

School Nutrition Update

September 13, 2021



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Program Operations Information

Thank You N.C. State Board of Education for Supporting School Nutrition!

On September 2, 2021, the N.C. State Board of Education approved [allotment policy](#) for Program Report Code (PRC) 174 to use \$10 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding to help local School Nutrition Programs across North Carolina recruit and retain needed staff. The allotment would be based on the public school unit's (PSU's) ADM less the unexpended balance of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) School Nutrition Funds as of July 31, 2021. PRC 174 constitutes an "atypical cost" for School Nutrition Programs which helps ensure full use of the funds for the purpose for which they were intended. See below key points regarding the process for requesting and utilizing the funding. Stay tuned for more information.

Process for funds:

- An application (currently in development) will be required. The funds are not simply an allotment to PSUs.
- The application will include five (5) questions.
- A written plan defining the process for distributing and monitoring bonuses for School Nutrition personnel will be required. The plan should be consistent with local Board of Education (BOE) policy on issuance of bonus pay.
- Any PSU without an approved application on 12/15/21 will forfeit their funds.
- Retention funds may be subject to Teachers & State Employees Retirement System (TSERS) provisions.
- Coordination with the PSU's Federal Programs Director will be required.
- Funds may be used to provide recruitment and/or retention bonuses for School Nutrition personnel.

Request Meal Pattern Waiver, If Needed

Thank you for your continued efforts to support nutritious school meals for children. Due to continued volatility in the supply chain and staffing, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a [waiver](#) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal pattern requirements to be considered and approved/denied by the State Agency on a case-by-case basis. USDA also extends these flexibilities to the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for the duration of this waiver. All requests (except sodium) should be targeted and justified with a demonstrated need, based on plans to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition Division has created a [waiver form](#) that may be utilized to make multiple meal pattern waiver requests at one time. The State Agency waiver request response will be sent via email to the email address entered in question 3 of the Meal Pattern Waiver Request Form. Please keep all supporting documentation on file pertaining to justification for each waiver request including a copy of the waiver approval, invoices, production records, email/phone communication, staffing numbers, etc. Documentation is subject to review. For questions, reach out to your Zone Team.

Need Strategies and Resources for Supply Chain Issues?

As schools work toward resuming regular operations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to offer flexibilities in response to public health needs and to ease administrative burden, while still promoting nutritious meals. USDA provides a descriptive summary and table of the flexibilities as well as links to and downloadable PDFs of the [waivers](#) issued on their website. On August 13, 2021, USDA offered a webinar for School Food Authorities (SFAs) on Procurement Strategies for School Year 2021-22. The [webinar recording](#) is now available. In addition, USDA provides procurement and menu planning strategies for adjusting meal service operations during the dynamic school year ahead. [Check out these resources.](#)



The N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) created "[Bob's List](#)" to assist School Nutrition Programs in finding a new home for excess inventory as well as locating extra USDA Foods that may now be available. Please visit the list often as new posts will be made as they are received. NCDA&CS, Food Distribution can also assist in transporting the USDA Foods to their new home during regular deliveries to your location, if needed.

Subscribe to the USDA Team Nutrition Back to School E-letter

Don't miss the opportunity to [subscribe](#) to the USDA Team Nutrition School Meals Grab n' Go Newsletter for #backtoschool menu planning tips and timely information about hot topics in school breakfast and lunch! Last week's issue shared "5 Ways to Add Milk to Your Back-to-School Menu."



Have You Submitted Questions for the Wednesday Webinars?

Please submit any questions you have for the Wednesday Webinars for School Food Authorities (SFAs) via the [online form](#). These questions help determine whether a Wednesday Webinar should be scheduled and, if so, the topics to be presented. Your input is very important. When completing the form, answer the first two questions, and then enter your questions one question per box. If you have more than ten questions, please click on the link to the form and submit additional questions.

School Nutrition Spotlight

Nominate School Nutrition Heroes for the FAME Award – Deadline 9/15

The Basic American Foods Annual FAME Awards recognize outstanding heroes in K-12 foodservice. What do these heroes look like? School Nutrition professionals who raise industry standards by tackling challenges and making a difference within their school districts and communities. [Nominate a K-12 foodservice hero today.](#) The 33rd awards ceremony will be held during the School Nutrition Industry Conference in January 2022.



