

# School Nutrition Update

February 13-17, 2023



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## Program Operations Information

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

On February 3, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced a new proposed rule, “[Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)”. The proposed rule includes new school meal standards addressing added sugars, sodium, milk, and whole grains.

USDA will host a webinar for School Food Authorities (Sofas) 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](#)
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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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### *Complete the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE) Online*

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is pleased to announce the 2023 courses are open for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE) online training.

#### **What you need to know:**

- There are two (2) course options.
  - **Nourishing NC Kids 2023** - for sponsors using a vendor to prepare some/all meals AND for restaurants/caterers



- **Eat and Learn NC 2023** - for sponsors preparing all their own meals
- Each course fulfills the SFSP Required Annual Continuing Education (RACE).
- The courses are self-paced, online, through Canvas.
- Completion of RACE online is optional for Seamless Summer Option Sponsors. (An additional optional webinar is TBD.)

**What you need to do:**

- Identify two (2) individuals with administrative responsibilities to complete the course.
- Determine if a NCDPI School Nutrition Canvas account for each person exists or is needed. Instructions for creating a Canvas account were included in the February 7 RACE email to School Nutrition administrators.
- Select the appropriate course based on how meals are provided. Each person will take the SAME course.
- Complete the course and upload certificates into the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) SFSP program application. Remember, applications are due March 1, 2023!

If you have questions about course selection, email Lynne Privette, Summer Nutrition Programs Compliance Specialist, [lynne.privette@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lynne.privette@dpi.nc.gov). If you have questions about Canvas, email Donna Knight, Staff Development Specialist, [donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:donna.knight@dpi.nc.gov). Thank you for your attention to this important preparation step for 2023 summer meals!

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## **Stay Tuned - Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Application Season for the 2023-24 School Year**

North Carolina will soon open the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application season for eligible elementary schools to apply to participate for the 2023-24 School Year. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) continues to make the annual FFVP application process efficient for School Nutrition administrators to complete. Stay tuned for more 2023-24 FFVP application information in an upcoming issue of the School Nutrition Update.

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## **School Nutrition Spotlight**

### **Turnip the Beet – Beaufort County Schools**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) just announced the winners of the Turnip the Beet award for summer 2022. This award recognizes sponsors within the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) that go above and beyond program requirements to serve high-quality meals to children during the summer months. This year, ninety-eight sponsors across the country qualified for either a gold, silver, or bronze Turnip the Beet award. In North Carolina, Beaufort County Schools has been recognized as a Silver Turnip the Beet awardee. Congratulations! For more information, visit the USDA Turnip the Beet [website](#).



## ***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.



*Cabarrus County Schools*

## ***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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## ***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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## Going Local Grant – Due 4/15

The North Carolina Farm Bureau is happy to provide agricultural outreach grants to North Carolina teachers through the Ag in the Classroom Going Local program. These grants value up to \$500. Going Local Grants help educators provide Pre-K through collegiate level students with valuable, real-world education and experiences directly related to the agricultural industry and the N.C. Standard Course of Study. Teachers practicing in private and public North Carolina schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to apply. The deadline to submit an application is April 15, 2023. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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## Nutrition Education & Promotion

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### Fuel for the Future

March is National Nutrition Month® (NNM)! NNM is an annual campaign created 50 years ago in 1973 by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. During the month of March, everyone is invited to learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme is "Fuel for the Future." Find free [resources](#) to help you celebrate.



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## Continuing Education

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### Fueling Bodies and Minds: Best Practices for Increasing School Meal Participation – 2/15, 3 pm ET

For many children in America, school meals are a primary source of consistent nutrition. In partnership with Kohl's Healthy at Home, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation will host an important and timely conversation with Donna Martin, Director of School Nutrition Programs, Burke County Public Schools in Georgia, an advocate for universal free meals. She is the former president of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and was the first School Nutrition director to be president of the Academy. This informational webinar will address the benefits of increasing school meal participation for students, families, and school staff and strategies to help schools and districts improve or achieve universal meal programming. [Learn more and register.](#)

### 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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