

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

April 26, 2022

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 April 26 for **Summer Food Service Program Meal Pattern training** (Please note: Plan on 2 hours to complete the training) at:
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlliMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmpuZz09>
- On May 10 at 2:00 pm join for **School Nutrition Program Renewal training** at:
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/93001580396?pwd=ZlliMTVuemh3d0VoVU80aGVQcmpuZz09>

KSDE will record both of these training sessions and make the recordings available to Sponsors following the training if Sponsors are unable to attend the live training.

Note: An additional Town Hall will be scheduled once we receive approval of the Summer 2022 and SY 2022-23 Child Nutrition Programs 12(l) Waivers that KSDE requested and/or if additional guidance is received from USDA regarding Transitioning to Normal Child Nutrition Operations. USDA has indicated that guidance will be coming soon about Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program eligibility, Paid Lunch Equity, Severe Need, 2 Cents Differentials and Carryover for SY 22-23.

USDA Guidance

SNP 07- 2022, SFSP 02-2022

On March 7, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden passed Executive Order (EO) 14019 directing Federal agencies to consider ways to expand citizens' opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process. Through the Child Nutrition Programs, operators have the ability to reach Americans to provide them with information about voting. Ideas include, but are not limited to, encouraging:

- School food authorities administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in high schools, and adult day care centers and emergency shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to promote voter registration and election information among voting-age participants and use congregate feeding areas, such as cafeterias, or food distribution sites, as sites for the dissemination of information;
- Schools to provide parents and guardians with voter registration and election information when distributing NSLP free and reduced price meal applications and/or other communications to households;
- Operators of the CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program to post flyers with voter registration and election information to reach parents and/or guardians of young participants; and
- All program operators to post information on their website and social media channels, and link to relevant resources, including vote.gov.

A sample flyer is available at [USAGov's Quick Guide to Voting in 2020 | USAGov](#) that may be used by program operators. The Child Nutrition Programs play an essential role in the health and development of our nation's children, and can also play a role in enabling all Americans to participate in our democracy.

**SNP 08-2022, SFSP 03-2022**

This memorandum provides notice to Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators regarding Sections 740, 751, and 752 of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) (the Appropriations Act), enacted on March 15, 2022. Provisions applicable to School Nutrition Programs:

- Program funds may not be used to procure raw or processed poultry products from the People's Republic of China. This extends the existing prohibition through September 30, 2022.
- Low-fat (1% fat) flavored milk may continue to be served in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for children 6 and older due to [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-22](#).
- Only School Food Authorities with a negative balance in the nonprofit food service account as of December 31, 2021 are required to establish a price for paid lunches served through the National School Lunch Program that complies with the paid lunch equity provisions during SY 2022-23.
- School Food Authorities participating in the School Breakfast Program may credit any vegetable offered, including potatoes and other starchy vegetables, in place of fruit without including vegetables from other subgroups in the weekly menus. This flexibility is effective for School Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Transitioning to Normal Operations – Summer 2022 and SY 2022-23 Child Nutrition Programs 12(I) Waivers

USDA's nationwide waiver authority is expiring as of June 30, 2022. They have notified State agencies that allowable State waiver requests can be submitted through USDA's 12(I) authority. USDA has developed a streamlined approach through which State Agencies can request available waivers through one combined request. KSDE has submitted the waiver request. You can view the request and the checklist of waivers that USDA has determined allowable and KSDE has requested at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New. KSDE will provide detailed information via a Town Hall and in a written update about the waiver possibilities as soon as KSDE receives approval from USDA.

Selected Q&As from the Town Hall held on 4/19/22

Please note: answers are based on information from the USDA webinar held for State Agency staff on 4/18/22. Answers are subject to change once detailed written guidance is received from USDA. You will be notified in writing promptly with any new guidance.

Summer 2022 Operations Q&As:

- Q. We were planning to serve congregate meals this summer in our cafeteria, is it ok to serve congregate meals only and not utilize the waivers?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can we offer meals via SSO or SFSP but allow people to stay on-site to eat or have the option to take meals with them? Would a waiver be needed for this?
- A. Waivers would need to be requested for non-congregate meals service and meal times and must be justified for a COVID reason with an integrity plan to receive approval.



