

Monthly Update

School Nutrition Programs



February 28, 2022

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

March Town Hall Tuesdays at 2

Join us for Town Hall meetings on March 8th and March 22nd at 2:00 pm at this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlliMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmpuZz09>. Agenda items for the March Town Halls will include: Any new Guidance from USDA, School Breakfast Best Practices, Sneak Peak of New Child Nutrition & Wellness Website, Comment Period for Nutrition Standards Final Rule, Direct Certification with Medicaid, Summer Food Service Program Training Opportunities and more!

National School Breakfast Week: Get Ready to Take Off with School Breakfast

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) takes place March 7-11, 2022! This year's theme, *Take Off with School Breakfast*, reminds parents and stakeholders that a healthy school breakfast helps ensure students' academic success in school so they can "take off" and reach their goals. [Learn More](#). Get started with NSBW artwork! Use these images on menus, social media, in newsletters and on your website. To request artwork and logos, just complete the [short online form](#). You can instantly download the logos and receive additional image links via email.

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.

Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Funds

On Friday, February 18, Child Nutrition Sponsors received a direct deposit of SCA funds to assist with food supply disruptions. This payment must be deposited in the federal food service fund (Code 24) and recorded on line 4590 - Other Federal Aid (CFDA #10.555); however, it is not required to account for these funds separately within the non-profit school food service account. Record in KN-CLAIM on the Monthly/Annual Financial Report: Line 8 - Federal Grants

School Food Authorities (SFA) are required to maintain documentation supporting food purchases that are allowable SCA purchases and equal in amount received, consistent with the regular program recordkeeping requirements.

Increase Participation with the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

For more information or to find out if CEP would be a good choice for your school, please contact Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org.



Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Final Rule

On February 7, 2022, USDA published the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Final Rule. This rule provides schools and their industry partners with the certainty they need for the next two school years, while we work collaboratively on permanent standards that will build on the progress that has been made over the past decade. USDA is inviting comments on this final rule to provide insight as we work towards developing permanent, science-based meal standards for the long-term. Comments can be submitted in writing on the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FNS-2020-0038-2936> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Comments must be submitted by **March 24, 2022**.

- For more information about the Transitional Standards, please visit: [Building Back Better with School Meals | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
- You can read the Final Rule through the following links:
Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-02327>
PDF: [Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium](#)

In summary, the new final rule – [Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium](#) – establishes the following requirements beginning SY 2022-2023:

- **Milk:** Schools and child care providers serving participants ages six and older may offer flavored low-fat (1%) milk in addition to nonfat flavored milk and nonfat or low-fat unflavored milk;
- **Whole Grains:** At least 80% of the grains served in school lunch and breakfast each week must be whole grain-rich; and
- **Sodium:** The weekly sodium limit for school lunch and breakfast will remain at the current level in SY 2022-2023. For school lunch only, there will be a 10% decrease in the limit in SY 2023-2024. This aligns with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recently released [guidance](#) that establishes voluntary sodium reduction targets for processed, packaged, and prepared foods in the U.S.

All other nutrition standards, including fruit and vegetable requirements, will remain the same as the 2012 standards.

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.

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). 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, which provides information on how to complete the request form.



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.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Frequently Asked Question

Q. Can a Sponsor continue to operate SSO this summer after the school year ends and if so must the Sponsor offer meals only in area eligible locations?

A. If an SFA has sites that are area eligible, the Sponsor can choose to operate regular SSO during the summer and still receive the higher SFSP reimbursement through June 30, 2022. SFAs that are only going to provide summer meals in the month of June, may want to consider whether they want to remain on the SSO versus switching to SFSP. SFAs operating SSO would still need to follow NSLP meal pattern requirements; however, meal pattern flexibilities would remain through June 30, 2022. SFAs opting to provide summer meals through SSO would not be required to complete Program Certification for SFSP but would rather update their Sponsor and Site application in SNP (a much simpler option resulting in less paperwork). Nationwide Waiver #85 which allows Sponsors regardless of their location to operate SSO is only applicable when school is in session (not summer school); therefore, sites must be area eligible to participate after the school year ends in both SFSP and SSO.

Note: USDA understands data for area eligibility may be a huge hurdle for Sponsors. They provided the following guidance for area eligibility: Sponsors should use the last 'normal' year of data which is 2020-21. SFSP regulations allow for that data to be used for up to 5 years before needing to be renewed.