Apply for the Turnip the Beet Awards – Deadline 9/17, 5 pm



TURNIP THE BEET

with high quality summer meals!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Turnip the Beet Award* recognizes outstanding summer meal sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. For 2021, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors in good standing that serve meals between May 15 and September 15, 2021 are eligible to apply. There are many N.C. Summer Nutrition Programs doing amazing work. We hope your program will apply. The deadline has been extended. Award applications are now due to NCDPI by 5 pm September 17. Check out the award overview, scoring rubric and nomination form [here](#). Email your application to summernutritionprogram@dpi.nc.gov with **2021 Turnip the Beet Application** in the subject line. We look forward to receiving your applications!

Send in Articles for the School Nutrition Update E-letter

We aim to include lots of items of interest to our School Nutrition professionals across the state in the School Nutrition Update e-letter. Issues are scheduled to go out at the first of each week. If you have a resource, grant, job opportunity, continuing education event, award announcement, or other news item for the School Nutrition Update e-letter, please send those to Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov, by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to when the School Nutrition Update will be released the following week.

Job Opportunity

Apply for Supervisor Position with Johnston County Schools

The Johnston County School Nutrition Program is accepting applications for a School Nutrition Food and Menus Supervisor. An associate's or bachelor's degree is required. A Registered Dietitian (RD) and/or Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist (LDN) in North Carolina is preferred. School Nutrition experience is also preferred. The position is open until filled. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Submit Application for Nutrition Program Grant Project Manager

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Division is seeking applications for a Nutrition Program Grant Project Manager. The Project Manager will coordinate the recently awarded three-year USDA Technology Innovation Grant (TIG) - Summer Nutrition Meal Counter. The grant will be administered through September 2023.

A minimum of a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, public administration, or a related discipline from an accredited institution and one (1) year of directly related experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience are required. The position closes September 17, 2021. Inquiries should be directed to Temporary Solutions. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Share #StrongerwithSchoolMeals Resources

[#StrongerwithSchoolMeals educational materials](#) from USDA Team Nutrition are fun and colorful resources to support the reopening of schools in School Year 2021-22. These materials are designed to be used by teachers and other school staff, parents, and students to promote school meals. The materials include:

- One (1) infographic for teachers/parents
- One (1) activity booklet for elementary-aged students
- Five (5) stickers for elementary-aged students
- Two (2) buttons for School Nutrition professionals
- Two (2) Thank You cards for School Nutrition professionals



Are You Ready for #WorldSchoolMilkDay September 29th?

World School Milk Day (WSMD) is celebrated on the last Wednesday in September each year. Schools around the world dedicate this day to recognizing all the important health benefits linked to increased milk consumption and the dairy farmers who help produce this wholesome product for students to enjoy. This year, The Dairy Alliance has partnered with General Mills to echo the #CerealMilk21 Campaign. Scan the QR code to download resources and order the #WSMD2021 kit, while supplies last. Direct questions to Cami Lewis, clewis@thedairyalliance.com.



Continuing Education

Interested in N.C. Safe Plates for Managers?

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), School Nutrition Division collaborated with N.C. State University (NC SU) to develop N.C. Safe Plates for Managers. The course is now available through NCSU online and in person. To access the online course, go to <https://go.ncsu.edu/dpi-spfm-online>. If your SFA would like to offer an in-person class, please contact Jennifer Bailey, jennifer.bailey@dpi.nc.gov. Both the online and in person courses are at the \$70 discounted rate for NCDPI.

Ask the Chef – 9/14, 1 pm ET

The Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) proudly presents Ask the Chef, an open forum for Child Nutrition Professionals seeking guidance for culinary-related practices, processes, and procedures. The CICN team has an extensive background working in Child Nutrition Programs. Capitalize on their experience and expertise to solve your culinary dilemma. [Register](#) for your opportunity on September 14 at 1 pm ET to “Ask the Chef”.



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 [COVID-19 professional resources](#) for Registered Dietitians/Nutritionists (RDNs) and Dietetic Technicians, Registered (DTRs), and [continuing professional education resources](#).

Questions

If you have any questions regarding these updates, please reach out to your regional consultants.

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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) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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