

# School Nutrition Update

February 6-10, 2023



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# Program Operations Information

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## *Learn about and Comment on New School Meal Standards – 2/6 and 2/21*

On February 6 at 4:30 pm, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will host a briefing with stakeholders regarding a new proposed rule, “[Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)”, released on February 3, 2023. The new proposed rule for school meals impacts added sugars, sodium, milk, and whole grains. Interested stakeholders must [register](#) in advance to participate in the briefing.

In addition to the stakeholder briefing, USDA will host a webinar for School Food Authorities (SFAs) on February 21 at 2 pm ET. In order to participate in the webinar, SFAs should [register](#) in advance.

All proposed rule webinars will be offered with closed captioning. Participants who require a different accessibility tool to participate should reach out to Sheila Kopczynski, [sheila.kopczynski@usda.gov](mailto:sheila.kopczynski@usda.gov), for assistance as soon as possible.

The standards are available for public comment for 60 days from February 7 through April 10, 2023. School Nutrition professionals and other stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed rule and related materials and submit comments. See links below to resources available related to the proposed rule.

- Webpage: [Proposed Updates to the School Nutrition Standards](#)
- Virtual Discussion hosted by Secretary Vilsack: [USDA Conversation on Healthier School Meals](#)
- Media Toolkit: [School Nutrition Standards Media Toolkit](#)
- Infographic: [Major Provisions for Proposed School Meal Standards](#)
- Infographic: [Proposed Implementation Timeline for Updating School Meal Standards](#)
- Comparison Chart: [Current and Proposed School Meal Standards](#)
- Webpage: [Strengthening School Meals for Healthier Kids](#)
- Webpage: [Healthy Meals Incentives](#)
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- Infographic: [The Road Ahead: Building Back Better with School Meals](#)
- Infographic: [Ten Reasons to Build Back Even Better with School Meals!](#)

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### *Doing the Most Good!*

The Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS), Child Nutrition Department was honored to be invited to the recent Salvation Army Appreciation Luncheon. The local Salvation Army serves Henderson, Transylvania, and Polk Counties. The HCPS, Child Nutrition Department was recognized for providing 2,190 breakfasts and 2,126 lunches for the kids in the 2022 Salvation Army summer camp program. The Salvation Army motto or



theme is “Doing the Most Good”. Our #NCSchoolNutritionHeroes are definitely “doing the most good” every day in nourishing students’ bodies, minds, and souls. Way to go!

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### **Follow/Like Us on Social Media**

Did you know you could find the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition on social media? Follow or like our pages - @NCSchoolMeals and @Ray4NCKids on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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### **Share Your School Nutrition Photos**

The NCDPI, School Nutrition Division wants to highlight the appealing, wholesome, quality meals our School Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students each day. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines and complete school breakfast or school lunch meals with us. Please send to Tracey Bates, NCDPI School Nutrition Promotion Specialist, at [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov). Make sure to include the school and district info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos of school meals from across the state on social media.



Dare County Schools

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### **Send in Articles or Topics of Interest for the School Nutrition Update E-letter**

If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, shout out or other news item for the School Nutrition Update, please send a brief article (250 words or less) to Tracey Bates, [tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov), by 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to when the SN Update is sent out the following week. Please include “**SN Update**” in the email subject line. If there are topics of interest you would also like to see included, please share as well.

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## **Grant Opportunity**

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### **Supporting Ag Ed in the Classroom – Due 2/15**

Know a North Carolina teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts across the various areas of study? Encourage those teachers to apply for the North Carolina Farm Bureau, Ag in the Classroom (NCFB AITC) Teacher of the Year Award.

Agriculture is an important part of everyone’s life. Clothing, food, fuel, housing, medicine, and much more are rooted in agriculture. Agricultural issues can support the teaching of many academic disciplines. Recognizing this, the NCFB AITC would like to honor educators across North Carolina that are effectively integrating agriculture into the classroom curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to submit award applications that describe their methods for incorporating agricultural concepts into their classrooms. Licensed North Carolina teachers

currently teaching Pre-K through eighth grade in public, private, charter, or home schools are eligible. Awardees receive attendance at the N.C. Farm Bureau Annual Convention, a stipend to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference, presentation opportunities at future AITC workshops/events, and professional development opportunities in their home school district. Applications are due February 15. [Learn more.](#)

**FARM BUREAU**  
NORTH CAROLINA

**Ag in the Classroom**  
P.O. Office Box 27756 | Raleigh, NC 27611 | (919) 782-0705

**Teacher of the Year Award**

**Purpose:** Each year, NC Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom (AITC) program honors a practicing NC teacher who emphasizes agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula (i.e., reading, writing, math, science, etc.).

