

School Nutrition Update

April 17-21, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs within a Multi-Tiered System of Support

Meeting a student's unique mealtime needs is a complex process often requiring specialized interprofessional evaluation, intervention, and progress monitoring. Students who require support for mealtime participation have needs that vary in type, resources required, intensity, and duration. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) are pleased to announce in-person professional learning opportunities this spring for **Addressing Mealtime Needs within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)**. Dates and locations are listed below. Using MTSS as an organizing framework, this full-day course will equip school leaders in establishing and sustaining individualized programming while adhering to multiple requirements under USDA, IDEA, Section 504, state law, and local policies. The session will investigate best practices, relevant statute and policies, and existing state and local resources for supporting students with unique mealtime participation needs and provide teams with planning time.

- April 26, 2023, 9 am-4 pm, Jarrell Lecture Hall, Jackson Library, UNC Greensboro, Greensboro
- May 5, 2023, 9 am-4 pm, New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern

Participants only need to attend one of these trainings. Interprofessional teams are encouraged to attend and will be given priority during registration. Only ONE representative from each discipline per public school unit (PSU) or local education agency (LEA/Charter) should register to attend. School teams addressing mealtime needs include:

- School Nutrition Administrators
- School/District Administrators (e.g. 504 Coordinators, School Principals, Exceptional Children Directors)
- School Nurses
- Occupational Therapy Practitioners
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Exceptional Children/General Education Teachers
- Other related service providers/educators

Please [register](#) in advance to attend the training. Contact your regional consultant with any questions.

Register and Plan to Attend May Policy Updates

North Carolina School Nutrition Administrators should plan to attend the upcoming May Policy Updates. See below for dates and locations for each zone. Please register in advance. If you have questions, reach out to your regional consultants.

Date	Zone and Consultant Team	Location	Link
May 2	1 (Sheryl Harris and Jennifer Brown)	Four Points by Sheraton - Asheville	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000009
May 3	2 (Tara Kelley and Trip Warren)	Marriott - Winston-Salem	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000012
May 2	3 (Reggie Ross and Flo Smith)	Cabarrus Arena & Events Center - Concord	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000010
May 3	4 (Cathie Masters and Katrina Perry)	McKimmon Center - Raleigh	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000013
May 4	4 (Cathie Masters and Katrina Perry)	McKimmon Center - Raleigh	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000015
May 2	5 (Dana Edwards)	Whispering Pines Golf Club - Whispering Pines	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000011
May 3	6 (Gwyn Roberson-McBride and Leslie Otts)	NC TeleCenter - Martin County - Williamston	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000014
April 27	7 (Pam Sheets and Laura Chase)	New Bern Riverfront Convention Center - New Bern, NC	https://reporter.ncsu.edu/link/instanceview?courseID=MCE-OPD-C-SDPU&deptName=MCE&instanceID=000016

Complete Quarterly Supply Chain Assistance Report

As a reminder, the Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Reports are to be completed *quarterly* by all School Food Authorities (SFAs) that received Supply Chain Assistance funds in 2022 and 2023. This is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirement and continues until all the SCA funds are exhausted. The reporting is done electronically, is short and simple, with only a few questions, and must be completed for each quarter in which funds remain. Reporting dates for 2023 are listed below:

- January, February, March 2023 – **Report due by Friday, April 28, 2023**
- April, May, June 2023 – **Report due by Monday, July 31, 2023**
- July, August, September 2023 – **Report due by Tuesday, October 31, 2023**

USDA requires that SCA funds be used exclusively for the purchase of domestic food products that are unprocessed or minimally processed. One of the simplest unprocessed foods to purchase with the SCA funds would be fluid milk and other dairy foods such as cheese and yogurt. Foods that are in a minimally processed state could also include 100% juices and produce that is cut, pureed, canned, frozen or dried. Foods that are

generally understood to be significantly processed or prepared and which may not be purchased using SCA funds include baked goods, chicken nuggets, and pre-packaged sandwiches or meals. Find links below to an SCA funds Q&A, quarterly report guidance, and the quarterly report survey. If you have any questions, please contact your Zone Consultant.

- [NCDPI SCA Q&A](#)
- [How to Complete SCA Quarterly Report Survey for SFAs](#)
- [SCA Quarterly Report Survey](#)

Get Ready for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute – Apply by 5/5

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition, in conjunction with Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 team, will be offering eight North Carolina K-12 Culinary Institute regional workshops during the summer of 2023. The Institute is intended for School Nutrition professionals who are currently managing and/or responsible for the supervision of site-level nutrition operations. The purpose is for participants to master fundamental culinary skills to enhance school meals and be empowered to teach-it-forward to their team members at the local level.



