

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs and Summer Food Service Program

March 21, 2022

Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and the Food Service Directors Listserv and posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New and Distributed to Summer Food Service Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and posted at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, What's New

Town Hall Tuesdays at 2

Plan now to join us March 22, April 12, and April 26 at 2:00 pm each day for the latest guidance and updates. Join at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlllMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmPuZz09>. On March 22, we will be providing an Update on Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-23 Operations, Community Eligibility Provision Reporting Deadlines, Paid Lunch Equity Requirements, Summer Meals Options, New USDA Policy Memos, a sneak peek of the new CNW website that is coming soon and answering frequently asked questions.

Congress Does Not Extend Child Nutrition Waivers

On March 10, 2022, the U.S. Senate passed the Omnibus Appropriations bill that funds the federal government through September. This bill does **not** extend pandemic child nutrition waivers for school meals programs which are set to expire on June 30. This means that after June 30, USDA will no longer have authority to provide the higher Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates, allow all schools to serve free meals to all students, or extend the broad regulatory flexibility Child Nutrition Programs have relied on for the last two years.

As a result, School Nutrition Program Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications will be needed to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals for SY2022-23. A USDA Technology Grant has made it possible for KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness to develop an Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. It will be available free of charge to sponsors to use for the 2022-2023 school year. Contact Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org for more information or access an online 25-minute tutorial that provides an overview of how to access and utilize the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals at <https://learning.ksde.org/>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Tutorials, School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Tutorials.

Schools electing the Community Eligibility Provision will continue to use the Household Economic Survey to collect information for At-Risk Funding and other local benefits. To find out if the Community Eligibility Provision, which allows all students to eat free, would be a possibility for your school, contact Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org.



Important! Community Eligibility Provision Notification Reporting Required

Using **April 1** data, **ALL SPONSORS** except RCCLs are **required** to:

- Go to www.kn-eat.org, KN-CLAIM, SNP, Program Year 2022, Forms, Community Eligibility Provision Notification to enter the required data.
- Enter the total number of students Directly Certified for the entire Sponsor (include Food Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Foster from the Direct Certification list, as well as students certified as Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, Head Start or Even Start, and Non-applicants approved by local officials.)
- Enter the number enrolled with access to school meals for the entire Sponsor. Do not include virtual students or students that attend a half day without access to a meal.
- After entering the Sponsor information, click “Save” to calculate and display the percentage of Identified Students. The appropriate checkbox will indicate if the Sponsor is eligible or potentially eligible to participate.
- Next, enter each site’s number of Directly Certified and enrollment with access to school meals by clicking on the edit pencil next to each site’s name.
- Click the blue save icon to calculate, display the percentage of Identified Students and SAVE the site information. The appropriate checkboxes will indicate the eligibility status for each site.
- Data must be entered by **April 15** so that a list of Sponsors and Sites eligible to participate can be provided to USDA.
- Sponsors with at least one site eligible to elect participation in the Community Eligibility Provision will be notified and provided detailed information.
- Current deadline to elect the Community Eligibility Provision is June 30, 2022.

Administrative Review Results Available

The results from Administrative Reviews are posted at www.ksde.org, Data Central, Child Nutrition & Wellness Reports, Administrative Review Findings and Administrative Review Commendations.

USDA Guidance

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE Tool) Update

The consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (H.R. 2471) Section 752 states that for school year 2022–2023, only Sponsors that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2021, will be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National 24 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)). As soon as USDA provides additional information, KSDE will provide to Sponsors.

Vegetables May be Substituted for Fruit at Breakfast

The consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (H.R. 2471) Section 740 provides that for school years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, vegetables may be substituted for fruits at breakfast without restriction. As soon as USDA provides additional information, KSDE will provide to Sponsors.

Question and Answer Guidance on the Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022 (SP 04-2022)

This USDA policy memo provides Questions and Answers (QA) on the final rule titled, Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium. This guidance is intended to be transitional and in effect for school years (SY) 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. FNS plans to promulgate a new rule for long-term meal pattern requirements to be effective starting in SY 2024-2025. This QA memorandum rescinds and replaces SP 37-2019, *Questions and Answers on the Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements*, dated September 23, 2019.



These QAs address the following key provisions of the final rule:

- **Flavored Milk.** The rule allows schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to offer flavored, low-fat (1 percent) milk at lunch and breakfast and as a beverage for sale a la carte, and requires that unflavored milk (fat-free or low-fat) be available at each school meal service. For consistency across Programs, the rule extends the transitional milk requirements to the Special Milk Program for Children and to the Child and Adult Care Food Program for children ages six and older and adult participants. This rule also clarifies that lactose-free and reduced-lactose fluid milk meet the Special Milk Program for Children and the Child and Adult Care Food Program requirements for fluid milk to provide consistency across all Child Nutrition Programs.
- **Whole Grains.** The rule requires that at least 80 percent of the weekly grains in the NSLP and SBP be whole grain-rich; the remaining weekly grains offered must be enriched.
- **Sodium.** The final rule retains Sodium Target 1 for NSLP and SBP through SY 2022-2023, retains Sodium Target 1 for SBP in SY 2023-2024, and institutes a Sodium Interim Target 1A for NSLP for SY 2023-2024.

