

School Nutrition Update

May 15-19, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Renew Annual Agreement

The written Annual Agreement Renewal for the 2023-2024 school year is now available. For your convenience, information, instructions, and all written agreement documents are posted on the School Nutrition [website](#).

Deadlines

- **June 14, 2023** - Deadline for all School Food Authorities (SFAs) to complete all parts of the Agreement Renewal (Online Renewal Application and Written Agreement) and all hard copy documents must be received in the State Agency office. KEEP IN MIND: June 14, 2023 falls on a Wednesday. Please plan accordingly to ensure your required documents are uploaded and received in the State Agency office by close of business on that day.
- **June 30, 2023** - NOTE: The current agreement expires on June 30, 2023. Any meals served after June 30, 2023 and prior to an approved Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED. So, we urge you to complete the agreement renewal process as early as possible.

Online Application

- Access the Online Renewal Application via the [School Nutrition Technology System](#) (SNTS). There are three parts of the online application: **SFA Application**, **Site Application**, and the **Checklist** which includes a list of all hard copy documents that must be submitted to and approved by the State Agency. IMPORTANT NOTE: Please complete the Site Application first and click the certification box at the bottom of each site application page.

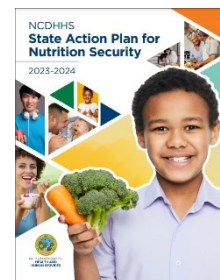
Free & Reduced Priced School Meals Household Application and Verification Forms

- The free and reduced packet and application should be emailed to Kayla Banks, Compliance Specialist, kayla.banks@dpi.nc.gov. Please **DO NOT** upload the free and reduced packet into the SNTS.

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact Jacquelyn McGowan, Nutrition Program Specialist, jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov.

Aiming to Meet Food and Nutrition Needs of North Carolina Children and Families

Recognizing that access to nutritious food is foundational to health and well-being for children, families, and older adults, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) is committed to decreasing the number of North Carolinians who experience food insecurity. In support of that goal, NCDHHS recently [released](#) the [NCDHHS State Action Plan for Nutrition Security](#), outlining an innovative, multi-pronged strategy that NCDHHS is taking to reduce food insecurity in North Carolina.



School Nutrition Spotlight

Recognizing Employees - Franklin County Schools

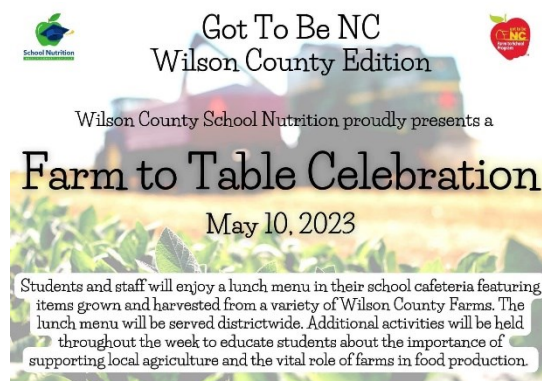
Franklin County Schools recently recognized nominees for 2023 Classified Employee of the Year. Liesa Seligman, School Nutrition Supervisor, was recognized as a nominee.

The overall winner for Classified Employee of the Year will be announced at this year's Honors Event, a.k.a. "**The Frankies**," on June 9. Congratulations to Liesa for being nominated! Your work to support the Franklin County School Nutrition team and nourish students' minds, bodies, and souls each day is very much appreciated.



Got to Be NC - Wilson County Edition Farm to Table Celebration

Wilson County Schools held a "Got to Be NC" Farm to Table Celebration on May 10. Students, staff, and special guests enjoyed a lunch menu in the Rock Ridge Elementary school café featuring items grown and harvested from a variety of Wilson County Farms - Patty Melt Sandwich (Beef from Sullivan Farms, Lucama), Baked Sweet Potatoes with Cinnamon and Sugar (Sullivan Farms & Fresh Pik Produce, Wilson), Fresh Veggie Cup: Cucumbers, Grape Tomatoes, Yellow Squash (Glover Farms, Bailey), and Strawberries (Fresh Pik, Wilson). The lunch menu was served district wide. Additional activities were held throughout the week to educate students about the importance of supporting local agriculture and the vital role of farms in food production.



