

School Nutrition Update

November 13-17, 2023



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Program Operations Information

Plan to Participate in Civil Rights Make-Up Webinar – 11/16

All School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Special Milk Program sponsors must have Civil Rights training annually. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Office of School Nutrition has scheduled a makeup webinar on **November 16 at 10 am ET** for School Nutrition Administrators who were not able to participate in the Civil Rights training conducted during their Zone meeting earlier this year.

Please [register](#) to participate in the webinar. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have questions, please contact your School Nutrition Consultant or Jacquelyn McGowan, Compliance Specialist, jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov.

Don't Miss a SummerPalooza! Summit – Register by 11/17

All public school units, private nonprofits, public organizations, and advocates interested in eliminating summer hunger for youth are encouraged to participate in the upcoming SummerPalooza! Summits. The summits are the place to be to learn late-breaking new regulations for 2024 Summer Nutrition Programs, how to make the most of County Profiles, innovative meal service strategies including non-congregate meals, and the top ten steps to set up your summer meal sites for success. Special guest presenters will help highlight the “Destination Summer” theme. Success will also be celebrated by recognizing the 2023 N.C. Summer Nutrition Program Champions. [Register](#) by **November 17** for a summit at one of the locations below. For more SummerPalooza! info or questions, reach out to summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov.



- November 28 – Western - Hickory Metro Convention Center, 1960 13th Ave. Drive SE, Hickory
- November 29 – Central - McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh
- November 30 – Eastern - Eastern AHEC, 2600 W. Arlington Boulevard, Greenville

Be a Host for the 2024 N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute! – Reply by 12/1

The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition in conjunction with Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 Team are thrilled to bring back the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute for summer 2024! We will be offering six workshops across the state and are looking for public school units (PSUs) to serve as hosts for this three-day, hands-on workshop for School Nutrition managers.



We are looking for hosts for the following dates. (The first day is for setup only.)

- June 24-28, 2024
- July 8-12, 2024
- July 22-26, 2024
- July 29-August 2, 2024
- August 5-9, 2024

The benefits of being a host include:

- Convenient opportunity for training your School Nutrition managers (no travel/lodging costs),
- Easier chance to observe the workshop and the benefit to your School Nutrition managers,
- Reimbursement for costs for food and consumables related to conducting the workshop, and
- Potential positive media exposure for your School Nutrition Program.

Please reach out to Katrina Perry, Professional Development Consultant, katrina.perry@dpi.nc.gov, for more information if your PSU is interested in serving as a host site for any of the dates listed above.

Save the Date – N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcases

Save the date for the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institute Administrator Showcase the week of **March 18, 2024!** The NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition will be offering two opportunities across the state to participate in this unique event. Each event will take place over two consecutive days. Please plan to attend **only one** showcase event.

While the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes were for your School Nutrition Managers, this event is for you and your central office staff (Supervisors, Menu Planners/Dietitians, and Training Specialists). Please join Chef Cyndie Story and the K-12 Team from Culinary Solutions as they discuss the N.C. K-12 Culinary Institutes your School Nutrition Managers attended this summer, demonstrate new school meal recipes and quick-scratch techniques, and share helpful resources to assist you with incorporating the skills and recipes from the Institutes into your School Nutrition Program. You will even have the opportunity to taste-test some of the recipes!

- March 18-19, 2024 - Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center (Williamston)
- March 21-22, 2024 - Masonic Center of Winston Salem (Winston-Salem)

Please keep an eye out for a future School Nutrition Update and announcement from Area Consultants with further details and registration information.

Help Reach 100% Response Rate with the 2023 Farm to School Census

The USDA, Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program is conducting its fourth Farm to School Census. School Food Authorities (SFAs) have until the end of **December 2023** to respond to the Census survey.



For previous Census surveys, North Carolina has been a leader, achieving a 90-100% response rate. Our goal is to continue this tradition and reach a 100% response rate for the 2023 Farm to School Census.

Look for the October 2 email from Decision Information Resources (DIR), Farm2SchoolCensus@dir-online.com, on October 2 with a unique link for your SFA to respond to the Census survey. You may share this link with school and community partners, i.e., School Administrators, teachers, N.C. Cooperative Extension agents, etc., to assist in responding to the Census survey.

