

# Monthly Update



## School Nutrition Programs

September 30, 2021

*Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and the Food Service Directors Listserv and posted at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, What's New*

### October Tuesday Town Halls at 2

- **October 5** – No Town Hall Meeting
- **October 12** – Register now to be a part of regional breakout groups to discuss supply chain and staffing shortages and Identification of best practices at this link:  
<https://ksde.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsd-2qqTgvH9BNdX6wi7cXjt0SblyoCHYK>  
**In order to be able to group participants by regions, advance registration is required!**  
Note: You are invited to bring your own local apple to the Town Hall to participate in a ZOOM Apple Crunch to kick off Farm to School month!
- **October 19** – No Town Hall Meeting
- **October 26** – Join the Town Hall at 2 via this link:  
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlliMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmpuZz09>

### Reporting Number of Directly Certified Students as of October 31 Required by USDA

All Sponsors will be required to report the number of Directly Certified students as of October 31 to report to USDA. Watch for instructions on how to report this number to KSDE in late October.

### Administrative Review (AR) 2021-2022

The 2021-22 list of sponsors scheduled for an AR has been posted at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, Administrative Tools, Administrative Review. An updated AR Flowchart is also posted. If you are scheduled for an AR and were not able to participate in the training during the September 28 Town Hall, use the following link to access the recording  
<https://ksde.zoom.us/rec/share/9vRMDP9EndDFNxcRVf1ABFM7iPTqAJAFAT-lpWKgSrmFQ4wNpFSjus7UNcLFQoCT.3a4PLcQTNDjFfveH>

### Indirect Costs for SY2021-22

Indirect Cost Information is now available at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, What's New.

### USDA Guidance

- **COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #99, Nationwide Waiver of the Annual Half Aggregate Monitoring Requirement in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** waives the requirement that State agencies annually review a number of sponsors whose program reimbursements, in the aggregate, account for at least one-half of the total program reimbursements in the State in the previous year. It is in effect through September 30, 2022. The increase in reimbursements received by sponsors operating in FY 2021 (due to the waiver allowing SFSP to operate during the school year, not just the summer) will significantly increase the number of monitoring reviews State agencies must conduct to meet the one-half aggregate monitoring requirement for FY 2022, regardless of whether there is a change in the number of SFSP operators in fiscal year 2022. An increased number of required reviews creates an administrative burden on State agencies and will require them to conduct reviews on large sponsors, such as SFAs, who have received continual support and technical assistance from State agencies throughout the school year. This significant



increase in burden will pull resources from State agencies and hinder their ability to conduct reviews on new sponsors and those who experienced operational issues in the prior year. This waiver will allow State agencies and Sponsors to focus on ensuring meals are provided to children with appropriate safety measures with respect to COVID-19 and decrease administrative burden.

- **COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #100, Waiver to Allow Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in School Year 2021-2022.** FNS is granting a waiver of certain fiscal action requirements in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. This waiver is available for any State where there is a supply chain disruption with respect to foods served under such a qualified program and such disruption is due to COVID-19. FNS is also extending this flexibility to the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option for the duration of this waiver. Note: Pre-emptive meal pattern requests are now allowed for the fall semester. Contact your Child Nutrition Consultant to discuss if needed.
- USDA recently updated the **SY 2021-22 targeted meal pattern waiver (that is effective October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) to include the pre-K meal pattern regulations.** This means that Sponsors serving students in pre-K through grade 12 can apply for a waiver to offer streamlined meal pattern(s) to multiple age-grade groups, including preschoolers.

#### **COVID-19: Child Nutrition Responses #101- #106**

- On September 23, 2021, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service released a new set of Child Nutrition Program nationwide waivers for school year 2021-2022. As schools across the nation are working towards a successful reopening, USDA appreciates the need for flexibility and additional support in a dynamic and unpredictable environment. This set of waivers, listed below, is designed to maintain children's access to nutritious meals during unanticipated school closures. An unanticipated school closure is an unforeseen closure with no learning taking place at the Sponsor – either in person or remote due to an unanticipated event (Ex. snow day.) It could be due to COVID illness or quarantine if the entire Sponsor is closed unexpectedly and the school calendar is not adjusted to add minutes or days to make up for a school closure.

