

# School Nutrition Update

December 7, 2020



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Review Proposed Rule on Restoration of Flexibilities***

On November 25, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service published in the Federal Register a [Proposed Rule, Restoration of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities](#), which seeks to reinstate vacated milk, whole grains, and sodium flexibilities and make them available once again to schools and institutions participating in Child Nutrition Programs. The proposed flexibilities include:

- (1) Allowing National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) operators to permanently offer flavored, low fat milk as part of a reimbursable meal and for sale as a competitive beverage and allowing flavored, low fat milk in the Special Milk Program for Children and in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for participants ages 6 and older;
- (2) Allowing for half of the weekly grains in the NSLP and SBP menus to be whole grain-rich; and
- (3) Providing schools participating in the NSLP and SBP more time for gradual sodium reduction by retaining Sodium Target 1 through the end of school year (SY) 2023-24, continuing to Target 2 in SY 2024-25, and eliminating the Final Target.

The Proposed Rule proposes to reinstate regulations that were rescinded in the [Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Rescission of Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Flexibilities: Notice of Vacatur](#), which was published in the Federal Register on November 24 in response to an April 2020 court ruling vacating the previously published provisions. Comments can be submitted on the Proposed Rule via [regulations.gov](#) through December 28, 2020. Guidance on how to submit comments is included in the Proposed Rule.

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### ***Prepare for Holiday Breaks***

As the holidays approach, your School Nutrition Program may have alterations in meal service. Please ensure that you communicate any changes in meal service to families. If you will have a break in service, please collaborate with community partners to provide meals to ensure no child goes hungry.

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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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## **Check Out New Technical Assistance Time Out on Updating SFSP Applications**

NCDPI, School Nutrition Services created a Technical Assistance Time Out presentation to address some of the most frequently asked questions and corrections related to updating Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) applications for 2021 operations. Please remember to refer to the application guide while you are working to update your application. The application guide is available in the Downloads folder of the School Nutrition Technology System. If you have questions, please reach out to your [Summer Nutrition Program Consultant](#).

- Use the following link to view the Technical Assistance Time Out:  
<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/ldr.php?RCID=8e80d41b94cdb432eadbc4a8ad0eb120>  
Password: ApplicationUpdate2021

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### **Spotlight Governor Morehead School for the Blind**

This week's School Nutrition Spotlight is on Jonathan White and the School Nutrition Team from the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. They are currently serving 53% of their students remotely. Each week they deliver 5 breakfast and 5 lunch meals for their students. What is unique about the Governor Morehead School's mobile meal service is that they serve students across the state. From Wake to Mecklenburg to Cumberland County, they provide a nutritious meal that their students enjoy. Although they are not face to face with their students, they still provide specialty meals celebrating local and national observations, such as National Hispanic Heritage Month, Thanksgiving, and the upcoming Christmas Celebration. They have a dedicated team of School Nutrition professionals, who have been committed to ensuring that the meals are packaged and ready to go for the wonderful staff (Residential Life and K-12) that assist with the mobile meal service. They do mobile meals as well as provide daily breakfast and lunch meals to their Wake County partner, the Young Women's Leadership Academy. Jonathan White said, "Working in K-12 Child Nutrition for over 20 years, this year has really taught and showed me what I already know to be true, that food service workers are real superheroes!"



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### **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 or should be spotlighted, 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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## Farm to School

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### **Encourage Teams to Enter the 2020-21 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition**

Calling all high school student chefs to enter the 2020-21 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition! This year's competition will be virtual. Teams of 2-4 high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) students can work with their Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher and



local School Nutrition Program to create a recipe for a school lunch entrée that features at least 2 North Carolina grown ingredients and 1 USDA Foods item, adheres to federal nutrition guidelines and meets student taste preferences. Intent to compete forms are due 12/18 and submission forms with application and recipe, recipe photo, and permission forms are due 2/1. Eight finalist teams will be selected for a virtual cook-off. Teams will be evaluated for their skills in recipe development, food safety and sanitation, food preparation and presentation. Sullivan University scholarships are available to the student members of the top three teams. Please share [competition info](#) with prospective teams.

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## Grants

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### ***Apply for the No Kid Hungry: Increase Food Security Among Young Children (0-5 Years Old) Grant – Due 12/18***

Community organizations, early child care centers, healthcare providers and others working to ensure vulnerable young children have access to healthy food are encouraged to apply for a grant opportunity available from No Kid Hungry. Grants are between \$15,000-\$25,000 and are flexible. No Kid Hungry is especially eager to support organizations who have authentically engaged community members to develop innovative programs that support young children. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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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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### ***Watch Strive for 35 with Alternate Feeding***

Milk tastes best and stays freshest when served icy cold! Strive for 35 with Alternative Feeding, from The Dairy Alliance, focuses on milk's unique nutrient package along with best practices and HACCP recommendations to use during alternative meal service methods. This pre-recorded 30-minute session has been approved for .5 hour of continuing education credit from the School Nutrition Association. Watch the [Strive for 35 with Alternative Feeding video](#) and then complete the [post assessment](#) to receive a CEU Certificate for your professional development documentation.

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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

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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**

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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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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