"Kids do not a lot of times know where their food comes from, so we are hoping that through events like this, showcasing this, that kids can correlate where their foods are coming from," said Jamie Narron, Executive Director of School Nutrition for Wilson County Schools. "This is how you grow a strawberry and this is how a

sweet potato is grown,’ and so then, they can take this idea and take it back to their home and help teach healthy habits to the families.” [Read more.](#)

Celebrating Farm-to-School Week in Pamlico County Schools

Pamlico County Schools sourced locally grown produce and proteins from North Carolina farmers, including McCoy Cattle Farms, Tidewater Grain Company, Brasstown Beef, Bridgeton Poultry, Cattle Farms, R&H Produce, and many others to celebrate its second Farm-to-School Week, May 8-12. The week was organized by the Child Nutrition Department in collaboration with Pamlico Farm Bureau, Pamlico County Middle School Future Farmers of America, Small Grain Association, The Dairy Alliance and the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS).

In addition to eating locally grown lunches in their school cafes, students were able to experience and participate in educational activities related to agriculture:

- Monday, May 8 – Agriculture Fair at Pamlico County Middle School
Students from Pamlico County Middle School’s Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Ms. Jennifer Hacker presented to the middle school students about a piece of farm equipment and explained how it is used on a farm. Each classroom was shown videos about North Carolina agriculture.
- Tuesday, May 9 - Farm Expo Day at Pamlico County Primary School
Farmers and agricultural business set up educational booths to showcase the following local products: sweetpotatoes, strawberries, soybeans, corn, beef, rice, small grains, and dairy. A special luncheon was held with farmers, the Pamlico County School Board, Superintendent Lisa Jackson, NCDA&CS, and other invited guests. The Pamlico County High School’s culinary class assisted with the luncheon.
- Friday, May 12 – Door Decorating Contest at Fred A. Anderson Elementary School
Each class participated in a door decorating competition to showcase “What Agriculture looks like in Pamlico County?”. Pamlico County High School’s FFA officers were the judges. Throughout the day, each class rotated outside to learn about a piece of farm equipment.



Bring Your Legislator to School Day – May 15

N.C. General Assembly (NCGA) legislators have been invited to visit schools in their district on May 15 for the inaugural “[Bring Your Legislator to School Day](#)”. The event is a joint effort of the N.C. Regional Teachers of the Year (TOYs), Regional Principals of the Year (POYs), and the Public School Forum of North Carolina. The initiative has bipartisan support with legislative co-sponsors, Sen. Amy Gale, Sen. Rachel Hunt, Sen. Graig Meyer, Rep. Vernatta Alston, Rep. Allen Buansi, Rep. Ashton Clemmons, Rep. Kevin Crutchfield, Rep. Zack Hawkins, and Rep. John Torbett.

All NCGA legislators received an invitation and have been asked to RSVP. The N.C. TOYs and POYs along with the Public School Forum of North Carolina will work to pair the legislators with a public school unit in their district and notify superintendents. During their school visit, legislators are encouraged to engage in a walk through of schools with the principal, superintendent, and student ambassadors, observe classroom instruction, participate in individual focus groups/roundtable discussions with teachers, students, and families, enjoy a meal in a school café, and ride a bus with students. This is a wonderful opportunity for legislators to learn more about the successes, challenges, and needs of students, school staff, and families. Be ready to showcase your School Nutrition Programs!

Thank you!

Senate

Sen. Ted Alexander
Sen. Van Applewhite
Sen. Lisa Barnes
Sen. Sydney Batch
Sen. Jim Burgin
Sen. Mary Wills Bode
Sen. Danny Britt
Sen. Jay Chaudhuri
Sen. Carl Ford
Sen. Amy Gale
Sen. Lisa Grafstein
Sen. Bobby Hanig
Sen. Rachel Hunt
Sen. Steve Jarvis
Sen. Joyce Krawiec
Sen. Natasha Marcus
Sen. Julie Mayfield
Sen. Graig Meyer
Sen. Natalie Murdock
Sen. Dean Proctor
Sen. Norman Sanderson
Sen. Eddie Settle
Sen. Kandie Smith
Sen. Mike Woodard

