



School Nutrition Update – November 21, 2017

NCDPI | School Nutrition Services | Safe and Healthy Schools Support

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Verification Survey and Collection Report

The US Department of Agriculture conducted a Management Evaluation of NC DPI's School Nutrition Services section. As part of the review, USDA has required the State Agency to determine whether School Food Authorities (SFAs) completed the Verification process for the 2017-18 SY agreement period on or before November 15, 2017. **All responses must be received on November 30, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.** in order to indicate that the Verification process was conducted within the required timeline. Failure to respond to this survey will indicate the SFA DID NOT successfully complete the Verification process by November 15, 2017 as required by Federal regulations. Thank you for your cooperation.

Verification Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/verificationsurvey17-18>

****IMPORTANT NOTE** THIS IS NOT THE VERIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT**

The Verification Summary Report is a different report that is submitted via the SN Technology System. If you have questions or need assistance please contact your Zone Consultant.

2017-18 Accountability Memoranda of Agreement

The Accountability Memoranda of Agreement for the 2017-18 school year is now available for download at: <https://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/memoranda-of-agreement-student-confidentiality> .

Please contact your Zone Consultant if you have questions or need assistance.

Equipment Assistance Grants (EAG) 2018

(Applications are due to NCDPI by **Thursday, December 7, 2017**)

The NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is pleased to notify all School Food Authorities (SFA) of a grant opportunity specifically intended to help SFAs purchase commercial equipment for use in storing, preparing and/or serving nutritious meals to students that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The one-time appropriation of \$813,654 has been made available to the NCDPI for sub-grants for equipment purchases in eligible schools and sites in traditional, charter and non-public schools and residential child care institutions operating the NSLP.

The Request for Applications/Proposals is attached along with the forms required to complete the application/proposal process. SFAs eligible to apply for grants include: those operating in compliance with current Federal Regulations (no outstanding corrective actions from an Administrative Review) with fewer than three months operating balance. In order for schools or sites to be eligible for an Equipment Assistance Grant, fifty percent of students enrolled in the school/site must be eligible for free or reduced priced meals OR the school must participate (with a relatively high Identified Student Percentage) in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). While schools/sites must justify the need for

the equipment grant, priority will be given to schools with (1) limited access to other resources to support the purchase of equipment, (2) the need for replacement equipment as a result of old equipment that no longer effectively nor efficiently serves the program, and (3) for schools that have not been awarded an Equipment Assistance Grant in the past.

Grants will be awarded for commercial equipment that is defined as “nonexpendable, tangible property with a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost of \$5,000”. Grants will only be awarded for equipment valued at \$5,000 or more. Given the limited amount of funds available to the agency and the commitment to distribute these funds as equitably as possible, we encourage SFAs to be realistic in their requests. Based on this recommendation, if an SFA would like to request a “partial grant” with the plan of using other SFA funds to purchase a larger piece of equipment, you may do so. For example, a single request for \$40,000 is unlikely to be successful, but a partial grant in the amount of \$20,000 is much more likely to be successful and that amount can defray the overall cost of the equipment.

SFAs must use their individual School Nutrition Procurement Plan to determine whether a formal or informal purchasing method is indicated and all procurement documents, including the solicitation and the vendor’s bid/quote must be submitted with the application/proposal packet. All funds must be fully expended by September 4, 2018. Funds not fully paid to the vendor by this date will be returned to the USDA.

NEW VIDEO

This year Tara Tyson developed a short video (7 min) to assist SFAs with the Equipment Assistance Grant application process. Please take full advantage of this valuable information to assist you with preparing your applications. **CLICK HERE** → [NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Application Guidelines](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are due to the NCDPI by 5:00 PM, **Thursday December 7, 2017.**

Should you have questions, please contact Tara Tyson at tara.tyson@dpi.nc.gov or Jacquelyn McGowan at jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov .

Good Luck!

We look forward to hearing from you.

- [2017 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant Official Announcement Letter](#)
- [2017 NSLP EAG Checklist](#)
- [2017 NSLP EAG SFA & School Application](#)

2018 Farm to School Grant

In October, the Office of Community Food Systems released the FY 2018 Farm to School Request for Applications (RFA).



The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist eligible entities in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. On an annual basis, USDA awards up to \$5 million in competitive grants for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm to school programs. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 tasked USDA with supporting farm to school efforts through grants, training, technical assistance, and research. For FY 2018, we offer the following grants:

Implementation grants are intended to help schools, school districts, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with schools or school districts to scale or further develop existing farm to school initiatives. Implementation awards range from \$50,000 - \$100,000.

Planning grants are for schools or school districts, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities working with schools or school districts that are just getting started on farm to school activities. These funds are intended to help these entities organize and structure their efforts for maximum impact by embedding known best practices into early design considerations. Planning awards range from \$20,000 - \$50,000.

Training grants are intended for state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, small- and medium-sized agricultural producers or groups of small- and medium-sized agricultural producers, and non-profit entities to support trainings that strengthen farm to school supply chains, or trainings that provide technical assistance in the area of local procurement, food safety, culinary education, and/or integration of agriculture-based curriculum. Training awards range from \$20,000 - \$50,000.

