

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

May 4, 2021

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

Town Hall Tuesdays at 2

Plan now to join us today and each Tuesday in May at 2:00 pm for the latest guidance and updates. Join at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlliMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmPuZz09>. On May 4, we will be providing information about the Kansas P-EBT Plan, the Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision Deadlines, SY2021-2022 Nationwide Waivers and answering frequently asked questions.

COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response #82: Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Provision Deadlines in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness will use proxy data to complete the LEA Notification by June 30. No response is needed from Sponsors unless you would like to provide actual data because you are considering CEP election for the 2021-2022 school year.

Kansas SY 2020-2021 Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Plan Approved by USDA

A Pandemic P-EBT Frequently Asked Questions resource has been posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New to assist with implementation of the Kansas plan. **ALL** sponsors must submit the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) SY 2020-2021 Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals Worksheet by this Friday, May 7. The P-EBT worksheet should be submitted in KN-CLAIM. Do NOT email the P-EBT worksheet as it contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Summer 2021 Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

On March 11, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA, P.L. 117-2). ARPA makes several significant changes to Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) through amendment of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA, P.L. 116-127), P-EBT's authorizing legislation. Among these changes is the extension of P-EBT to the summer of 2021.

Under ARPA, P-EBT is available this summer to all children eligible to receive free or reduced price meals during the 2020-2021 school year. This includes school children who received P-EBT benefits during the school year and those who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals but did not receive P-EBT benefits because they attended school in person and had access to a meal service at school. It also includes children who are newly determined eligible for free or reduced price meals during the covered summer period as well as children under 6 who are enrolled in SNAP during the summer.

In an effort to make the distribution of P-EBT benefits to eligible children as efficient as possible, USDA is allowing states to elect a USDA-determined standard benefit that relieves States of the burden of determining their own benefit levels based on State-specific school district calendars. USDA has also developed a set of Summer P-EBT Q&As which can be accessed at the USDA's P-EBT website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-guidance-coronavirus-pandemic-ebt-pebt>. KSDE will provide additional information once Kansas has submitted a Summer 2021 P-EBT plan and it has been approved by USDA.



Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers and Flexibilities Announced

On April 20, 2021, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released a suite of twelve Child Nutrition Program nationwide waivers and flexibilities to support a successful school reopening in **school year 2021-2022**. State and local officials are working hard to plan for the new school year, and FNS recognizes that providing flexibility will support their extraordinary efforts. The suite of waivers and flexibilities, listed below, increases funding, supports access, and balances operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals.

- Cover Letter: Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Times for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – Revised – EXTENSION 3
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – EXTENSION 3
- Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – EXTENSION

These waivers are posted at: [Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for School Year 2021-2022 | USDA-FNS](#) or <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-response-84>. After reading the memos, please reach out to your area Child Nutrition Consultant if you have questions. Information on how to elect the waiver opportunities will be provided in future Updates, Administrative Update and the Program Renewal Live Zoom Webinar. **A Frequently Asked Q & A resource will be posted soon at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New.**

SNP Program Renewal Training

Child Nutrition & Wellness plans to host a Program Renewal webinar on May 18 at 2 p.m. This will take the place of the Town Hall meeting on May 18. Join the program renewal webinar using the following link: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlliMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmputz09>. KSDE will record the program renewal webinar and make the recording available to SNP Sponsors following the training if Sponsors are unable to attend the live training.



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 10, 8:30 am–12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93691288962?pwd=YldyeEtjakhuK3o5Z2EwKzIVUkdFUT09>
- SNP Administrative Update (REPEAT Session) – June 15, 8:30 am–12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/91207196964?pwd=Q0N6RFNmTjU1MktBeW8ySkdFRG5hQT09>
- SNP Administrative Update/CACFP Administrative Workshop – July 13, 8:00 am–12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/95799263660?pwd=Z2NxM3lBcXo4cVpPaFdjOHMyeUNNZz09>

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.

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, 2021, 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 now covers the costs of the two required inspections. A sample letter is available at www.kn-eat.org, Food Safety. Remember that the most recent KDA inspection must be printed and posted in a location visible to the public.

Face Covering Update

The Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Agriculture do not have face covering requirements. The decision to require face coverings occurs at the local level. It is important to partner with local health departments, since they have information on local transmission levels and can provide the appropriate guidance for your community. KSDE does **recommend** that nutrition program staff continue to wear face coverings while providing meal services, regardless of decisions made at the local level. Nutrition program staff have contact with many customers during meal service and the viral load can become significant. There are also emerging variants to the corona viruses and there is still much to be learned about how the emerging variants affect people.

Current CDC health and safety recommendations include the following:

- Fully vaccinated individuals may be outdoors without wearing face coverings. Fully vaccinated individuals should continue to follow preventive measures when they are indoors. If a fully vaccinated individual has been exposed to COVID-19 but remains asymptomatic, that individual is no longer subject to work restrictions.
- Unvaccinated individuals should continue to wear face coverings outdoors unless they are attending a small outdoor gathering with family and close friends.
- All individuals should wear face coverings at large outdoor events, since it cannot be easily determined who is vaccinated and who is not vaccinated.
- All individuals, even if they have been vaccinated or have already had COVID 19, should continue to follow preventive measures when they are indoors. Preventative measures include wearing masks, physical distancing when possible, avoiding poorly ventilated places, washing hands, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- All individuals should continue to follow any other workplace guidance at the local level.



Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

The application to apply to participate in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) for school year 2021-22 is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, 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 21, 2021. Schools selected to participate will be notified in July 2021. Participating schools will be reimbursed for their documented expenses on a monthly basis. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Boggs at 785-296-2276 or mboggs@ksde.org.

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 sending the site locator tool link that will be available online home with students or post the link on the school website. The link can be found at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, Locate a Site Near You.

Professional Development Opportunities

Professional development is offered through the KSDE Training Portal 24/7 and as scheduled live virtual events through Zoom. A full listing of live virtual events and links can be found on the CNW Calendar at www.kn-eat.org, CNW Calendar. There is no pre-registration for the live virtual classes through Zoom.

A **Food Safety Basics** will be offered via live Zoom on Wednesday, May 19 from 2:00 pm-5:00 pm. Join at: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/94099394145?pwd=eE9aVzk4b1NpdGNwVnBWM2dqQzZFdz09>
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 www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Training.

New to the KSDE Training Portal this month:

- **Alternate Point-of-Service Locations (30 minutes)** - Explains point-of-service accountability requirements and best practices for alternate meal service locations and alternate types of meal service. Topics include meals in the classroom and at carts/kiosks, field trips, second chance breakfast, family style meal service, the Community Eligibility Provision, the Afterschool Snack Program, and the Special Milk Program.

School Meals Marketing Toolkit

To help get the word out to families about meals available for kids, No Kid Hungry has launched a spring version of the **School Meals Marketing Toolkit** featuring 5 bold new graphics. It includes a variety of both ready to use and customizable assets—in English and Spanish—to help you quickly and easily communicate with families. Within the toolkit you'll find social media images, sample social media posts, postcards and example robocall scripts.



New Feature Alert for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs

A new feature is now available on the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-based Tool. Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capability of the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) for Grains using Method C. With this latest update, Method C can be used to determine the ounce equivalent grains contribution based on the grams of creditable grains for all items (Groups A-I) listed in Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. Program operators can use Method C to calculate the grains contribution of the recipe when a grain product is made on-site or a manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement is available. Registered users of the FBG Web Tool can view their saved RAWs on the FBG Mobile App. Check out the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs today! <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Team Up for Local Foods "Put our State on your Plate" Recipe Challenge 2021

"Wanted, healthy recipes that use local foods!" Schools are encouraged to participate in the Team Up for Local Foods Recipe Challenge in the fall of 2021 by building teams, which must include student(s), a Family and Consumer Science educator or culinary educator, a school nutrition professional, and a local producer. Teams are challenged to develop student friendly recipes that could be served as part of the Child Nutrition Programs, use local foods, comply with nutrition standards for school meals, and taste great! Teams must commit to the challenge by submitting the letter of intent by October 15, 2021. Recipes and challenge materials are due by December 31, 2021. All teams that apply and complete challenge requirements will receive a sub-grant in the amount of \$200. The winning teams will also receive a banner for the school to display and be recognized with a Sunflower Spotlight award. Winning recipes will be featured in the Healthier Kansas Menus resource. The recording of the informational webinar will be available soon! For more information go to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New, [Put our State on Your Plate - Team Up for Local Foods 2021 Recipe Challenge Information](#). If you have questions, please contact Kyleen Harris at kharris@ksde.org or 785-368-8039.

USDA Turnip the Beet Award – Apply Now

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. This award is open to Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsoring organizations operating in Summer 2021. Detailed award criteria, as well as a nomination form and State and regional checklists are available at: www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet. Complete the application and submit to Barb Depew, Farm to Plate Project Director, bdepew@ksde.org through July 30, 2021. Let's have a Kansas Turnip the Beet Winner!

Local Food Connections Conference

The Kansas Rural Center will host a virtual Local Food Connections conference on May 7, 2021 from 8:45 am-3:30 pm. The conference includes panelists and speakers from across the region who are actively involved in strengthening local food systems and Farm to School programs. Farmers, food producers, school nutrition personnel, grassroots organizers and community stakeholders in food systems may want to attend this event. This virtual conference will help promote new relationships in our foodshed and increase awareness of how to access healthful local foods. This conference is partially supported by a USDA Farm to School grant. Register today!

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eho1q7gr8ba840e3&oseq=&c=&ch=>



Child Nutrition & Wellness KANSANS CAN 2021-22 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 www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New. **Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30, 2021.** 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 2021 State Board of Education Meeting.

Hat's Off to all Kansas School Nutrition Heroes! The entire Child Nutrition & Wellness team appreciates the opportunity to work alongside Kansas Sponsors to fuel Kansas kids!

Cheryl, Jill and Julie



For more information, contact:

Cheryl S. Johnson
 Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness
 (785) 296-2276
www.kn-eat.org
csjohnson@ksde.org

Kansas State Department of Education
 900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
 (785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

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