Sponsors that want to operate the Summer Food Service Program during the summer should be back to normal operations unless further action is taken by Congress.

SFSP Administrative Training on March 31 – Save the Date

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 Sponsors are required to conduct outreach for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). If the Sponsor does not have the SFSP in their school, 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.

Wellness Wednesday Week 1 – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who in the district is required to be responsible for getting a wellness committee established and members on it?

A. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of those that signed the program agreement. The authorized representative and board representative. However, anyone can be the wellness committee chair and it is strongly encouraged that Sponsors have a wide variety of individuals on the committee.

Q. What has changed on the Wellness Impact Tool?

A. The Wellness Impact Tool was updated to reflect the updated Kansas School Wellness Policy Model Guidelines. The scoring rubric was also updated and simplified. As a result, comparing results from PY21 and earlier to PY22 will not be equal. PY22 forward will have consistent scoring for tracking progress.

Q. What Wellness Policies are required?

A. Federal regulations state that sponsors must have at least one policy in place for each of the 4 categories (Nutrition, Nutrition Promotion & Education, Physical Activity and Integrated School Based Wellness). It is a local level decision how many goals that a Sponsor is working towards each year. Sponsors should pick a reasonable number of goals that they can realistically make progress on. These goals can be in any of the four categories - a goal (developing policy with an action plan) for each category is not required.

Within the nutrition category of each local school wellness policy, **sponsors must consider specific goals regarding the foods and beverages available to students during the school day.**

- 1) Local school wellness policies must include nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day. This includes foods and beverages sold as a la carte items, foods and beverages in vending machines or school stores, and foods and beverages sold for fundraisers. To be sold on the school campus during the school day, these foods and beverages must be consistent with USDA's meal pattern requirements and meet the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards. The school day is considered the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.



- 2) The wellness policy must also include standards for all foods and beverages available, but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day, such as in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives.
- 3) The wellness policy must address food and beverage marketing by including policies that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards.

Reminder: Model policies in BOLD are required by state or federal law.

The recording of the first week of the Wellness Wednesdays: Local School Wellness Policies – Regulations and Resources is now available at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, School Nutrition Programs

Virtual Body Venture – Thematic Unit Now Available!

Join KSDE STEM, Health and Child Nutrition & Wellness in professional development centered around elementary science, nutrition and fitness. For this school year, the Body Venture health education exhibit has gone virtual and is now paired with **FREE** lessons and kits (as supplies allow) that can easily be tailored towards elementary classrooms and cafeterias that want to eat smart and play hard. Access the following materials to bring Body Venture to life!

- Professional Development Workshop: <https://youtu.be/FSGYGdiUMz4>
- [Teacher Guide](#)
- [Student Notebook](#)
- [Virtual Body Venture Exhibit Video](#)

For questions or to request a classroom kit, contact Kelly Chanay at kchanay@ksde.org.

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: Emergency Preparedness (March 9), Food Safety Basics (March 16), Kansas Nutrition 101 (April 1) as a SNA-KS Pre-Conference Opportunity (email Kelly Chanay to register for this in-person training opportunity at kchanay@ksde.org), and Training for Success (April 13).

Join CNW for upcoming culinary trainings:

- 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 January Quick Bite featuring sorghum and the February Quick Bite featuring pork 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: Spanish Food Safety Basics.



Kansas Certificates in Child Nutrition Management Awarded

The Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management is a program sponsored by Child Nutrition & Wellness and approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. To receive a Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management, 120 hours of KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness approved management classes must be completed. These Child Nutrition Professionals completed the requirements in 2021 and were awarded the Certificate at the January 2022 State Board meeting:

- Jennifer Zule, USD 469 Lansing
- Sheree Jones, USD 312 Haven
- Anna Baum, USD 252 Southern Lyon County
- Belinda Corle, USD 283 Elk Valley
- Nichole Burnett, USD 348 Baldwin
- Jill Monroe, Southeast Kansas Community Action Program Head Start
- Pamela Lane, USD 445 Coffeyville (posthumous)

The awardees are to be commended for their initiative to achieve the Certificate and prepare themselves to lead Child Nutrition Programs of excellence especially with all the increased demands of COVID Emergency Meal Service, Supply Chain Disruptions and Staffing Shortages. Congratulations!