Read the letter and waivers here: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/update-to-address-meal-service-during-unanticipated-school-closures-supply-chain-issues>. To elect these waivers, contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant.

- Cover Letter: Child Nutrition Waiver Update to Address Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures and Supply Chain Issues
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for Service Institutions Operating the Summer Food Service Program during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Times Requirements for Service Institutions Operating the Summer Food Service Program during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals Served by Service Institutions through the Summer Food Service Program during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility Requirements for Service Institutions Operating the Summer Food Service Program during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures in School Year 2021-2022



## **Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operations in School Year 2021-2022, Q&A #2 (SP 22-2021, CACFP 17-2021, SFSP 10-2021)**

On September 29, USDA issued a new set of questions and answers to provide clarification on questions related to Child Nutrition Program operations during school year 2021-2022. The policy memo will be posted soon at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn>. Please note new guidance found in Q.6.

### **Q. If schools elect the waiver allowing them to operate SSO during the school year, do the Professional Standards requirements still apply?**

- A.** Professional Standards training required under 7 CFR 210.30(b)(3), (c), and (d) are not applicable to SFAs that operate SSO during SY 2021-2022 pursuant to Child Nutrition Response #85: *Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022*. Although training is not required, school nutrition professionals are encouraged to complete in-person or online training. Any training completed during SY 2021-2022 may be applied to the requirements for SY 2022-2023. Please note that Professional Standards hiring requirements are still applicable.

### **FY 2021 P-EBT Local Level Administrative Cost Grant Awards – Direct Deposit was on 9/13**

The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (P.L. 116-159), Sec 721 of the FY 2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act (P.L. 116-260) allow funds to be sub-awarded to local Sponsors to assist with the administrative costs associated with local level implementation of Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT). P-EBT Local Administrative Cost Grant Awards were direct deposited on Monday 9/13 for those Sponsors who submitted their requests by August 2! These funds must be deposited in the Food Service Fund. Deposit in Food Service (Code 24) as 4590 Other Federal Aid and record in KN-CLAIM on the Monthly Financial Report (MFR) Line 8 Federal Grants CFDA # is 10.649.

### **School Nutrition Program (SNP) Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement – Direct Deposit was on 9/21**

Pursuant to Section 722 of P.L. 116-260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Title VII, Chapter 3, the SNP Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program provides additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs incurred during the public health emergency. SNP Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement was direct deposited on Tuesday, September 21. Deposit in Food Service (Code 24) as 4590 Other Federal Aid and record in KN-CLAIM on the Monthly Financial Report (MFR) Line 8 Federal Grants. This funding must be used for school nutrition program allowable costs and deposited in the food service fund. CFDA # is 10.555.

### **Child & Adult Food Program (CACFP) Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement –Direct Deposit was on 9/27**

Pursuant to Section 722 of P.L. 116-260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Title VII, Chapter 3, the CACFP Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement Program provides additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs incurred during the public health emergency. CACFP Emergency Operational Costs Reimbursement was direct deposited on Monday, September 27. This funding must be used for CACFP allowable costs. Deposit in the Food Service Fund as 4590 Other Federal Aid and record in KN-CLAIM on the Monthly Financial Report (MFR) Line 8 Federal Grants. The CFDA# is 10.558.



### Professional Development Opportunities

Don't miss any of the amazing October training opportunities. Go to [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), CNW Calendar to view all scheduled classes – dates, times and ZOOM links.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Management Class: Meal Modifications, October 13
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Food Safety Class: Food Safety Basic, October 20
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Staff Development Class: Using Standardized Recipes in SNP, October 27

If you would like to schedule a ZOOM Inservice for your Sponsor or have questions about professional development, contact Kelly Chanay at [kchanay@ksde.org](mailto:kchanay@ksde.org).

For a complete list of all Professional Development opportunities that includes Zoom links, check out the CNW Calendar.