**Eligibility:** Licensed North Carolina teachers currently teaching Pre-K through 8th grade in public, private, charter, or home schools. Agriculture teachers are not eligible for this award.

**Recognition:**

- ✓ Attendance at NCFB Annual Convention
- ✓ A stipend to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in June
- ✓ Presentation opportunities at future AITC workshops/events.
- ✓ Professional development opportunities in home school district

**Deadline to submit your application is February 15**

[ncagintheclassroom.com](mailto:ncagintheclassroom.com)  
Grants & Awards  
[heather.morton@ncfb.org](mailto:heather.morton@ncfb.org)

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## ***Growing Minds – Farm to School Funding – Due 2/15***

The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), Growing Minds program wants to help fund your farm to school project in Western North Carolina! This mini-grant program connects K-12 schools throughout the 18 **westernmost** counties of North Carolina with local agriculture and gives children positive experiences with healthy local foods through the four components of farm to school: farm field trips, local food cooking and taste tests, school gardens, and local food served in school cafeterias. Farm to school activity mini-grants will be provided up to \$1000. Mini-grant applications are due every month on the 15<sup>th</sup> through April 15, 2023, and will be awarded by the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month! [Learn more and apply.](#)

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## ***Encourage Kids to Grow and Eat Veggies – Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant – Due 3/1***

Kids who grow veggies, eat veggies, so school gardens can make a big difference. Through the Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant program, schools and non-profit organizations can turn outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning gardens that connect kids with food, spark their curiosity, and support classroom curriculum. The Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant program provides a \$3,000 monetary grant to support a new or existing educational garden located at either a K-12 school or a non-profit organization that serves youth in the K-12 grade range. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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## ***Apply for Professional Development Scholarships – Due 3/31***

The deadline for School Nutrition Foundation Professional Development Scholarships has been extended to March 31, 2023! School Nutrition Association (SNA) members can achieve their educational dreams with a scholarship from the School Nutrition Foundation. These scholarships are intended to provide funding for tuition and books for the following school year. Three (3) scholarships are available for 2023: Superhero Scholarship from Bart Christian (multiple scholarships available each year), Schwan’s Food Service Scholarship (multiple scholarships of up to \$2,500 each), and the Nancy Curry Scholarship (one scholarship of \$500 is awarded each year, funded by Handgards, Inc., and friends of Nancy). Winners will be announced in Spring 2023. Use the convenient Common Application to apply for all three scholarships. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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# **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

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## ***Promote Heart Health***

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. School meals offer fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and low fat or fat free milk, all choices to support healthy hearts. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [American Heart Association](#) offer resources you can use to promote heart health with students, school staff, and families.



**Take charge of your heart health.**

Take small steps to prevent heart disease and stroke.

[millionhearts.hhs.gov/livetothebeat](https://millionhearts.hhs.gov/livetothebeat)

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## Continuing Education

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### *Thinking Globally for School Breakfast – 2/8, 3 pm ET*

Looking for new, creative ways to renovate your school breakfast menus just in time to dig in to National School Breakfast Week (#NSBW23)? Intrigued by the idea of constructing global flavors and climate-friendly, plant-based foods into your cafeterias? Join registered dietitian Melanie Hall and Chef Matt Jost at 3 pm ET on February 8, for the School Nutrition Association (SNA) and Kellogg's' "#NSBW23 Innovations Webinar Passport to Breakfast, featuring a three-recipe cooking demo and focusing on the power of "thinking globally" about school breakfast menus. [Learn more and register.](#)



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### *Are You Ready for the Challenge? N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/22*

Did you hear? This year's N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference theme is: "GAME ON! Winning the Child Hunger Challenge." The N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference is an annual day of celebration and inspiration for anyone invested in making sure kids have access to healthy food. The one-day event, presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative at the University of North Carolina, will take place at The Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill on February 22, 8 am-4 pm ET. Attendees will have a chance to connect with other child hunger leaders from across the state, learn about new strategies and success stories, and leave reenergized to continue the fight against child hunger. [Learn more and register.](#)



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### *Access Virtual Training Opportunities*

The Institute of 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 [continuing professional education resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs).

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## Questions

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If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your [regional consultants](#).

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained [online](#), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted 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) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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