As a reminder, USDA has invited comments on this final rule to provide insight as they work towards developing permanent, practical, and science-based school meal standards. Comments can be submitted in writing by **March 24** using one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FNS-2020-0038-2936> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Send comments to Tina Namian, Chief, School Programs Branch, Policy and Program Development Division—4th Floor, Food and Nutrition Service, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314

Meal Requirements Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators Updated to Support the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022 (SP 05-2022)

USDA has provided questions and answers on meal requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program that have been updated to reflect the transitional standards for milk, whole grains and sodium which are intended to be transitional requirements in effect for school years (SY) 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. This policy memo rescinds and replaces SP 38-2019, Meal Requirements under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators, dated September 23, 2019. The majority of the questions and answers within this guidance are unchanged because they are not affected by the final rule. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to promulgate a new rule for long-term meal pattern requirements to be effective starting in SY 2024- 2025.

USDA will post the policy memos soon at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nutrition-standards-school-meals>.

Child Nutrition Programs Income Eligibility Guidelines

The Child Nutrition Programs Income Eligibility Guidelines are used in determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk. The Federal Register Notice announcing the guidelines for the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 was published on February 16, 2022. They are available at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-16/pdf/2022-03261.pdf>.



Summer Food Service Program 2022

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to fill the nutrition gap that occurs in summer and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. Many SFSP sites provide not just meals, but educational, enrichment and recreational activities that help children continue to learn and stay safe when school is not in session. Summer meals act as a “magnet” to draw children to activities and activities draw children to summer meals. Meals can be served at a variety of locations, including schools, camps, parks, recreation centers, YMCAs, Head Start Centers, Community Action Agencies, Boys and Girls Clubs...and many other places.

Now is the time to sign up or renew as a Summer Meals Sponsor. For questions about the SFSP or the Seamless Summer Option for School Nutrition Program (SNP) Sponsors only, two resources have been developed to assist Sponsors to explain options and are posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New:

- Continuing Seamless Summer Option in Summer 2022
- Summer 2022 Comparison Chart

Please contact our office at 785-296-2276 or your area KSDE child nutrition consultant to discuss options for Summer 2022. **SFSP applications are due May 2.**

SFSP Administrative Training on March 31 – Plan Now to Attend!

Are you planning to offer summer meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer? If so, join KSDE on March 31 from 1:00-4:00 pm for SFSP Back to the Basics Administrative Training for Summer 2022. The training will be offered live via zoom. Use the following link to join: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/81664350715?pwd=VzZMMGc0a0h2U3N1YU1xWnBuSHJRUT09>. For those unable to make the live training, a recording will be made available on the KSDE Learning Portal at a later date. All new and returning Sponsors must have at least one representative complete administrative training in order to operate the SFSP in Summer 2022.

Summer Food Service Program Outreach

All SNP Sponsors are required to conduct outreach for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). If the Sponsor does not have the SFSP sites, consider posting a link to the site locator tool that is available on-line at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, Locate a Site Near You on the school website or providing the link on a flyer to send home with students. This would allow families to find a location to receive free meals at sites across Kansas.

Important Update! Summer Meals Text Number is now 914-342-7744

The automated texting service which connects families to local summer meal sites has changed to 914-342-7744. The 97779 number that was previously in use is now discontinued. The new number is in operation and will be this summer. The new text number has been updated on USDA's public website, and more information about the National Hunger Hotline and associated texting service may be found [here](#).

*Please note, the USDA National Hunger Hotline number has not changed. Individuals can still call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE to speak with a representative who will find food resources such as meal sites, food banks, and other nearby social services. The No Kid Hungry Texting Line also moved to a new number. Parents and caregivers should text the word “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 304-304 to find the nearest meal sites.



School Breakfast Waivers

Eating breakfast is one of the best ways to ensure students are healthy and able to achieve their full potential. All Kansas public schools are required by State law to participate in the School Breakfast Program unless they meet certain criteria and receive an annual waiver from the Kansas State Department of Education. Waiver Request forms for SY2022-2023 can be requested by contacting Arleen Anderson at aanderson@ksde.org or 785-296-2276 and are due by April 15.

Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs

Sponsors who wish to use an online process for their Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, Enrollment & Income Eligibility Form, or other Child Nutrition Forms requiring an electronic signature, must complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form (will be located on the checklist tab in KN-CLAIM and is also available in Food Service Facts, Chapter 7, Forms). An online class is available at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Child Nutrition Programs (General Information), Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs.

Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

A USDA Technology Grant has made it possible for KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness to develop an Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. It will be available free of charge to sponsors to use for the 2022-2023 school year. Sponsors opting to use the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals are not required to complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form. Contact Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org for more information.

Utilizing the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals – Now Available!

Sponsors can now access the online 25-minute tutorial through the KSDE Training Portal. This tutorial provides an overview of how to access and utilize the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. The training will help sponsors understand how to create a sponsor specific link, utilize the online application, access and determine submitted applications, and save those applications correctly. Access the training at <https://learning.ksde.org/>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Tutorials, School Nutrition Programs (SNP) tutorials.

FSMC Renewal Training on April 5 – Save the Date

Sponsors that are planning to renew their FSMC Contract for the 2022-23 school year should plan to attend the FSMC Renewal Training scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 from 9:30 am-10:30 am. This training will discuss the contract renewal process as well as remind sponsors of their contract monitoring responsibilities. To attend this training, use the following link <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/86320736730?pwd=MWRGeHZKSTI1bTMwV2VKTVRlenhQUT09>. A recording of the training will be made available for Sponsors unable to attend the live training.

Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)

Sponsors participating in the ASP must review each site two (2) times per year. The first review must occur during the first four (4) weeks that the site is in operation each school year and the second review must be completed at some point during the school year. Use the Afterschool Snack Program On-Site Monitoring Form for documenting ASP site reviews. The form can be found at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Food Service Facts, Chapter 26 Related Forms.



Purchasing Cooperatives

Are you looking for ways to navigate supply chain challenges and save money in your Child Nutrition Program? A purchasing cooperative may be the answer. For more information about purchasing cooperatives in Kansas, contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office.

Professional Development Update

Don't miss any of the amazing upcoming training opportunities. Go to www.kn-eat.org, CNW Calendar to view all scheduled classes – class descriptions, dates, times and ZOOM links. Upcoming events include: Kansas Nutrition 101 (April 1) as an in-person SNA-KS Pre-Conference Opportunity (email Kelly Chanay by Thursday, March 24 to register for this in-person training opportunity at kchanay@ksde.org), and Training for Success (April 13). Join Training for Success at this link: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/83706128915?pwd=T3c2NW5QTdVdZmZJMghhMEQwVGErZz09>.

Join CNW for upcoming culinary trainings which can be accessed using the following Zoom link: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88640601491?pwd=NUQvT2VmWXhod2hoS2dZdIlkRW5DZz09>.

- March Culinary Corner: Bentos, Bowls & Breakfast: Spotlight on Pork, March 23 at 2 pm. Explore simple ways to put a fun twist on breakfast and lunch/supper menus using USDA and CNW developed recipes.
- April Culinary Corner: Soybeans and Soy Food: The Many Sides of Soy, April 27 at 2 pm. Attend this training to learn more about soy's versatility as a meat/meat alternate and vegetable.
- View the March Quick Bite featuring Soy at: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd_2hYclboc_QUbcdjw6GfQP7i2Zv2MHM

Online Professional Development – Classes and Tutorials

CNW staff continue to develop new interactive online training classes and tutorials that can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. Create an account now at <https://learning.ksde.org> and see the entire list of classes and tutorials available. For detailed instructions on creating an account and accessing the training, go to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Training. New to the portal: Financial Management of SNP, Quick Train on Grains: Determining Ounce Equivalents of Grains in CACFP Recipes, January Culinary Corner featuring Beef and Wellness Wednesdays: Nutrition Education.

Spring Reminders

We will be happy to post free-of-charge advertisements for child nutrition job openings and food service equipment for sale. Email your advertisements to Pam Rosebaugh at prosebaugh@ksde.org.

Please let your area consultant know of upcoming **retirements** so Child Nutrition & Wellness can recognize them with a letter and certificate.

Report on Supply Chain Disruptions and Fact Sheet on Support

The USDA recently released a report based on a survey of school food authorities regarding the supply chain disruptions experienced this school year. Among its findings, the vast majority (90 percent) of SFAs are utilizing the waiver allowing them to serve meals through the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) this school year, 92 percent are experiencing supply chain disruptions, and 73 percent are facing staffing challenges. The USDA also released a fact sheet detailing the financial support provided to each state via the SSO waiver and other pandemic response measures.



Shaking It Up! Sodium Resources for Schools

The Institute of Child Nutrition recently released the Shaking It Up! resource page offering educational resources and training materials on sodium reduction for school nutrition professionals, including worksheets with sodium reduction strategies, scenarios, success stories, and activities.

Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast – *New!*

Available for download today at fns.usda.gov/tn/best-practices-reducing-added-sugars-school-breakfast, this new training guide from Team Nutrition for school nutrition professionals provides information on:

- How to Determine Amounts of Added Sugars in Foods and Drinks
- Menu Planning Tips
- Tips for Reducing Added Sugars in Recipes

Kansas Nutrition Council Conference

The Kansas Nutrition Council Annual Conference, *2022 Emerging Stronger: Leading the Way for a Healthier World*, will be held April 28 at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan. Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-kansas-nutrition-council-annual-conference-tickets-275179759067>

Save the Date: The Rural Child Hunger Virtual Summit – April 27-28, 2022

The goal of the 2022 Rural Child Hunger Summit presented by No Kid Hungry and Save the Children is to highlight the resiliency of rural communities through their innovative and adaptive programs. The Summit will identify promising practices and policy levers that amplify the impact of nutrition assistance programs and reduce rural child hunger. Register for this free event here: [2022 Rural Child Hunger Summit | Center for Best Practices \(nokidhungry.org\)](https://www.nokidhungry.org/2022-rural-child-hunger-summit)

SNA-KS Spring Conference – April 1-3

Register to attend the SNA-KS Spring Conference, Survivor Tool Kit: For School Nutrition, being held April 1-3 in Salina at the Hilton Garden Inn. Register at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=wwj9s9wab&oeidk=a07ej0tnwl7f2f504b5>

Turnip the Beet 2021 Award Winners - 3 Kansas Winners!

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to announce the winners of the Turnip the Beet award for summer 2021. 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, 84 sponsors qualified for either a gold, silver, or bronze Turnip the Beet award. There were three Kansas School Districts that received this special recognition. Special shout out to these recognized districts for going above and beyond to provide quality summer meals. Congratulations!

Gold – USD 312 Haven. Sheree Jones, Food Service Director, explained in their nomination “Although we live in a rural farming community, our kids like the flavors and options offered in the big cities, such as homemade Sweet and Sour Chicken, Italian Wraps and Burritos. We are a Farm to School district and take advantage of locally raised beef. Tomatoes and leaf lettuce from our district greenhouse are also used.”



Silver – USD 320 Wamego. Laura Fails, Food Service Director collaborated with the local library for a Cooks & Books Program. The 6-week program offered weekly Take & Make Bags which included all the ingredients, recipe cards and nutrition education materials accompanied by a demonstration video filmed at the district kitchen. Laura said “We used locally sourced ingredients each week and the videos included recommended library books based on the recipe themes.”

Silver – USD 231 Gardner Edgerton. Amy Droegemeier, Food Service Director, distributes popular weekly meal kits such as Greatest Hits (the students' favorite entrees), Meatless Mix (vegetarian options), and Fridge Filler (a rotation of creative options including a week of sandwich items, grilled items such as hot dogs or burgers, Mexican kits for nachos, etc.). Amy wrote, “In addition, we also included fresh fruit and vegetables in a style similar to the popular Farmers to Families boxes we handed out in summer 2020. This allowed our families to utilize recipes we provided to enjoy the produce (including locally-grown items) in a variety of ways.”

For more information on Turnip the Beet, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet>.

Nutrition Security

USDA is committed to prioritizing bold nutrition security, that will help ensure all American children and families have consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe and affordable food. [Nutrition Security](#) (PDF, 203 KB) builds on the important work USDA and its partners are doing to promote food security by increasing the Department’s focus on diet-related chronic diseases -- a leading cause of death in the U.S. Nutrition Security further emphasizes the importance of tackling long-standing health inequities. Research shows communities of color, families with children, and people in more isolated areas of the country, including Tribal communities, are disproportionately affected by the toll of diet-related chronic diseases.

“The COVID-19 pandemic brought food insecurity to the forefront of the national conversation and shined a new light on the devastating toll of chronic disease, with an estimated two-thirds of COVID hospitalizations in the U.S. related to diet-related diseases,” said Vilsack. “Across the department we recognize that food and health are inherently intertwined, and we’re leaning into our powerful tools to help reduce chronic disease, advance equity and promote overall well-being.”

Broadly, Americans suffer from poor nutrition. When compared to the recommendations of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* (DGA), the average American diet earns a rating of 59 out of 100 points. Poor diet increases risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity and more. Beyond impacts on health, this also has negative effects on productivity, health care costs, military readiness and academic achievement.

USDA is engaged in several efforts to help improve Americans’ diets, including:

- Building on the success of the school meal programs by issuing transitional nutrition standards while engaging with stakeholders to [update the standards](#) in a way that reflects the latest science and works for people on-the-ground, and
- Focusing on nutrition education efforts across all its nutrition assistance programs and ensuring they meet the needs of the diverse audiences they serve.



Heartfelt thanks to each of you for your efforts to provide NUTRITION SECURITY and NUTRITION EDUCATION to Kansas children. You all are GREAT!

As always, if you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office!

Cheryl, Jill and Julie



For more information, contact:

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