### Online Professional Development – Classes and Tutorials

CNW staff continue to develop new interactive online training classes and tutorials that can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. The professional development classes offer a certificate upon successful completion which can be printed. Tutorials are less than an hour with no quiz and no certificate. Create an account now at <https://learning.ksde.org> and see the entire list of classes and tutorials available. For detailed instructions on creating an account and accessing the training, go to [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, Training. New to the online portal this month: Kitchen Math Made Easy, Nutrition Standards for School Meals, Is This Meal Reimbursable: Breakfast, Is This Meal Reimbursable: Lunch, and Managing Production.

### National School Lunch Week (NSLW) – Go WILD for School Lunch!

Now is a great time to get started planning your WILD menu items for National School Lunch Week, October 11-15! Download the artwork to use in planning your communications and start posting on social media with the hashtags #NSLW21 and #WILDSchoolLunch. The School Nutrition Association (SNA) has an Amazonian-sized selection of fun jungle animals, digital banners and food items to unleash your creativity!

- **Get Social with New Graphics:** Adventure awaits during National School Lunch Week! Stop monkeying around and let your community know that #NSLW21 is right around the corner! Download colorful, cute social media graphics developed by the Association for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to start spreading the word.
- **Share the #NSLW21 Infographic:** It's a jungle out there, so your community might need a little help in remembering all the benefits of healthy school lunches. SNA has you covered—check out the #NSLW21 infographic, available in English and Spanish, which contains key information for parents about the program. Share the digital version or print copies to hand out.

### October is Farm to School Month

#### Farm to Plate The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mountain Plains Crunch Off, October 2021 – Register Now!

This year's registrants are able to crunch on not only apples; but ANY local crunchable produce! Kansas is participating in the Mountain Plains Crunch Off with seven other regional states. Join us as we crunch on local produce together during Town Hall on Tuesday, October 12, celebrate with local produce on Wednesday, October 13, or pick another day in October to participate in the crunch off. Make your event plans now and register your event at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/79XXHNM>. Crunchable local produce can be found in many places – school/child care gardens, farmer's market, local distributors or <https://shopkansasfarms.com/map/>. A toolkit with resources and marketing information is provided at the registration link. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Depew, Farm to Plate Project Director at [bdepew@ksde.org](mailto:bdepew@ksde.org) or phone 785-296-0062.



### **Farm to School with KC Chiefs Kicker**

As you celebrate October Farm to School month and recognize farmers, join Kansas City Chiefs Kicker Harrison Butker as he learns more about dairy farming and how many of the things you do, dairy does too. [Click here](#) for this 5-minute educational video from Midwest Dairy and Fuel Up to Play 60 to help your students learn more about dairy farming. Did you know milk goes from farm to store in about 48 hours? That's local!

### **Farm to School Spotlight**

Jennifer Tiller, **USD 473 Chapman** Food Service Director, was excited to offer students 40 fresh and delicious watermelon donated by the Thornton family. The Thornton Family consists of Kate Thornton, the assistant principal of Chapman High School and her husband Clint, who works with Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and their two daughters who love to give back to the community and the schools. The kids loved having the fresh watermelon at lunch. Partnering with the local community to have fresh produce at schools is a rewarding partnership for everyone involved. Jennifer wrote, "I am so excited for our kids to have local grown for lunch.....a bright light for all the kids."

### **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 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, 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. More information and a recording of the webinar can be found at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, What's New, [Put our State on Your Plate - Team Up for Local Foods 2021 Recipe Challenge](#). If you have questions, please contact Kyleen Harris at [kharris@ksde.org](mailto:kharris@ksde.org) or 785-368-8039.

### **New! Team Nutrition Web Quizzes**

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is proud to announce the release of new Team Nutrition web quizzes, available at [www.fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/quizzes). The first two quizzes will focus on infant nutrition and school lunch. Quizzes on other topics will be released throughout Fall 2021. These interactive ten-question web quizzes are a fun way to introduce a variety of nutrition topics, and can be used by staff at trainings and other nutrition events. Upon completion of each quiz, quiz takers receive a score along with a link to resources that can help expand their knowledge on the topic and build their nutrition skills. Quiz takers can also view a printable version of the questions and answers upon quiz completion. These web quizzes are also available as a widget, so they can easily be embedded and featured on websites.

