

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs and Summer Meals Programs

April 26, 2023

Distributed to the School Nutrition Program and Summer Food Service Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and the Food Service Directors Listserv and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP Monthly Updates and SFSP, SFSP Monthly Updates.

Town Hall Tuesday at 2

On May 16 at 2:00 pm, join the **School Nutrition Program Renewal training** at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/84920437369?pwd=dXgrdE5ickp6VVVHRTFWbkowN0FJUT09>. KSDE will record this session and make the recording available to Sponsors following the training if Sponsors are unable to attend.

Community Eligibility Provision Town Hall – May 2nd at 2

On May 2nd at 2:00 pm, join the Child Nutrition & Wellness team to learn details about the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/82719906917?pwd=SGVSOURvbkNxa29aVjZ2bGYzRHItQT09>.

Local Food for School (LFS) Grant Awarded

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has signed a cooperative agreement with the Kansas State Department of Education for more than \$2 million to increase the purchase by local School Nutrition Program Sponsors of nutritious, local meats for school meal programs. These products will be healthy and unique to their geographic area, with the goal of improving child nutrition and building new relationships between schools and local farmers.

Through the LFS program, KSDE will allocate funds to schools for the purchase of unprocessed or minimally processed meats from local small business producers, ranchers, and meat processors. This project will pave a way toward a thriving local meat to school infrastructure that can be sustainable after grant funds are no longer available.

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team will send an email the first week of May to the Authorized Representative with information about the Local Food for School grant, an Attestation Statement with the funding allocation for your Sponsor, a purchase reporting form, and resources to assist in procurement of local meats.

Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans – Comments Due by May 10

Based on the latest nutrition science and extensive feedback from our school meals partners, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is proposing updates to the school nutrition standards in a few key areas to give children the right balance of nutrients for healthy and appealing meals. The proposed updates reflect the goals of the most recent *Dietary Guidelines*, as required by law, and build in plenty of time for planning and implementation to ensure the school meals community and the children they serve are set up for success.



This proposed rule – *Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* – is the next step in an ongoing effort toward healthier school meals that USDA and the broader school meals community have been partnering on for well over a decade. More information about the proposed rule can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/proposed-updates-school-nutrition-standards>

- A comparison chart on the proposed standards for schools can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-meal-standards-comparison-chart>
- The recording of the webinar, “*Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Proposed Rule*” is now available on the Food and Nutrition Service’s Website at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/webinar-revisions-meal-patterns-consistent-2020-dietary>
- Comments on the proposed rule can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/07/2023-02102/child-nutrition-programs-revisions-to-meal-patterns-consistent-with-the-2020-dietary-guidelines-for> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. The public comment period has been extended until **May 10, 2023**.

Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision – Increasing Options for Schools- Comments due by May 8, 2023

The rule proposes to expand access to the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) by lowering the minimum identified student percentage participation threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent, which would give States and schools greater flexibility to choose to invest non-Federal funds to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students. As a result, more students, families, and schools would have an opportunity to experience the benefits of CEP, including access to meals at no cost, eliminating unpaid meal charges, minimizing stigma, reducing paperwork for school nutrition staff and families, and streamlining meal service operations.

The proposed rule is available on the [Federal Register](#) and open for public comment until May 8, 2023. Visit [Community Eligibility Provision | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#) for more information, including the [Summary of Proposed Rule](#), which highlights changes the proposed rule would have on CEP.

USDA Guidance

Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas – SFSP 07-2023, SP 14-2023

This memorandum is the second set of questions and answers on the rural non-congregate summer meals option established through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (the Act) (P.L. 117-328). The Act authorized permanent, non-congregate meal service through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for rural areas with no congregate meal service. The first memorandum in this series, SFSP 01-2023, SP 05-2023 Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas – Revised, was published on February 28, 2023, and is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/implementation-guidance-summer-2023-non-congregate-meal-service-rural-areas>. This memorandum reflects additional feedback and questions received from State and local partners following the publication of the first memorandum and is available at: [Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#).



