

# School Nutrition Update

June 12-16, 2023



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## Program Operations Information

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### ***Explore Data Regarding the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Student Attendance, Grades, Grade Retention, and Suspensions in North Carolina***

Evidence of the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student outcomes, particularly test scores, has been documented nationwide. The Education Policy Initiative at Carolina (EPIC) examined student level data provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). These data include all students enrolled in traditional public schools and charter schools in North Carolina from the 2017-18 to 2021-22 school years. A research brief was recently released which addressed the following questions:

- How has student attendance changed from pre-pandemic through the 2021-22 school year?
- How have course grades changed from pre-pandemic through the 2021-22 school year?
- How has grade retention changed from pre-pandemic through the 2021-22 school year?
- How have suspensions changed from pre-pandemic through the 2021-22 school year?

Read the [full research brief](#).

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### ***Promote N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs – Food, Fitness, Farm to Summer, and Fun for Kids and Teens!***

N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs provide appealing, nutritious meals to kids and teens at no-cost when school is out. Summer meal sites also offer educational, enrichment, and recreational activities to keep students learning, active, and safe. Summer Nutrition Programs support healthy growth and development and help students succeed in and out of the classroom. Please let families know how they can find summer meals:

- Text FOOD (English) or COMIDA (Spanish) to 304-304.
- Call the USDA National Hunger Hotline: 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) for information in English or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (877-842-6273) for information in Spanish.
- Check their school or district website or social media.
- Use an interactive, online map. Visit [summermeals4nckids.org](https://summermeals4nckids.org). Click on FIND MEALS. Scroll down to find the link to the N.C. Site Finder Map.

A [statewide press release](#) regarding the availability of and eligibility criteria for N.C. Summer Nutrition Program was disseminated by NCDPI last week. Feel free to use the release as a template for your own local release regarding summer meals. In addition, free promotional resources for summer meals are available from [No Kid Hungry](#), the [Carolina Hunger Initiative](#), and the [NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition](#). NCDPI will be working to create and share additional promotional resources throughout the summer.

Make sure your Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) site applications are up-to-date in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). Data from the SNTS is submitted weekly to the texting service powered by No Kid

Hungry, the USDA National Hunger Hotline, and the NCDPI, N.C. Site Finder Map. It may be helpful to double check that the information is correct and current for your summer meal sites in these resource listings.

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## ***Register for 2023 SNA-NC Pre-Conference Workshops by 6/12***

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition is thrilled to announce that three in-person pre-conference sessions will be offered at the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina (SNA-NC) State Conference in Greensboro June 19-20. The sessions will be held at the Koury Convention Center.

### **Pre-Conference Session 1: New School Nutrition Manager Workshop**

- This workshop is designed for new and aspiring School Nutrition Managers. It will include introductory information and overviews for meal patterns and offer vs. serve, meal counting and claiming, cash management and accountability, food safety and a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan, inventory management, production records, and customer service.
- This session will begin on Monday (June 19) with registration beginning at 12:30 pm. The first day will end at 5:00 pm. The second day will begin with registration at 8:30 am and will end at 3:30 pm.
- [Learn more and register.](#)

### **Pre-Conference Session 2: Safe Plates for Managers**

- This workshop is designed to help School Nutrition Administrators/Directors, School Nutrition Managers, and other Persons in Charge (PICs) obtain a Certified Food Protection Manager certification. This certification is required for School Nutrition Administrators/Directors as part of Professional Standards hiring requirements and is also required for PICs of food establishments per the North Carolina Food Code.
- A preparation course begins on the first day and ends on the second day. After the conclusion of the preparation course on the afternoon of the second day, participants will be given an opportunity to take the exam. The exam provided at the conclusion of this workshop meets the requirements for an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited exam option.
- This session will begin on Monday (June 19) with registration beginning at 9:30 am. The first day will end at 6:00 pm. The second day will begin with registration at 8:30 am and will end at 5:00 pm. The exam will be 2:45 pm-5:00 pm on the second day.
- [Learn more and register.](#)

### **Pre-Conference Session 3: The Administrative Review: An Approach to Collaborative Compliance**

- This workshop is designed to provide important information about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Administrative Review. Participants will have a better understanding of the areas of review and process of the Administrative Review.
- This session will begin on Monday (June 19) with registration beginning at 12:30 pm. The first day will end at 5:00 pm. The second day will begin with registration at 8:30 am and will end at 3:30 pm.
- [Learn more and register.](#)

Those interested in participating in these workshops must register by June 12. If you have any questions regarding the workshops, please contact Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, [katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov). For information about the State Conference, visit the SNA-NC [website](#).

