out photos from this year on social media using #NCCrunch2020, @F2SCoalitionNC and @NCSchoolMeals. Thanks to all of the schools, early care and education sites, groups, organizations, individuals and families who participated. What a great opportunity to taste and learn about North Carolina grown produce and thank our #farmtoschool heroes who grow, transport, prepare, serve and promote locally grown produce!



## **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).

# Nutrition Education & Promotion

## **Promote the 877-877 Texting Tool for Families to Find Free Meals for Kids**

REMINDER! Families can still use the texting tool powered by No Kid Hungry to locate free meals for children ages 18 and under. Families can text "FOODNC" to 877-877 to find three meal sites closest to them. Families can also text COMIDA to 877-877 for information in Spanish. Please share this resource with your families. Graphics in English and Spanish are available on the NCDPI, School Nutrition [website](#) which can be used to promote the texting tool on social media. Please keep your site information up to date in the School Nutrition Technology System to help families obtain accurate information on meal availability.



## **Share Virtual Dairy Farm Tour Opportunity**

Did you know some farms use robots to milk cows? The Dairy Alliance invites your K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students on a LIVE Virtual Farm Tour to see robots and cows in action at Harmony Way Dairy Farm! Dairy farmer Riley Mason will share how they care for their cows, the land, the environment, and communities while producing safe, nutritious dairy products. Mr. Mason will answer students' questions live during the tour. Please share the tour info with your teachers and families. There are two ways to join the tour on November 17, 1-1:45 pm ET.



For teachers who will have students in their classroom the day of the tour:

- Please [click here](#) to register for this tour.
- Instructions will be emailed for watching the tour using Zoom and information to send any students who may be watching from home.
- Registering will also enable reminder emails and future emails when new tours become available.

For parents or students watching the tour from home:

- There is no need to register for this tour.
- Please visit the [LIVE tab](#) on The Dairy Alliance Facebook Page to watch the tour at 1 p.m. on 11/17.

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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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### ***Share Katie's Krops Garden Grants Info – Deadline 12/31***

Children ages 7 to 16 in the U.S. are eligible to apply to become Katie's Krops Growers and start a vegetable garden in their communities where the whole harvest is used to alleviate food insecurity. Youth who are selected to become Katie's Krops Growers will receive an all-inclusive grower box, complete with everything necessary for kids to start their own garden. All applications must be filled out by the youth applicant, postmarked by December 31, 2020, and signed by a parent or legal guardian. [Learn more here.](#)

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### ***Apply for the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants – Due 1/8***

NCDPI is pleased to announce the availability of the 2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants, specifically intended to help School Food Authorities (SFAs) purchase commercial equipment for use in preparing and/or serving nutritious meals to students that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The one-time appropriation of \$905,285.00 has been made available to NCDPI for sub-grants for equipment purchases in eligible schools and sites in traditional, charter and non-public schools and residential child care institutions operating the NSLP. Applications are due to NCDPI by 5:00 pm, January 8, 2021. All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2021. Please reference the November 6 email to School Nutrition administrators for more information and related documents. Should you have questions, please contact Jacquelyn McGowan at [jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov).

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## **Continuing Education**

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### ***Learn from STEM Connect 2020 – 11/17, 12-6 pm ET***

Join educators and partners from across the state for STEM in the Virtual Classroom on November 17, 12-6 pm ET. The free, online conference will showcase the best practices for incorporating STEM and Career and Technical Education (CTE) instruction into middle and high school virtual classes. [Learn more and register.](#)

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## ***Sign Up for the ICN STAR Webinar - Stronger Together: Highlights of School Nutrition Heroes Across the Nation – 11/19, 2 pm ET***

Since the onset of the worldwide pandemic and school closures, School Nutrition professionals have taken action from interruptions in their typical daily operations and created innovative, alternate plans to provide meals to our nation's children. During this STAR webinar on November 19 at 2 pm ET, the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) will recognize unspoken heroes across the nation and highlight stories of how School Nutrition Programs are serving meals during these unprecedented times. 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 (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#).

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## **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](#).

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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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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