Best Practices for Contracting with Food Service Management Companies – SP 13-2023

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to provide a Best Practices memo for School Food Authorities (SFAs) who contract or plan to contract with Food Service Management Companies (FSMCs). This memo is designed to help SFAs think about the procurement process when contracting with FSMCs by walking through the procurement life cycle. It begins with what the SFA should consider before going out to bid, such as what additional contract provisions may be helpful for the SFA, then it discusses what the SFA should do when awarding the contract, monitoring the contract, and addressing changes to the contract, and ends with what to consider if a contract is canceled. Access this best practice memo at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/best-practices-contracting-food-service-management-companies>

Oversight and Monitoring of the School Meals Program-Guidance on On-site and Off-site Strategies and Options – SP 12-2023

The Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that May 11, 2023, is the planned end date for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Given this expiration date, the FNS-issued nationwide on-site monitoring waivers are set to expire on June 10, 2023, 30 days after the end of the Public Health Emergency. The intent of this memorandum is to provide guidance regarding on-site monitoring and when it is required by regulations. Accompanying this policy memo is an appendix that outlines the review requirements and the on-site and off-site strategies and options applicable to the School Meals Program. Read the policy memo and find the appendix at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/oversight-monitoring-onsite-offsite-school-meals-programs>

New Food Yields Added to the Food Buying Guide

New yields are now available in the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based (FBG) Tool and FBG Mobile App! New yield data is available for these highly requested foods: apple bananas, chokecherries, taro, and fresh apples. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases coming soon. Explore the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) today!

SNP Administrative Update

Sponsors should make plans to attend SNP Administrative Update training. At least one representative from each Sponsor must participate in the SNP Administrative Update. Live virtual training options via zoom include:

- SNP Administrative Update – June 6, 8:30 am-12:30 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/84927468947?pwd=WU9TTXRMTSt5OFd4Qj80NIhiNWJZQT09>
- SNP Administrative Update for RCCI's – June 8, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/86458134762?pwd=Ly9TOTd0K2kxa3VkQVNnZ3k4TW4rdz09>
- SNP Administrative Update/CACFP Administrative Workshop – July 6, 8:00 am-12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88237490614?pwd=Z1FOSmY3ODIsYVY5bE5EclJHVHhp4UT09>

Sponsors unable to attend a live virtual session will have the opportunity to take the training through the KSDE Learning Portal at a later date.

Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs

Sponsors who wish to use an online Enrollment & Income Eligibility Form or accept electronic signatures on any child nutrition form including the Consent for Disclosure, must complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form located on the checklist tab in KN-CLAIM. A webinar explaining the review process was held on March 28 from 9-11 am. A recording can be accessed on the KSDE learning portal at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition Programs, General Classes, 2023-2024 Online Applications.



Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

The Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals will be available free of charge to sponsors to use for the 2023-2024 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. For more information, view the tutorial on the KSDE Learning portal at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Tutorials, School Nutrition Programs (SNP) Tutorials or contact Karen Campbell at kcampbell@ksde.org.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

The application to participate in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) for school year 2023-24 is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP What's New. The FFVP provides all children in participating elementary schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school year. It is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthy snack options. Participation in the FFVP is limited to elementary schools, with priority given to schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for reduced price or free school meals.

To apply for the FFVP, complete the application and return it to KSDE no later than May 19, 2023. Schools selected to participate will be notified in July 2023. Participating schools will be reimbursed for their documented expenses on a monthly basis. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Seymour at 785-296-1473 or kseymour@ksde.org.

Food Safety Inspections

All Sponsors are required to have two food safety inspections each year. If you have not received two (2) inspections by May 1, 2023, you must send a letter to the Kansas State Department of Agriculture (KDA) requesting the needed inspection(s). The date the letter is sent must be recorded on the Site Application during Program Renewal. The annual license fee covers the costs of the two required inspections. A sample letter is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, Food Service Facts, Chapter 22. Remember that the most recent KDA inspection must be printed and posted in a location visible to the public.

Farm Fresh Friday Materials Now Available for Summer Programs!

Farm Fresh Friday is an 8-week program celebrating Kansas products that can be used in summer program menus. Products featured include berries, lettuce, zucchini, beef, grains, cucumbers, melons, and sweet corn. The Farm Fresh Friday kit includes two local foods posters, the agricultural education book Kailey's Ag Adventures, a package of gardening seeds, and a handout featuring fun facts, seasonality information, preparation and storage tips, a recipe, and a fun activity. To register, contact Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org or 785-296-5060. The Farm Fresh Friday handouts are also available for download on the CNW website at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, F2P, What's New.

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 <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SFSP, 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.



Summer Meals Text Numbers and Hunger Hotline

The automated texting service which connects families to local summer meal sites is 914-342-7744. The USDA National Hunger Hotline number is also available. Individuals can 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. Parents and caregivers can also text the word “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 304-304 to find the nearest meal sites through the No Kid Hungry Hotline.

