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School Nutrition Update - August 8, 2019

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August 8, 2019

School Nutrition



DISTRICT SCHOOL OPERATIONS

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Important Dates

*NOTE: Anytime a deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday the actual deadline is extended to the next business day.

*Aug 10.....Deadline to submit NSLP/SBP/ASSP/SFSP Claim for Reimbursement (for July)

Aug 15.....Deadline to submit FFVP Claim for Reimbursement (for July)

Sep 2.....Labor Day (State offices closed)

Sep 10.....Deadline to submit NSLP/SBP/ASSP/SFSP Claim for Reimbursement (for Aug)

***Sep 15**.....Deadline to submit FFVP Claim for Reimbursement (for Aug)

Sep 20.....Farm to School Summit

Oct 10.....Deadline to submit NSLP/SBP/ASSP/SFSP Claim for Reimbursement (for Sep)

Oct 14-18.....National School Lunch Week

Oct 15.....Deadline to submit FFVP Claim for Reimbursement (for Sep)

2019-2020 Reimbursement Rates

The reimbursement rates for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, and the Afterschool Snack Program for the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 were released for preview on Thursday August 1, 2019 and will ultimately be published in the Federal Register. For your convenience, below are the links to the USDA Federal Register publication as well as a simplified version of the 2019-20 Reimbursement Rates.

- [2019-2020 Reimbursement Rates – NC Chart](#)
 - [2019-2020 Reimbursement Rates – Federal Register](#)
-

School Nutrition Website Technical Difficulties

You may have noticed difficulty in accessing the school nutrition website in recent weeks. The agency Web Services staff is aware of the problem and is working with the hosting site to resolve the problem. In the meantime, and until a more permanent solution is implemented, the website is programmed to reboot every half hour. So, the best time to access the website is between the top and the bottom of the hour. We are hopeful that this problem will be resolved very soon and we apologize for the inconvenience.

REMINDER - No Annual Conference

NCDPI School Nutrition Division will not be hosting the annual School Nutrition Administrator's conference in October 2019. As an alternative we will offer zone policy updates and a variety of professional development opportunities during this time.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Access from AT&T Program

In April 2016, AT&T launched Access from AT&T, a low-cost option for wireline home internet service. The Access program is available to qualifying households located in the areas where AT&T offers wireline home internet service across 21 states (including North Carolina). Qualifying households include households with at least 1 resident who participates in the US Department of Agriculture Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which is known as Food and Nutrition Services (or FNS) in North Carolina. Visit www.att.com/access for complete information and to apply. Or call 1-855-220-5211. Additional eligibility requirements may apply.

Now Available! Offer versus Serve (OVS) National School Lunch Program Posters and Lunch and Breakfast OVS Tip Sheets!

The Offer versus Serve (OVS) Lunch Posters for elementary, middle and high school students may be used as signage to instruct students to select a reimbursable meal under OVS. The OVS tip sheets are intended for use by school nutrition staff to enhance their understanding of OVS requirements at breakfast and lunch.

While the students and staff at the local school food authority comprise the target audience, State agencies and FNS regional offices may want to use these resources to provide training.

You may access the updated Offer versus Serve resources at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/offer-versus-serve-national-school-lunch-program-posters>

Still Time to Apply...Farm to School of NC Awards

The deadline has been extended for the 2019 Farm to School of NC Awards. Apply now through 8/9. The awards, sponsored by the Farm to School Coalition of NC, will honor LEAs (Local Education Agencies) and all the work School Nutrition professionals and educators are doing to support farm to school in NC. Is your LEA procuring and serving local produce? Are you offering any education around agriculture, food and nutrition? Do you have any school gardens in your LEA? Have you engaged community partners to promote and support farm to school? Apply to have your LEA's farm to school work recognized. School Nutrition should lead the application for LEAs, so gather a team and start your collaborative application today. Find the awards criteria and rubrics, downloadable application, FAQs and more plus the link to the online application at www.farmtoschoolcoalitionnc.org/awards.

For questions regarding the awards or summit, please contact Tes Thraves, tes_thraves@ncsu.edu, or Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Register for Farm to School Summit

Plan to attend the Farm to School Summit September 20 at the Raleigh Convention Center, where the first crop of Farm to School of NC awardees will be recognized. (All Farm to School of NC Award applicants receive 2 free registrations to the Summit.) The Farm to School Coalition of NC is excited to host a summit to bring together practitioners from across the state to share knowledge, build capacity, and expand and enhance farm to school programming. Come to the summit to hear, first hand, about the successes and innovative strategies practitioners are using to address challenges in their efforts to increase student access to local foods and food literacy. A variety of pre-summit field trips and workshops are also available on September 19. To find more info and register, visit www.farmtoschoolcoalitionnc.org/summit.