- Q. Can the non-congregate, parent pick-up & meal time waivers be added at any time or does that have to be done prior to our program approval? (Our plan is to operate in June for now, if we want to add-on some weeks in July for service, can we elect these waivers at that time?)
- A. Yes, waivers can be requested as needed for COVID reasons throughout the summer.
- Q. Can we offer congregate meals inside and have grab and go available outside for children to choose which option they want?
- A. Waivers would need to be requested and justified for non-congregate meal service, parent pick up and meal times and must be justified for a COVID reason with an integrity plan to be approved.
- Q. If I operate SSO in June and switch to SFSP for July, is it possible I will have 2 reviews, one for SSO and one for SFSP?
- A. Yes, that could be possible. Review schedules have not been determined for the SFSP to date. You would have an SSO review only if you had an AR this past school year or are scheduled to have an AR next school year.
- Q. I'm planning to operate SSO in June, because of the higher SFSP SSO reimbursement rate compared to the SFSP reimbursement rate. What would be the advantages vs. disadvantages to operating SFSP in July, rather than continuing with SSO in July?
- A. See the comparison chart posted at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What's New and contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office to discuss options specific to your Sponsor.
- Q. Can we send home grab and go meals for the weekend under the SFSP or SSO if there is a COVID related justification?
- A. Yes, for either SFSP or SSO, with waiver approval for non-congregate, parent pick up and meal times.

School Year 2022-2023 Operations Q&As:

- Q. We want to apply for all these waivers now, so we can use them, if we would need. How do we do that?
- A. School year 22-23 waivers cannot be pre-emptively approved but only requested as needed for a COVID reason on a case by case basis. Learn more about the School Year 22-23 Waivers at the Program Renewal webinar on May 10.
- Q. Must school meals be provided in the event of an unanticipated school closure, where remote learning is NOT taking place?
- A. During an unanticipated school closure with no remote learning, meals do not have to be provided but can be if the Unanticipated School Closure Waiver is elected. These meals would be claimed through the SFSP/SSO and be free for all students at area eligible sites only.
- Q. Must school meals be provided in the event a school is closed with REMOTE learning taking place?
- A. Yes, since school is in session, meals must be offered. If for a COVID reason, the non-congregate, parent pick up and meal times waiver can be requested to serve meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Students would be charged and claimed based upon their eligibility status.



- Q. If I use the Community Eligibility Option to establish area eligibility to provide summer meals and my Identified Student Percentage (ISP) is 31.25 which indicates we are area eligible, does that mean we qualify for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) for next school year and all students will be able to eat breakfast and lunch for free?
- A. No, the criteria to be eligible for CEP are not the same as this option to determine area eligibility for the summer meals program, the SY2022-23 Afterschool Snack Program and CACFP At Risk Afterschool Meals during SY 2022-23. If you are interested in seeing if your school qualifies for CEP for next school year, contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org.

Free and Reduced-Price Eligibility Data in KSDE Data Central

The F/R Eligibility listed in Data Central for school year 2021-2022 was developed using Household Economic Survey. This data cannot be used to qualify for any Child Nutrition Program including Summer Meals for the upcoming summer. Contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or call the Topeka office at 785-296-2276 to receive assistance determining area eligibility for Summer 2022 or CACFP At Risk for School Year 2022-23.

Emergency Procurement Update

The regulatory citation for using the noncompetitive procurement method is located in 2 CFR 200.320(c) and it states that a noncompetitive procurement method may be used when a “public exigency or emergency” prevents a Sponsor from undertaking a competitive procurement. USDA Policy Memo SP 01-2022, Q&A for Child Nutrition Emergency Procurement, does not indicate an end date of June 30 as referenced in other waivers.

Circumstances, such as the unanticipated cancellation of food and supply contracts, have the effect of creating an emergency for a Sponsor participating in the Child Nutrition Programs. Sponsors do not need to request a waiver or receive State agency approval to utilize the emergency noncompetitive procurement method and may use this procurement method as long as the supply chain disruption occurs. However, consistent with procurement regulations at 2 CFR 200.318(i), Sponsors should document their justification for using noncompetitive procurement, comply with other procurement requirements, and ensure that costs are necessary, reasonable, and allocable.