Professional Development Update

Professional development is offered through the KSDE Training Portal 24/7 and has scheduled live virtual events through Zoom. A full listing of live virtual events and links can be found on the CNW Calendar at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar. There is no pre-registration for the live virtual classes through Zoom. **New to the Portal:** 2023 SFSP Administrative Training and SY 23-24 Online Application.

Nutrition Standards and Calculating Components Classes – Save the Date!

- Nutrition Standards for School Meals - June 20, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/84958668874?pwd=Z1lqY2JYNVlpZjJhZmpKMXRLaVB4dz09>
- Calculating Components - June 22, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/89524125002?pwd=YXNwNEpaTkY0a1hNYW81STRhcUxUUT09>

Online Professional Development Classes and Tutorials

Over 30 classes and tutorials, including the 3-hour Food Safety Basics class, can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. Create an account at <https://learning.ksde.org>. For detailed instructions on creating an account and accessing the training, go to <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training.

SY2023-24 Jump Start Your Success in School Nutrition Programs – Save the Date!

Make plans to join CNW for the SY2023-24 kick-off event on July 17th in Topeka at the Shawnee County Library from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Jump Start will offer a blend of in-person, live virtual, on demand and personalized training opportunities for new and aspiring school food service directors and managers. This training opportunity is for those with less than three years of experience. Those with three years of experience or more may participate as a mentor.

The SY2023-24 free, multi-week Jump Start program will offer real-time and immediately applicable training opportunities that are facilitated by CNW staff and mentors. Jump Start has been developed to incorporate personalized training and leadership development through mentoring opportunities and to encourage open-group discussion so participants can be actively involved in learning best practices from the field. Participants who complete the Jump Start program will develop the skills and knowledge needed for the successful operation of school nutrition programs. For more information about Jump Start as a participant or mentor, contact Kelly Chanay at kchanay@ksde.org. All participants must register at https://ksde.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_577eu6HSSn2VhRk

New Body Venture Exhibit – Apply now for SY2023-2024

Body Venture is KSDE’s traveling health education exhibit for students in grades K-5. This exciting exhibit has been updated and can visit approximately 100 schools next school year. The Body Venture experience helps students learn why it is so important to “Eat Smart. Play Hard.” Requests to schedule Body Venture for the 2023-2024 school year are now being accepted. The Request to Schedule form is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP What’s New.



Healthy Meals Incentives Grants for Small and/or Rural School Food Authorities (SFA) – Request for Applications

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement USDA Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) [Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](#), Action for Healthy Kids is offering competitive grants (up to \$150,000 per 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 5:00pm EST, 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](#).

Questions contact: support@healthymealsincentives.org. Information about all Healthy Meal Incentives can be found at: [Healthy Meals Incentives | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#).

Smoothie Success Guide

Midwest Dairy is excited to share the release of our **SMOOTHIE SUCCESS GUIDE**. This free toolkit includes preparation and serving tips, recipe ideas and promotional materials for serving smoothies as part of reimbursable meals. Look for more resources to come in our new “[Beyond the Milk Carton](#)” toolkit series.

Kansas Appleseed 2023 Hunger Action Summits

Join Kansas Appleseed and fellow community members to collaborate on ways to expand food access across Kansas. At each summit, folks will have the exciting opportunity to dialogue with anti-hunger advocates, collaborate in workshops, listen to presentations from community experts, and much more! To register for one of the regional summits, email Haley Kottler at hkottler@kansasappleseed.org.

- **Southwest Kansas Summit:** Monday, May 22, 2023, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Finney County Public Library, Garden City, KS 67846
- **Southeast Kansas Summit:** Thursday, May 25, 2023, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Pittsburg Public Library, Pittsburg, KS 66762
- **Topeka Summit:** Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at the Topeka Public Library, Topeka, KS 66604

Child Nutrition & Wellness KANSANS CAN 2022-23 Best Practice Awards

We encourage you and your staff to make nominations for outstanding and/or innovative practices for recognition of your heroic efforts this past program year. A simple one-page nomination entry form is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP What's New. **Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30, 2023.** Awardees will be notified by July 31 and presentations will be made at the August State Board of Education meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact any Child Nutrition & Wellness team member if we can be of assistance with the application process. We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the Kansans CAN Best Practice Awards with you at the August 2023 State Board of Education Meeting.



Kansas School Nutrition Professionals are Superheroes!

From the kitchen to the lunchroom, school nutrition professionals are essential to making sure Kansas students eat well and learn. We're so grateful for all you do every day. We truly appreciate and want to recognize each of you for your dedication and hard work! Happy School Lunch Hero Day!

Cheryl, Karen, and Kelly



For more information, contact:

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