Interested in applying?

Complete applications must be submitted on grants.gov by 11:59pm ET on **December 8, 2017**. Check out our [resources for applicants](#) and see a [list of awardees](#) since the release of our first RFA in 2013!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Don't Lose Reimbursement – Check the Months of Operation



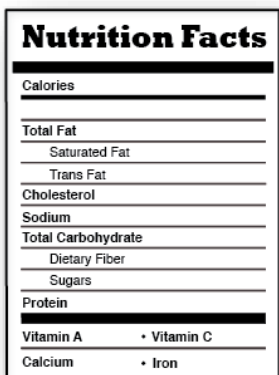
The Site Application Summary is a great tool for School Food Authorities to quickly glance to ensure months of operation have been selected for all sites/schools.

As you are all aware, USDA does not allow retroactive reimbursement. The School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS) has several steps to ensure programs are checked in the months of operation. On each site application under Certification, there are two attestation boxes, the second box once checked certifies the following:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I certify the months of operation for each program selected above accurately reflects the months that meals/snacks/milk will be served to students and claimed for Federal reimbursement. I understand any meals/snacks/milk served outside of the months selected will not be eligible for reimbursement since federal regulation prohibits retroactive program approval/reimbursement.

There is also another very useful tool, Site Application Summary, located in the SNTS which shows the Site ID, Site Name, Programs (NSLP, SBP, Non-Area Eligible {NAE} or Area Eligible{AE}), Enrollment, OVS, Lunch (selected operating months), OVS Breakfast (selected operating months) and Snack (selected operating months). Each SFA is encouraged to review this summary prior to submitting the application for approval. The Zone Consultants approve the application and then the Compliance Specialist does the final approval. While the Zone Consultant is knowledgeable of most of the programs operating within their Zones, it is virtually impossible for them to know when programs are operating and when they are not.

[CLICK HERE](#) for step-by-step instructions to access the Site Application Summary.



****REMINDER* Sodium, Whole Grain, and Milk Requirements for the 2017-2018 School Year***

On May 1, 2017, the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, issued a proclamation that changes the “Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs” final rule. The changes to nutrition standards and the meal pattern are highlighted in [USDA Policy Memo SP 32-2017](#) and include:

1. Holding school meals targets at “Level 1” measures. Meal Pattern charts have been updated to reflect changes and are posted on the NC School Nutrition

website at: <https://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/menu-planning-production/meal-patterns>

2. Rescinding the whole grain requirement, as written, and allows for half of grains served to be whole grain/whole grain-rich. A waiver from the State Agency is required to make this change.
3. Allowing flavored milk to contain up to 1% milk fat. (This will require a request for a waiver and is not currently available in N.C.)

If you have questions about Secretary Perdue's proclamation, please contact your Zone Nutrition Specialist.

Vacancy Announcement

SFA/Agency	Position Information
Onslow County Schools	Position Title & Announcement link: School Nutrition Dietitian/Nutritionist Contact: Pam Smith, Director of Nutrition Services pamela.smith@onslow.k12.nc.us

Continuing Education & Professional Development

HACCP in Your School Online Course

The 4-hour ***HACCP in Your School*** food safety curriculum is now available as an online course. In addition, the on-line course now has a Part 2 and, when combined with Part 1, provides a total of 8 hours of professional development approved by SNA as a food safety core course which can be used towards SNA certification requirements (<https://schoolnutrition.org/certificate/>).

Our North Carolina State Extension partners are hosting this course. [CLICK HERE](#) for information to access and participate in the course. The on-line option provides an alternative to the face-to-face workshop when it is not feasible to bring employees together for a course.

It is important to remember -- this HACCP in Your School course and related quizzes cannot be used to achieve the Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certificate required by the NC Food Code for a Person in Charge (PIC) although it could be used as a review to help prepare for the CFPM exam. There are now 5 organizations offering American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved CFMP exams:

- ProMetrics, Inc.
- National Registry of Food Safety Professionals
- 360Training.com, Inc.
- National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation
- StateFoodSafety.com

The *NC Safe Plates* course uses the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals exam and the *ServSafe*® course uses the exam from National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. StateFoodSafety.com administers exams online. Please contact Susan Thompson (susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov) with questions or if desiring additional information.

Mark Your Calendar

November 2017

Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Holidays (State offices closed)
Nov 28	Resource/Financial Management Level 2: Productivity and Cost Control (Hickory)
Nov 29	Resource/Financial Management Level 2: Productivity and Cost Control (Raleigh)
Nov 30	Nutrition Level 1: Smart Options (Greensboro)

December 2017

Dec 10	Deadline to submit claim for reimbursement for NSLP/SBP/ASSP/SFSP/SSP (for Nov 2017)
Dec 15	Deadline to submit FFVP claim for reimbursement (for Nov 2017)
Dec 15	Nutrient Analysis for October menus Due (Exception: SFAs with AR prior to Dec. 31 st)
Dec 25-27	Christmas Holidays (State offices closed)

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (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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