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 7, 8:30 am-12:30 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/85861366098?pwd=cW5ZYWE5bTJlaWhUR1hoaW5tMkExZz09>
- SNP Administrative Update for RCCI's – June 9, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/81654221193?pwd=aHZocUYrOHBNbNDBtdnZ5NnRSTVVGUT09>
- SNP Administrative Update/CACFP Administrative Workshop – July 6, 8:00 am-12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88432205471?pwd=VIQ4Q2NKbmcveIY1djdFVk9KWFVVGQT09>

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.



Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs

Sponsors who wish to use an online process for their Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, Enrollment & Income Eligibility Form, or other Child Nutrition Forms requiring an electronic signature, must complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form (will be located on the checklist tab in KN-CLAIM and is also available in Food Service Facts, Chapter 7, Forms) and email to Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org. An online class is available at <https://learning.ksde.org>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Child Nutrition Programs (General Information), Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs.

Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals

A USDA Technology Grant has made it possible for KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness to develop an Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. It will be available free of charge to sponsors to use for the 2022-2023 school year. Sponsors opting to use the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals are not required to complete the Request to Use Electronic Transactions in Child Nutrition Programs form. Contact Julie Henry at jhenry@ksde.org for more information.

Utilizing the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals – Now Available!

Sponsors can now access the online 25-minute tutorial through the KSDE Training Portal. This tutorial provides an overview of how to access and utilize the Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. The training will help sponsors understand how to create a sponsor specific link, utilize the online application, access and determine submitted applications, and save those applications correctly. Access the training at <https://learning.ksde.org/>, Child Nutrition & Wellness, Tutorials, School Nutrition Programs (SNP) tutorials.

New feature alert for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool and FBG Interactive Mobile App!

A new feature is now available on the Food Buying Guide (FBG) for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool and FBG Interactive Mobile App. Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your comments on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. **Team Nutrition is excited to announce that users can now easily search for food items based on the selected meal Program.** Explore the [Food Buying Guide](#) today!

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, 2022, 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 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.

Summer Food Service Program Outreach

All SNP Sponsors are required to conduct outreach for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). If the Sponsor does not have the SFSP sites, consider posting a link to the site locator tool that is available on-line at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, Locate a Site Near You on the school website or providing the link on a flyer to send home with students. This would allow families to find a location to receive free meals at sites across Kansas.



Important Update! Summer Meals Text Number is now 914-342-7744

The automated texting service which connects families to local summer meal sites has changed to 914-342-7744. The 97779 number that was previously in use is now discontinued. The new number is in operation and will be this summer. The new text number has been updated on USDA's public website, and more information about the National Hunger Hotline and associated texting service may be found [here](#).

*Please note, the USDA National Hunger Hotline number has not changed. Individuals can still call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE to speak with a representative who will find food resources such as meal sites, food banks, and other nearby social services. The No Kid Hungry Texting Line also moved to a new number. Parents and caregivers should text the word "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 304-304 to find the nearest meal sites.

Professional Development Update

Professional development is offered through the KSDE Training Portal 24/7 and has 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.

New to the Portal: Adjusting Standardized Recipes, Preparing Standardized Recipes, Wellness Wednesdays: Food and Mood, Wellness Wednesdays: Motivational Interviewing for Healthier Behaviors.

Join CNW for upcoming culinary trainings which can be accessed using the following Zoom link: <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88640601491?pwd=NUQvT2VmWXhod2hoS2dZdlkRW5DZz09>

- April Culinary Corner: Soybeans and Soy Food: The Many Sides of Soy, April 27 at 2 pm. Attend this training to learn more about soy's versatility as a meat/meat alternate and vegetable. Recipe features include tofu bites, edamame, stir fry featuring low sodium stir fry sauce, soy butter bites and more!
- May Culinary Corner: Pep Up Your Menus with Peppers! May 25 at 2 pm. This segment will explore current food trends and feature the following recipes: sweet bell pepper nachos, salsa, inferno burger and more!
- Watch the April Quick Bite featuring sweet and hot peppers at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd_2hYclboc_QUbcDjw6GfQP7i2Zv2MHM

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.