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## School Nutrition Spotlight

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### *Having Fun with Farm Day – S.W. Snowden School*

Students and staff at S.W. Snowden School in Beaufort County Schools had fun with Farm Day! Students learned about North Carolina grown crops, planted seeds, sampled watermelon, participated in a cow milking demo, explored farm equipment, learned how to figure out what color eggs a hen will lay, visited with farm to school produce costumed-characters from the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumers Services, and more. What an amazing day! Check out the Beaufort County Schools Facebook [page](#) to learn more.



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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, 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](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.



Transylvania 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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## Job Opportunity

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### *Apply for the 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.

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## ***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](#).

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## **Nutrition Education & Promotion**

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### ***Bring the Farm to Summer***

Summer Nutrition Programs coincide with the peak growing season for local farmers and producers. This season gives program sponsors the opportunity to tap into locally sourced foods and incorporate these ingredients into their summer meals. Participating in farm to summer helps engage kids and teens in learning activities and connect students and their families to local agriculture and food. There are so many benefits to participating in farm to summer!



July 17-23 has been designated as N.C. Farm to Summer Week 2023. School districts and organization sponsors for N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs along with individuals, families, and communities are encouraged to take the N.C. Farm to Summer Challenge by completing one or more of the following during N.C. Farm to Summer Week through the end of the summer:

- Serve local foods as part of meals and/or snacks.
- Teach about local foods through farm to summer activities.
- Post about farm to summer activities on social media using #NCFarmtoSummer, #NCSummerMeals, @NCSchoolMeals, @Ray4NCKids, and @F2SCoalitionNC.
- Sign up for the [North Carolina Crunch](#) to celebrate farm to school in October.



Learn more, sign up to take the #NCFarmtoSummerChallenge, and find a toolkit, social media graphics, and more free resources on the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#).

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## ***Register to Crunch!***

Registration for the 2023 #NCCrunch is now live! Sign up to receive a free guide with tips and resources to help you plan for the N.C. Crunch. In addition to the guide, a new N.C. Crunch logo, flyer, “I crunched” sticker template, and social media graphics are available. More resources are in the works.



Through the N.C. Crunch, kids and adults can taste and learn about North Carolina-grown fruits and vegetables with their schools, early care and education sites, organizations, families, and communities for #FarmtoSchool and Early Care and Education Month in October. The N.C. Crunch is also an opportunity to thank all those involved in feeding our communities. [Learn more and register to crunch.](#)

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## **Continuing Education**

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### ***Learn about the Racial Equity Learning Lab – 6/14, 3 pm ET***

The National Farm to School Network (NFSN) is excited to announce a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to convene the Racial Equity Learning Lab (“the Lab”). Through a series of facilitated learning sessions, paired with ongoing peer and mentor support, cohort members will dive into literature, resources, and discussions to build the foundations of a shared understanding of racial inequities in the food system. This webinar will dive into the concept of the Lab and its value-based and co-creation approaches, celebrate the work done by the Lab Advisory Council, and share details about how to apply and join the Lab’s first cohort of thirteen members scheduled to convene this September 2023. [Learn more and register.](#)

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### ***Participate in Indigenous Foodways in the Classroom Series***

Join the Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy for their free, three-part series on bringing Indigenous foodways into the classroom. They recommend that participants register for all three workshops, but each can be joined as a standalone. For the final session, there will be a 30-minute Q&A panel with all three facilitators. [Learn more and register.](#)

- Centering Indigenous Worldview, Language, and Practices in Today’s Food Education Movement: Insights and Stories from Hawai’i, facilitated by Summer Mauanakea, Assistant Professor at University of Hawai’i at Mānoa - June 15, 2023, 3:30 pm ET
- Centering Nourishment in Food Education, facilitated by Maya Marie, Founder of Deep Routes - June 22, 2023, 3:00 pm ET
- How Unsettling Curriculum Supports Food (and other) Sovereignities, facilitated by Rachel Talbert, Postdoctoral Fellow at Teachers College, Columbia University - June 30, 2023, 3:00 pm ET

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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**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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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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