The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute is a great opportunity for School Nutrition managers! These workshops will prepare participants to serve as Chef Ambassadors in their districts and beyond. Selected attendees of the workshop will learn fundamental culinary techniques such as knife skills, food production strategies such as batch cooking for quality, quick-scratch cooking techniques, and merchandising tips for new K-12 Chef-developed recipes specifically for North Carolina schools. Participants will also learn effective teach-it-forward techniques so they can communicate new knowledge and skills with others in their districts.

The N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute workshops will be hosted by School Food Authorities across the state and facilitated by the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute team, including State Agency staff. The following workshops will be offered this summer:

- June 13-15 – Onslow County Schools, Rowan-Salisbury Schools
- June 27-29 – Henderson County Schools
- July 25-27 – Yadkin County Schools, Cumberland County Schools
- August 8-10 – Dare County Schools
- August 15-17 – Franklin County Schools, Brunswick County Schools

Interested School Nutrition Managers must submit a [Chef Ambassador Application](#) by COB on May 5 to be considered for a spot and must have the support of their School Nutrition Director/Administrator and Principal to attend. Submitted applications will be reviewed and selected participants will be notified by email. Selected participants must confirm their spot. Please reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov, with any questions.

Add Your Summer Food Service Program Sites Early!

It feels like spring, but Destination Summer is just around the corner! As you finalize your plans and pinpoint locations for your N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs, please add the sites to your application in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). Submit applications early, if possible, to avoid the stressful last-minute rush and ensure approval before your program starts. Aiming for May 5, 2023 would be helpful for the NCDPI Summer Nutrition Program Team to ensure you are summer ready.



Submit Comments on New CEP Proposed Regulation Change – Deadline 5/8

On March 22, USDA Secretary Vilsack announced a [proposed regulation change](#) that would give more schools the option to provide healthy school meals to all students at no cost. The proposed rule would expand access to the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) by lowering the minimum identified student percentage participation threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent, which would give states and schools greater flexibility to choose to invest non-federal funds to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students. As a result, more students, families, and schools would have an opportunity to experience the benefits of CEP, including access to meals at no cost, eliminating unpaid meal charges, minimizing stigma, reducing paperwork for School Nutrition staff and families, and streamlining meal service operations. When all students have access to healthy school meals, meal participation tends to increase, and more children can experience nutritional benefits that fuel their learning, growth, and development.

USDA encourages all interested parties to comment on the CEP proposed rule during the 45-day comment period. Written comments on this proposed rule should be received on or before May 8, 2023 to receive consideration. Comments may be submitted in writing by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FNS-2022-0044-0001/comment>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Send comments to School Meals Policy Division, Food and Nutrition Service, P.O. Box 9233, Reston, VA 20195. All written comments submitted in response to this proposed rule will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the substance of the comments and the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be subject to public disclosure. FNS will make the written comments publicly available on the internet via <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Comment on New Child Nutrition Standards Proposed Rule – Deadline 5/10

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 contains new Child Nutrition regulations regarding the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. USDA proposes allowing schools to include locally grown, raised, or caught as a requirement for vendors bidding to provide food for their school meal programs. In addition, USDA proposes updating the Buy American provision by setting a limit of 5% of total food costs on non-domestic food purchases. USDA is also proposing to make nutrition standards more stringent by reducing sodium, increasing whole grains, and decreasing added sugar (which will impact the ability of elementary and middle schools to offer flavored milk) among other suggested changes.

Submit your comments on how the proposed rule will impact your programs. The original comment period was set for February 7-April 10, 2023. USDA recently announced the deadline has been extended to May 10. Every voice matters! The actual number of comments received makes a tremendous difference in the outcome. USDA will review and record all comments submitted. School Nutrition professionals and other stakeholders are encouraged to review the [proposed rule and related materials](#) and [submit comments](#).

School Nutrition Spotlight

Wake Up to Agriculture in Union County Public Schools!

Union County Public Schools coordinated a “Wake Up to Agriculture” Day where high school students from the county’s AG Tech high schools taught and presented a variety of agriculture related topics to the 3rd graders. All 3rd graders were able to come over the span of four days to learn from their older peers. The School Nutrition department also had a booth at Wake Up to Ag to teach about the Farm to School Program. This booth had a blueberry theme in light of the farm to school blueberries that would soon be coming into the schools. The booth featured the Farm to School children’s books, activity sheets, Union County’s U-Pick Blueberry Farms handout, smoothie recipe handout, and the Blender Bike where students made and sampled blueberry banana smoothies.



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.

Share Your School Nutrition Photos

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition 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. 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.



Craven 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, 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.