Save the Date: The Rural Child Hunger Virtual Summit – April 27-28, 2022

The goal of the 2022 Rural Child Hunger Summit presented by No Kid Hungry and Save the Children is to highlight the resiliency of rural communities through their innovative and adaptive programs. The Summit will identify promising practices and policy levers that amplify the impact of nutrition assistance programs and reduce rural child hunger. Register for this free event here: [2022 Rural Child Hunger Summit | Center for Best Practices \(nokidhungry.org\)](https://www.nokidhungry.org)



Lead to Succeed – Communication for Impact

There has never been a more important time to sharpen critical communications skills! Looking ahead to SY 2022-23, there are challenging conversations ahead! School nutrition professionals could be having conversations about meal charge reinstatements and increases, meal debt, supply chain challenges, menu changes, and more. Are you and your staff prepared to tackle these difficult conversations with parents, administrators, and other stakeholders? Check out the latest free training from @SchoolNutritionFoundation. LEAD to Succeed™ is a high-quality training series developed in partnership with @GeorgetownMcDonough. These trainings available to all school nutrition professionals at no cost through the @SchoolNutritionAssociation Training Zone! Earn CEUs & help your team “level up” their communication skills. Learn more & get started: www.schoolnutrition.org/LEAD

Let Your Voice Be Heard: Help Shape the Next Dietary Guidelines!

Every five years, USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) partner to provide the latest, science-based nutrition guidance to empower Americans to make dietary choices that will improve their health and lifestyles. These guidelines are a cornerstone of federal nutrition policy, which we are leveraging to promote and elevate **nutrition security**. Poor nutrition is a leading cause of illness in the U.S. and by focusing on the quality of what we eat, we can help reduce diet-related diseases such as diabetes and heart disease that impact historically underserved and marginalized communities.

Your feedback on the proposed questions – and throughout the development process for the Dietary Guidelines for Americans – will help us change lives and ensure a healthier, more prosperous future for all Americans. The public comment period is now open. You are invited to read the **proposed scientific questions** and submit comments, using links below, before May 16, 2022, to inform the process from the very start!

Additional Resources:

- [Looking Ahead: The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Process](#)
- [News Alert announcing the public comment period for proposed scientific questions](#)
- [HHS Blog about proposed scientific questions](#)
- [Sign up to receive email updates on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans development process and other related news, including future opportunities for public involvement](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about the Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)
- [USDA's Commitment to Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security](#)

Kansas Nutrition Council Conference

The Kansas Nutrition Council Annual Conference, *2022 Emerging Stronger: Leading the Way for a Healthier World*, will be held April 28 at the K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-kansas-nutrition-council-annual-conference-tickets-275179759067>

Adopt a Cow Registration Opens May 1

Looking for ways to bring agriculture to life for your students? The Adopt a Cow program offers an exciting look inside the world of dairy farming by adopting a calf as your classroom mascot! The photos and stories we'll send you about her life on the farm will make her come alive for your students. Learn more: discoverdairy.com/adopt. Registration opens May 1!



The Discover Dairy “Adopt a Cow” program is an exciting, year-long experience for your classroom. Throughout the program, you’ll get an inside look at dairy farming and be paired with a calf from a dairy farm in the United States. You’ll find out what her name is, when her birthday is, where she lives, and how the farmer takes care of her. You’ll also receive progress updates, photos of the cow, live chats from the farm, activity sheets for your students, suggested lessons that follow Common CORE standards, and even opportunities to write letters to your calf!

Register for this school year between May 1 and September 15, and make sure you share the program with a teacher you know! Visit www.discoverdairy.com/adopt to learn more about the program.

No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit

No Kid Hungry has created a summer meals [outreach toolkit](#) to help summer meals sponsors get the word out to kids and families about the availability of free meals this summer. The toolkit includes a variety of ready to use and customizable promotional materials—in both English and Spanish—including:

- Template Press Release
- Social Media Graphics
- Social Media Posts
- Website Blurb (can also be used for radio PSAs, robocalls, newsletters or texts to families)
- Print Materials
- Template Letter to Parents
- Template Faith Bulletin Insert
- Template FAQs about Summer Meals

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, 2022.** 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 2022 State Board of Education Meeting.

Kansas School Nutrition Professionals are Superheroes!

“I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

--- Superman

Thank you, Kansas School Nutrition Superheroes, for being courageous, brave and resilient, fueling student success! The Child Nutrition & Wellness team sends heartfelt seeds of gratitude to each of you for all you do to provide essential nutrition to children every day, helping them grow. Each of you are nurturing healthy habits for a lifetime!

“A true hero isn’t measured by the size of his/her strength but by the strength of his/her heart.”

--- Hercules

Cheryl, Jill and Julie



For more information, contact:

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