For questions about the 2023 Farm to School Census, please contact the project team by phone, 866-986-2230 (toll-free), from 9 AM to 9 PM ET, or by e-mail, Farm2SchoolCensus@dir-online.com. You may also reach out to your School Nutrition Area Consultants or N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Field Reps.

USDA offers [Farm to School Census Partner Resources](#) including an informational webinar, sample survey, preparation worksheet, Q & A, promotional artwork, and more. In addition, a recording of the October 24 [North Carolina Farm to School Census webinar](#) by USDA, NCDPI, NCDA&CS, N.C. Cooperative Extension, and the Farm to School Coalition of North Carolina is available.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Celebrate N.C. FAME Award Winner – Lauren Weyand

Congratulations to 2024 FAME Silver Leadership Award winner, Lauren Weyand, MDA, RD, Director of School Nutrition for Craven County Schools! The FAME Award announcement shared that Lauren makes every employee feel valued and purposeful, so much so that she came up with a team logo and mission statement, helping all employees see their worth. Her infectious enthusiasm fostered such a strong team, that they increased their district’s daily breakfast participation from 35% to 70%.

For more than 30 years, the FAME Awards have recognized outstanding heroes in K-12 foodservice who raise industry standards by making a difference within their school districts and communities. The 35th annual FAME Awards ceremony will be held on January 14, 2024, during the national School Nutrition Association (SNA) School Nutrition Industry Conference in Orlando. [Learn more.](#)



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 and Summer Nutrition Programs across the state offer to students. Share your beautiful photos of serving lines, complete school or summer meals, and nutrition education and promotion 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 or organization info so we can aim to credit the source. Be on the lookout for photos 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 ready-for-print 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. **Submissions received after the deadline will be included in the following issue of the SN Update.**

Job Opportunity

Apply for Chatham County Schools – Director of School Nutrition Position

Chatham County Schools is recruiting for the open Director of School Nutrition Services position to perform responsible, administrative, and supervisory work in the development and implementation of the School Nutrition Program. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in food services management, nutrition, business, or a related field, and six to nine years of experience in food services management or a related field, or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. In addition, applicants must possess ServSafe® Certification. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Work with Mooresville Graded School District – School Nutrition Director Opening

Mooresville Graded School District is seeking applicants for the School Nutrition Director position. The Director of School Nutrition oversees all aspects of the district's School Nutrition Program (SNP) operation. The job functions include administering, planning, directing, assessing, implementing, and evaluating the program to meet the nutritional and educational needs of children, as they relate to the SNP. [Learn more and apply.](#) The position is open until filled.

Apply for Wilson County School Nutrition Executive Director Position

The Wilson County School Nutrition Executive Director will oversee all aspects of the district School Nutrition Program operation including visionary leadership and fiscal accountability for the district's School Nutrition Program. Interested applicants must have a bachelor's degree in food service management, nutrition, business, or a related field, or 10 or more years of experience in food services management or a related field, or, any

equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Grant Opportunity

Apply for the N.C. Innovative School Breakfast Programs Grant – Due 12/1

Governor Roy Cooper recently announced that \$1.4 million in federal funds will go to support North Carolina public schools in expanding School Breakfast Programs. The funding will provide grants of up to \$50,000 per School Nutrition Program to allow schools to better provide students with innovative school breakfast options, such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab-and-Go Breakfasts, or Second Chance Breakfasts when students have the option of eating breakfast during a break.

The Carolina Hunger Initiative (CHI) and the North Carolina Alliance for Health have been tasked with distributing the Innovative School Breakfast Program Grant funding. Priority will be given to schools that are newly participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). Applications are due on **Friday, December 1**. CHI and the N.C. Alliance for Health held an informational webinar about the grant on November 9. [View the webinar, learn more, and apply.](#)

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Recognize Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, which is also referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. This month provides an opportunity for us to reflect on how the cultures and traditions held dear by tribal nations continue to advance resilient economies and vibrant lands nationwide. The value and applicability of Indigenous knowledge continues to be affirmed throughout our everyday life, and whose integration can have significant positive implications for our land management and agricultural programs and responsibilities. Learn more and share resources with schools about Native American Heritage Month. [USDA, Ag Learn](#) offers a variety of resources for educators. In addition, the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration offers [background information and resources](#) celebrating the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.