For questions regarding the awards or summit, please contact Tes Thraves, tes_thraves@ncsu.edu, or Tracey Bates, tracey.bates@dpi.nc.gov.

Congrats to the North Carolina Turnip the Beet Awardees!

[Ten North Carolina Summer Nutrition Program sponsors](#) are among 118 nationwide this year to receive Turnip the Beet awards, given by USDA to recognize outstanding providers who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing and nutritious. North Carolina has the most 2019 Turnip the Beet awardees of any state in the Southeast:

- Brigade Boys and Girls Club, Wilmington – Silver Award
- Campus Kitchen at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem – Silver Award
- Carolina HealthCare System University, Charlotte – Silver Award
- GrowthQuest, Charlotte – Silver Award
- Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian, Cary – Silver Award
- Whiteville City Schools, Whiteville – Silver Award
- Alamance Burlington School System, Burlington – Bronze Award
- Buncombe County Schools, Asheville – Bronze Award
- Wilson County Schools, Wilson – Bronze Award
- YMCA of Western North Carolina, Asheville – Bronze Award

All winners receive a certificate and are featured in USDA's Food and Nutrition Service Newsletter. Silver award winners were highlighted in a [USDA blog post](#).

States volunteer to participate in the recognition program, and all Summer Nutrition Program sponsors were eligible to apply. Contenders were evaluated on a number of criteria, including serving local foods, variety of vegetables and fruits, whole grains, low-fat or fat-free dairy products and culturally appropriate meals. Winning sponsors demonstrated excellence in providing fresh fruit daily, serving a variety of whole grains, conducting taste tests with the children (and incorporating the feedback into menus), and offering nutrition education activities. For more info, visit the USDA FNS [website](#).

Registration for the 2019 NC Crunch is Now Live!

[Sign up now](#) for the 2019 NC Crunch so that you can receive the planning guide and be ready to crunch. The NC Crunch, from the [Farm to School Coalition of NC](#) and the NC Farm to Preschool Network, offers kids and adults in schools and early care and education sites across the state the opportunity to taste and learn about NC produce. This year's NC Crunch is scheduled for October 23, but you can plan to participate any time during the month of October that works for you in celebration of Farm to School Month. Even though this event will take place in October, it is never too early to plan ahead for produce orders and educational activities and to reach out to local partners who can help. Over 313,000 kids and adults crunched NC produce for the 2018 NC Crunch. Help us beat the 2019 goal of 500,000 participants to make it a crunch heard 'round the state!

Vacancy Announcements

SFA: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Agency: **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**

Position: **Nutrition Program Specialist**

Location: **North Central Region** (of NC)

Close Date: **08/19/2019**

Find more details and application information at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/northcarolina/jobs/2529457/nutrition-program-specialist?page=42&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Agency: **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**

Position: **Nutrition Program Specialist**

Location: **Western Region** (of NC)

Close Date: **08/12/2019**

Find more details and application information at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/northcarolina/jobs/2529908/nutrition-program-specialist?page=42&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Continuing Education

Determining Eligibility Webinar

NCPI School Nutrition Division will be hosting the annual Determining Meal Eligibility webinar on August 15, 2019 from 10:00 am to noon. SFAs not processing meal benefit applications, having 100% of schools/sites participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), participants in the Special Milk Program, or a Residential Child Care Institution (RCCI) without day students may not find this information pertinent to operation of their school meals programs. All other School Food Authorities (SFA) are encouraged to participate in the webinar and should share the registration link with all staff involved in this process.

Presenter: Jacquelyn McGowan

Credit: A professional development certificate will be issued for all registered participants who log into the GoToWebinar web conference system and participate in the presentation.

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5909335539731468556>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Verification Webinar

NCDPI School Nutrition Division will provide two webinars on the Verification process. Each webinar will provide an overview of accurately conducting meal benefit application verification. Please select and register to attend the webinar of your choice at the links below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

| Date | Time | Registration Link |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| September 17, 2019 (Tues) | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5610714778724315404 |
| September 19, 2019 (Thurs) | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM | https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7531073409286327820 |

Golden Key Achievement Awards

The Golden Key Achievement Award program is a set of criteria designed to recognize the great school meal accomplishments in a single school. This award includes recognition for activities that complement current program regulations and best practices. The purpose of the award is to promote benchmarks of excellence across North Carolina and to honor School Nutrition programs maintaining high standards. Participation in this award fosters ongoing professional development and improvement in the school nutrition environment and aligns with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) professional development learning codes.