Tips for Maintaining Integrity – New Resource

The Food and Nutrition Service's Office of Program Integrity (OPI) is excited to announce the release of a tip sheet to assist school meals program operators in strengthening integrity during meal services held in locations other than the cafeteria. OPI collected information from schools to create the tip sheet, *Maintaining Integrity in School Meals Served Outside the Cafeteria* available at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/integrity-meals-outside-cafeteria>. The tip sheet provides a list of suggested practices that program operators may adopt to assist with proper meal counting and claiming when meals are served in alternative locations.

New School Meals Training Opportunities from Team Nutrition!

Join USDA's Team Nutrition initiative for the new webinar series, *Meal Talk Webinars*. These webinars provide interactive trainings on hot topics related to school meals. The first *Meal Talk* webinar will focus on **School Breakfast**, and will be held on **Wednesday, March 9 from 2 to 3 pm CST**. For more information and to register, please visit <https://usda-fns-events.webex.com/usda-fns-events/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0e07d9670247b6a994e9d98a7d737f7f>.

In honor of National School Breakfast Week, this webinar will focus on school breakfast, and will provide an overview of USDA's School Breakfast Program, including the benefits of school breakfast, program requirements, and resources for navigating supply chain challenges. This webinar will also feature training materials from Team Nutrition on hot topics in school breakfast, including offering meats and meat alternates, offering smoothies, and best practices to reduce added sugars. Learn about fun new materials that can be used to add excitement to school breakfast events and other celebrations! This webinar will be recorded and made available later on the Team Nutrition website. All who register will receive an email when the recording is available.

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>



Team Nutrition Web Quiz Collection

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is excited to announce the release of the School Gardening web quiz, now available at fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes/school-gardening. This quiz focuses on growing fruits and vegetables in school gardens. It is the latest addition to the collection of Team Nutrition web quizzes that cover a variety of nutrition topics, including:

- School Breakfast
- School Lunch
- Infant Nutrition (English and Spanish)
- Toddler Nutrition (English and Spanish)
- Older Adult Nutrition
- Meal Components
- Milk in the CACFP

The complete quiz collection is available at fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes. These interactive quizzes can be used at trainings and other nutrition events as a fun and engaging learning activity. Upon completion of each 10-question quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion.

Farm to School – Your Input is Needed!

The Kansas Farm to School Team would like to learn more about local food purchasing in Child Nutrition Programs across Kansas so they can work to find solutions to the obstacles that are preventing farmers and schools/early childhood education centers from working together to strengthen local food markets. This team will be providing training opportunities for all stakeholders across the state that are involved in what is commonly referred to as Farm to School. The answers from this survey will help inform this team on how to develop these trainings so that they reflect the actual needs of our state. Please click the following link to complete the SFA survey: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_da80lgV1LRiF5au. Your answers are needed by April 4!

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. More information to come on session details and how to register for this free event.

Celebrating Good Nutrition in March...and YOU!

National Nutrition Month®, celebrated each year during March, focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The theme for National Nutrition Month® 2022 is *Celebrate a World of Flavors*. A toolkit is available at: <https://www.eatright.org/food/resources/national-nutrition-month/toolkit>. Celebrating flavors from cultures around the world is a tasty way to celebrate heritage and introduce new foods while developing healthful eating and physical activity habits.

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative invites you to join us in celebrating National Nutrition Month® and School Breakfast Week by sharing Team Nutrition resources with schools, families, and children.



Free printed materials are available to order for Team Nutrition Schools while supplies last.

Materials include:

- [Launch Your Day with Breakfast Stickers](#)
- [MyPlate Nate and Kate Stickers](#)
- [Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers](#)
- [Discover New Foods Decal Set](#) (for elementary schools)
- [Fueling My Healthy Life Decal Set](#) (for secondary schools)
- [Stronger with School Meals Educational Materials](#)
 - An Infographic for teachers and parents (in English and Spanish)
 - An Activity Booklet for elementary-aged students
 - Five stickers for students
 - Two buttons for school nutrition professionals

Schools that participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program can join Team Nutrition Schools. Check if your school is enrolled or update your school's information at fns.usda.gov/tn/schools.

YOU are all amazing – dedicated and inspiring – feeding kids in the best and safest way possible this school year even with staffing shortages and supply chain issues. Thank you for your dedication to #FuelingKSKids! We look forward to seeing how you celebrated good nutrition at #FuelingKSKids!

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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