### **New Feature Alert for the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!**

A new feature is now available on the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your comments on the PSTTT and works continuously to enhance the user experience. After numerous requests to allow for bulk upload of employee user profiles, Team Nutrition is excited to announce this feature is now available to Director and Manager users of the PSTTT. You can now conveniently upload a spreadsheet using the template found within the tool to import multiple employee user profiles at one time. Please contact [cnpntab@usda.gov](mailto:cnpntab@usda.gov) for further assistance with this new feature. Track your professional standards required training hours today using USDA's free Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!



### **Tips for Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions – New Resource**

No Kid Hungry has developed a new resource with Tips for Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions. Linked within it, are sample materials that schools/districts can use to communicate with families and the broader school community (i.e. administrators, teachers, students) about supply chain disruptions affecting school meals. They can be used as is or customized to best fit the needs of a particular school or district. It includes a menu note, a letter/email and social media posts, available in both English and Spanish.

### **Sunflower Spotlights**

Three Kansas school districts received **Kansans CAN 2020-2021 Best Practice Awards** at the Kansas State Board of Education Meeting in August. Congratulations to each of the awardees!

**USD 320 Wamego** – A truly tasty collaboration between USD 320 Food Service and the Wamego Public Library was the dream of Laura Fails, food service director at USD 320 and Darci Hildebrand, director of the Wamego Library. COVID 19 put that dream on hold until a brainstorming session led to the development of the Cooks & Books program. The 6-week Cooks & Books program provided nutrition education and literacy resources to children grades K-12. Participating families were given a Tool Kit with needed equipment and each week, Take & Make bags containing the ingredients to make a healthy snack were provided at the library. During the first week, they distributed half of the 100 Tool Kits and ran out of the 50 Take & Make bags within 30 minutes!

**USD 312 Haven** – Farm-to-table is a special and integral part of the child wellness program at Haven USD 312. Each year to celebrate farm-to-table, the child wellness program at Haven holds an event titled, “Farm to Table Family BBQ and Field Day.” The family event located at Haven Grade School highlights local farmers and small businesses. Local providers in the community help secure food resources for the event. The Haven High Greenhouse provided romaine lettuce for the hamburgers. The Haven High School Future Farmers of America organization members and school agriculture classes provided educational opportunities to learn about how every part of the BBQ meal comes from a farm. Through a connection found with Shop Kansas Farms, the event was able to locate a baker to create hamburger buns for the event ensuring each component served as a part of the event was a local product. The Farm to Table Family BBQ and Field Day not only was a showcase and celebration of local foods, it brought the community together after a difficult year of pandemic separation.

**USD 252 Southern Lyon County** – When district and community families were in need, the Southern Lyon County food service team stepped up to serve. The Southern Lyon County food service program participated in the farm-to-family box program during the pandemic, distributing free food to community members and families in the school district. Southern Lyon County food service received a semi load of vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, and other dairy products that were distributed amongst the district’s 3 communities. At times the line for the food box pick-up would be up to three blocks long, underscoring the community’s need for nutritious foods. The Southern Lyon County food service program strengthened its relationship with community members participating in the program. The farm-to-family box program helped Southern Lyon County food service increase awareness of their programs and services leading to a remarkable increase in breakfasts and lunches served during the 2020-2021 school year.



### **USDA Announces New Funding to Address Supply Chain Issues on September 29**

*“Since the start of the public health crisis, school nutrition professionals have worked tirelessly to continue to serve nutritious meals. USDA has remained steadfast in its commitment to getting them the support they need to successfully operate meal programs amidst changing circumstances. Studies show school meals are the healthiest meals children receive in a day, which is why we must support schools any way we can to get those nutritious meals to our nation’s school children. -- Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.*

As part of a \$3 billion investment package in agriculture, animal health and nutrition, [the USDA announced](#) that it will provide up to \$1.5 billion to provide assistance to help schools respond to food and labor supply chain disruptions designed to support procurement of agricultural commodities and enable USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to enhance the toolbox for school nutrition professionals to ensure students have reliable access to healthy meals. KSDE will provide information about this announcement as soon it is made available. Thanks to each of you that provided information about food supply chain issues and staffing shortages that could be shared with USDA during our Town Hall Meetings.

**As always, if you have questions please call or email us or your area Child Nutrition Consultant.**

**Cheryl, Jill and Julie**



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