Please consider entering your school for this award in 2020. More information can be found at:

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/awards-recognition-opportunities>

The guidance for the 2019-20 award submissions is being updated and should be posted in the fall. Watch the upcoming School Nutrition Updates for an announcement.

Fall 2019 Zone Policy Updates

Please review the current Fall 2019 Zone Policy Updates schedule and plan accordingly. Additional details and registration links will be provided in future School Nutrition Update publications.

Timely registration is especially important to ensure efficient arrangement of room set up and adequate lunches. Lunch will be provided for those registering in advance; however, participants are responsible for all additional travel, meals, snacks, coffee, and other beverages.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/9zBQuMWwEBM474Hf8>

Schedule

| Zone | Fall | Winter | Spring | Location |
|------|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | October 4 | February 7 | May 1 | NC Arboretum Asheville, NC |
| 2 | September 24 | February 11 | May 13 | The Event Center at Summit Square Winston-Salem, NC |
| 3 | October 2 | February 7 | May 19 | Hickory Metro Convention Center - Hickory, NC |
| 4 | October 10 (non-LEA) and 11 (LEA) | Feb 6 (non-LEA) and 7 (LEA) | April 30 (non-LEA) and May 1 (LEA) | McKimmon Center Raleigh, NC |
| 5 | October 2 | February 7 | May 21 | Little River Resort Carthage, NC |
| 6 | October 3 | February 6 | May 27 | NC TeleCenter Williamston, NC |
| 7 | September 26 The Flame Catering Center | February 20 Riverfront Convention Center | May 28 Riverfront Convention Center | New Bern Vicinity |

School Nutrition Leadership Academy Opportunities

The NC School Nutrition Leadership Academy offers a variety of professional development activities for School Nutrition Administrators. Be sure to keep the School Nutrition Administrator contact information updated in the School Nutrition Technology System as this is the information used to send email notifications.

Course listings and available registration links may be found at: <https://learn.mckimmoncenter.ncsu.edu/search/publicCourseAdvancedSearch.do?method=doPaginatedSearch&showInternal=false&cpsIndex=true&isPageDisplayed=true&courseSearch.programAreaStringArray=54369&courseSearch.filterString=availforreg>

and

<https://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/continuing-education/sn-leadership-acad>

| Date(s) | Course/Workshop Title | SN Academy Classification | Location |
|---|--|---|------------------|
| Aug 12 - 14 (Register by August 2) | Safe Plates | Food Safety Level 1 | Wilmington |
| Aug 14 (Register by August 6) | Emergency Readiness - Developing a Plan for School Nutrition Programs | Food Safety Level 4 | New Bern |
| Aug 15 - 17 (register by Aug 7) | Safe Plates for Food Managers: A Certified Food Protection Manager Course and Examination | Food Safety | North Wilkesboro |
| Oct 15 - 17 (register by Oct 7) | Lead Like it Matters: A Leadership Development Program for School Nutrition Professionals | Leadership | Colfax |
| Oct 21-23 (register by Oct 11) | Safe Plates for Food Managers: A Certified Food Protection Manager Course and Examination | Food Safety – Level 1 | Gaston |
| Nov 14 (register by Nov 6) | Procurement University II: Administering Sound Procurement Practices for School Nutrition Programs (Pre-requisite – Procurement University for School Nutrition Programs: Understanding and Applying Sound Procurement Practices) | Procurement | Raleigh |
| Jan 29-31, 2020 (register by Jan 21) | Procurement University for School Nutrition Programs: Understanding and Applying Sound Procurement Practices | Procurement | Colfax |
| Mar 12, 2020 (register by March 4) | Procurement University II: Administering Sound Procurement Practices for School Nutrition Programs (Pre-requisite – Procurement University for School Nutrition Programs: Understanding and Applying Sound Procurement Practices) | Procurement | Hickory |
| Mar 17-18, 2020 (register by Mar 9) | Food Production and Operations Management: K-12 Culinary Fundamentals for School Nutrition Administrators | Food Production and Operations Management Level 2 | Mebane |
| Mar 19, 2020 (Save the date, registration coming soon) | Food Production and Operations Management (new course in development for standardized recipe development and yield testing) | Food Production and Operations Management Level 3 | Mebane |
| Mar 31-Apr 2, 2020 (register by Mar 23) | Lead Like it Matters: A Leadership Development Program for School Nutrition Professionals | Leadership | New Bern |



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