BRING YOUR LEGISLATOR TO SCHOOL DAY MAY 15, 2023

House of Representatives

Rep. Eric Ager	Rep. Donnie Loftis
Rep. Vernetta Alston	Rep. Tim Longest
Rep. Kristin Baker	Rep. Charles Miller
Rep. Amber Baker	Rep. Marcia Morey
Rep. Cynthia Ball	Rep. Garland Pierce
Rep. Terry Brown	Rep. Lindsey Prather
Rep. Kanika Brown	Rep. Renee Price
Rep. Allen Buansi	Rep. Reece Pyrtle
Rep. Laura Budd	Rep. Rim Reeder
Rep. Laura Budd	Rep. James Roberson
Rep. Becky Carney	Rep. Stephen Ross
Rep. Maria Cervania	Rep. Carson Smith
Rep. Sarah Crawford	Rep. Frank Sossamon
Rep. Kevin Crutchfield	Rep. Diamond Staton-Williams
Rep. Wesley Harris	Rep. John Torbett
Rep. Chris Humphrey	Rep. Julie von Haefen
Rep. Francis Jackson	Rep. Donna White
Rep. Ray Jeffers	Rep. Shelly Willingham
Rep. Joe John	Rep. Matthew Winslow
Rep. Abe Jones	Rep. Jeff Zenger
Rep. Ya Liu	

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.



Union County
Public 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

Apply for Harnett County Schools Child Nutrition Director Position

Harnett County Schools is seeking applicants for the Child Nutrition Director position. Applicants must have at least eight hours of food safety training either not more than five years prior to their starting date or completed within 30 days of the employee’s start date AND one of the following:

- Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field, OR
- Bachelor’s degree in any academic major and at least five years of experience in management of School Nutrition Programs, OR
- Bachelor’s degree in any academic major and State-recognized certificate for school.

[Learn more and apply](#). The position is open until filled.

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

Learn More and 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](#) by 11:59 pm ET on May 22, 2023. Grant information is available on the USDA [website](#). A [recording of the informational webinar](#) held on April 5 is now available. For questions regarding applications, please contact the Grant Officer, Anna Arrowsmith, anna.arrowsmith@usda.gov.

Apply for 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](#), 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](#).

The Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for small and/or rural SFAs are a key part of USDA, FNS [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](#), 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.

Transform Communities with the Lots of Compassion Grant – Due 6/2

Mrs. Meyer’s Clean Day and KidsGardening have announced their new Lots of Compassion grant program, designed to support local leaders looking to transform vacant lots into gardens to help grow compassion in their community. In 2023, 10 grantees will receive \$20,000 each to transform a vacant lot into a garden. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Celebrate May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Every May, we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month. It is a time to recognize and honor the contributions of the AAPI community to all aspects of life, including agriculture. More information is available from [USDA](#). Fun facts are available from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). Resources are available to help you celebrate from the [Library of Congress](#).



Continuing Education

Nurturing Middle Eastern and North African Culture in Youth Gardens – 5/16, 7 pm ET

Join KidsGardening on May 16 at 7 pm ET as part of a school garden webinar series. Änna Ibrahim of Shalom Farms and educators Naomi Stein, Iesha Siler, and Levi Brewster will explore ways to nurture Middle Eastern and North African Culture in youth gardens. [Learn more and register](#).

Get Your CEP Questions Answered! – 5/17, 3 pm ET

As your school or school district prepares for the upcoming school year, join the School Nutrition Association and the Food Research & Action Center on May 17 at 3:00 pm ET for an interactive webinar on getting your Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) questions answered. [Learn more and register](#).

Learn About an Economic Impact Assessment of Public Incentives to Support Farm to School Food Purchases – 5/18, 1 pm ET

Farm to school projects have widely been supported by policymakers with funding provided at state and federal levels. Still, many of the economic outcomes of this inflow of policy and funding remain unclear. In 2018, New York State announced the 30% N.Y. Initiative that substantially increases school lunch reimbursements if School Food Authorities (SFAs) purchase at least 30% of their lunch ingredients as New York food products. With detailed food purchasing data from Buffalo Public Schools, the second-largest school district in the state, and the largest SFA to qualify for enhanced reimbursement, researchers estimated the gross and net economic impacts of the policy through a customized input-output model. Join this webinar to hear results from the study, which was led by Professor Todd Schmit, Cornell Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, and supported by Shayna Krasnoff, MS, '22, and Cheryl Bilinski, Cornell Cooperative Extension Harvest New York. [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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