This year's theme for Native American Heritage Month (NAHM), "Indigenous Foods: The Intersection Between Land, Food, and Culture," promotes the importance of recognizing these foods and the Indigenous knowledge and practices used in cultivating these foods for enhancing land stewardship and climate resilience, strengthening domestic food economies, and addressing food insecurity. The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) understands the importance of serving traditional Indigenous foods and encourages all operators of Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) to source locally grown and raised foods. USDA, FNS has a variety of [resources](#) to assist CNP operators in determining how



traditional Indigenous foods may contribute toward a reimbursable meal. In celebration of NAHM, the USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR) and the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) will host a Department-wide observance featuring a panel of Indigenous chefs, foragers, and food leaders, and USECs Dean and Moffett on November 16 at 2 pm ET. [Learn more and register.](#)

Learn About and Promote the N.C. Jr. Chef Competition

High school students can work with their teachers and local School Nutrition Programs to create school lunch entrée recipes that adhere to National School Lunch Program standards, feature at least two North Carolina-grown ingredients and one USDA Foods item, and appeal to students. The first place N.C. Jr. Chef team advances to the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition. Student members of the top three teams at the state and regional level win scholarships. See below for the 2024 N.C. Jr. Chef Competition key dates and action steps. For competition information and materials, visit the NCDPI, Office of School Nutrition [website](#). To learn more, listen to the [recording of an informational webinar](#) held November 8 (Password: NcJrchef23).



2024 NC Jr. Chef Competition (NCJCC) Timeline:

- January 5, 2024 – Teams submit the online Submission Form, Application (Excel or Google Sheet), Recipe Photo and a signed NCJCC Permission and Release Form for each student team member. The Application includes team information, recipe ingredients and instructions, nutrient analysis, and cost analysis.
 - January 22, 2024 – Based on a review of applications and recipes, up to eight finalist teams will be selected to compete in the NCJCC cook-off phase. Teams will be notified regarding finalist selections.
 - February 19, 2024 – NCJCC finalist teams will submit their final application with recipe, nutrient analysis, cost analysis, recipe photo, time management plan, and an unedited recipe preparation video.
 - March 11 or 12, 2024 – NCJCC teams participate in live virtual interviews with panel of evaluators.
 - March 13, 2024 – NCJCC results will be announced via press release and social media. A virtual ceremony will be held to recognize all finalist teams and announce the results.
 - April 25, 2024 – The NCJCC first place team submits their application, recipe, recipe photo, permission forms, and media releases for the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition.
 - May 9-10, 2024 – State teams compete at the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition at Nashville State Community College in Tennessee.
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Continuing Education

Explore Small Fruits and Tree Fruits for Small-Scale Producers – 11/21, 12 pm ET

Join Melissa Bell from the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) and John Lyttle, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Durham County – Agriculture Agent (Small Farms & Local Foods) for the next installment of their *Lunch & Learn* webinar series. During this free virtual workshop, they will discuss propagation, cultivation, and maintenance techniques unique to fruit trees and berries. [Learn more and register.](#)

Register for the 2024 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference – 2/27

Registration is now open for the 2024 N.C. Child Hunger Leaders Conference, an annual day of celebration and inspiration for anyone invested in making sure kids have access to healthy food. The one-day event is presented by the Carolina Hunger Initiative and will take place Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at The Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill. 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.](#)

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).

Important Dates

Date	Action Step
November 15	1 st Quarterly Financial Analysis Worksheet Due - Traditional Public SFAs only
November 15	Verification Process Ends (Deadline for completing the process)
November 17	Verification Reporting Period Begins (CEP Schools Must Also Report)
December 8	Final Day to complete the Verification Collection Report in the SNTS
December 10	File Claims
December 15	Deadline to complete Civil Rights Compliance Worksheets (SFAs)
December 31	Deadline to complete USDA Farm to School Census

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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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