Job Opportunity

Work with Wake County Child Nutrition

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS), Child Nutrition Services (CNS) is seeking applicants for an open Area Supervisor position. The Area Supervisor is responsible for supervising food service operations within a geographical area by monitoring operations to ensure daily compliance with local, state, and federal policies, regulations, and best practices for sanitation, safety, financial/resource management, and general program operations. Additionally, this individual provides internal operations support by managing specialized functions within CNS, such as menu planning, product sourcing/evaluation, technology support, equipment evaluation/purchases, training, grants, dietary accommodations, marketing or other functions to address the evolving needs of CNS. To view the complete job description and apply, visit the [WCPSS Job Board](#).

Grant Opportunity

Apply for School Nutrition Foundation Equipment Grants – Deadline extended to 4/30

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF)'s [2023 Equipment Grant Program](#) application has been extended until the end of this month! The deadline for all five grant applications is now **April 30**. Apply today!

Apply now for one (or more) of the five available grants:

- The Winston Foodservice Equipment Grant program will award up to 10 pieces of equipment, valued up to \$100,000, to one school district in need of improving its school meal kitchen facilities.
- The recipient of Vulcan Equipment Grant from ITW/FWE will be awarded up to \$50,000 worth of Vulcan equipment that suits a school district's needs.
- The Hobart Equipment Grant, also from ITW/FWE, awards up to \$35,000 worth of Hobart equipment for a school district.
- The Food Warming Equipment (FWE) Equipment Grant awards the winning school district with multiple pieces of equipment, valued at up to \$25,000.
- The Collection Equipment Grant brings together Cambro Manufacturing, Innoseal Systems, Sterling Manufacturing and Sterno Delivery to help upgrade school kitchens with multiple pieces of new equipment.

Apply for FY 2023 Team Nutrition Grant – Due 5/22

A request for applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Team Nutrition Grant Supporting Nutrition Education for School-Aged Children is now available. The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service expects to award approximately \$10 million in total funding (up to \$1,000,000 per State Agency or School Food Authority (SFA) through a competitive award process for use over a three-year grant period). Should additional funds become available, USDA may increase the grant ceiling and/or award more grants.

The FY 2023 Team Nutrition Grant Supporting Nutrition Education for School-Aged Children will support State Agencies and SFAs in implementing the adoption of healthy eating patterns by school-aged children (grades pre-K through 12) and their families through the coordination and implementation of [MyPlate nutrition education](#) connected to the nutritious meals and snacks offered through USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

State Agency and SFA grantees will provide direct nutrition education to students, parents/caregivers, and other school stakeholders, and build capacity for revitalizing local school wellness policies, to improve the consumption of nutritious foods and beverages offered through USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

Full grant applications are due via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 pm ET on May 22, 2023. Grant information is available on the USDA [website](https://www.usda.gov). For questions regarding applications, please contact the Grant Officer, Anna Arrowsmith, anna.arrowsmith@usda.gov.

Request for Applications: Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and/or Rural School Food Authorities – Due 5/26

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](https://www.fns.usda.gov/healthy-meals), Action for Healthy Kids is offering competitive grants (up to \$150,000 per School Food Authority, SFA) for small and/or rural SFAs to support efforts to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals. The deadline for submitting a [grant application](#) is 5:00 pm ET, on May 26, 2023.

Eligibility Criteria:

- SFA must participate in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program
- SFA must meet the following definitions of small and/or rural:
- **Small SFA:** SFA with an enrollment of less than or equal to 5,000 students.
- **Rural SFA:** The majority of students within the SFA are enrolled in a rural school as defined by a locality code of 41, 42, or 43, according to the [National Center for Education Statistics online tool](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsonline/).

The Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for small and/or rural SFAs are a key part of USDA, FNS [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](https://www.fns.usda.gov/healthy-meals), which was established to improve the nutritional quality of school meals through food systems transformation, school food authority recognition and technical assistance, the generation and sharing of innovative ideas and tested practices, and grants. Questions about this announcement may be sent to support@healthymealsincentives.org.

Continuing Education

Organizing and Managing School District-wide Garden Programs – 4/19, 2 pm ET

Join the School Garden Support Organization Network on April 19 at 2 pm ET for the first session of a two-part webinar series that is focusing on school district-wide garden programs led by school district staff and the unique opportunities and challenges they face. This webinar will focus on the organization and management of a district-wide school garden program with examples from three districts across the country of different sizes. We will cover district school garden guides, multiple tiered systems of support (MTSS), and funding streams specifically for school districts. Part two will be held in May and will focus on engaging the school district school garden community. [Learn more and register](#).

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).

Questions

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

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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) (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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