

# Monthly Update



## School Nutrition Programs

September 30, 2022

*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*

### Verification

Verification is confirmation of eligibility for reduced price and free meals under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The following sponsors do not complete verification:

- Sponsors participating in ONLY the Special Milk Program
- Residential Child Care Institutions that do not also operate a day school
- Sponsors that are participating district-wide in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

All other sponsors must select and verify eligibility for a sample of applications approved for benefits. One person should coordinate all verification activities for the sponsor. Important deadlines for the verification process are:

- October 1 (October 1 is a Saturday, you may count on Monday, October 3 or Friday, September 30) – Count applications and students approved for reduced price and free meals. Applications and students that are in “carry-over” status on October 1 are NOT included in this count. Complete the Pre-Verification Worksheet in KN-CLAIM to determine the Sponsor’s sampling method. Once the Pre-Verification Worksheet is submitted, go into the Post-Verification Results screen to see the number and type of applications that must be verified. Verify ONLY the number required unless verified “for cause”.
- October 31 – Update counts of students approved for reduced price and free meals on the Pre-Verification Worksheet in KN-CLAIM. Do NOT update number of applications. Sponsors participating in CEP, but not district-wide, will be able to enter the number of Directly Certified students in CEP schools and those in non-CEP schools.
- November 15 – Complete all verification activities. This deadline is the same whether it falls on a weekday or weekend.
- December 15 – Complete reporting of Post-Verification Results in KN-CLAIM.

To navigate to the Verification screens in KN-CLAIM, select School Nutrition Programs, Program Year 2023 and then click on the “Forms” tab on the Sponsor Summary page. On the same line as “Pre-Verification Worksheet” click the <Add> button which can be found at the right-hand side of the screen and has the image of a + sign. For step-by-step instructions, the Verification Quick Reference Guide can assist you in completing the Pre-Verification Worksheet correctly. Please download the guide at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), KN-CLAIM, SNP, Quick References, Verification.

USDA requires KSDE to annually report verification data for each sponsor. The USDA report is completed using the data you provide on the Pre-Verification Worksheet and the Post-Verification Results screens in KN-CLAIM. Please make sure that the information entered is accurate, complete, and submitted on time. For instructions on the verification process and all related forms (including KSDE’s Spanish translations), go to [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, Food Service Facts, Chapter 8-Verification of Eligibility. **If you missed the verification webinar, an on-line class is available as well as Pre-Verification Worksheet and Post-Verification Worksheet tutorials in the School Nutrition Program section at <https://learning.ksde.org>.**



### **October 18<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Town Hall at 2**

Plan now to join KSDE for the October 18<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Townhall at 2 pm using this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/84920437369?pwd=dXgrdE5ickp6VVVHRTFWbkowN0FJUT09>. The agenda will include but not be limited to: Supply Chain Assistance Funds, Summer P-EBT Funds, Strategies to Prevent Unpaid Meal Charges and Farm to School. Bring your favorite crunchable produce item for a “Virtual Crunch” to celebrate Farm to School Month during Town Hall!

- Save the date for the November Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, November 15 at 2 pm. Agenda items will include Portion Costing and the Non-program Foods Tool.

### **Fiscal Year 2022 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants – Additional Funding Available**

Kansas has received an allocation of an additional \$386,725 to increase the total amount to \$605,178 to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible Sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This year priority does **not** have to be given to high-need schools where 50% or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Priority will be given to those schools who have not received a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant. These funds will allow Sponsors who apply and are awarded equipment assistance grants to purchase equipment to improve nutritional quality of school meals, safety of food served, increase efficiency of procurement, food storage and service, support expanded participation in the NSLP, ability to use locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables, strategies for adopting lunchroom changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student population such as Grab and Go or Kiosks and/or to support the establishment, maintenance or expansion of the School Breakfast Program through innovative service models. The Kansas grant application is available at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, What’s New. Due to the increase in funds provided, applications will be accepted through October 31. Contact Diane Dysart at [ddysart@ksde.org](mailto:ddysart@ksde.org) with questions. Diane is available to review applications to make sure they are complete prior to the deadline. If you have already applied, no further action is necessary. Additional applications are welcome!

### **Supply Chain Assistance Funds Update – Second and Third Rounds**

Sponsors will receive a grant award notification of funding for the combined Second Round and Third Round of the Supply Chain Assistance Funds once the KSDE enrollment numbers based on the September 20<sup>th</sup> count date are available. USDA has indicated that another attestation statement is not needed if the Sponsor signed an Attestation for the First Round of Supply Chain Assistance funds. The only action needed will be for those Sponsors who do not want to accept the Second or Third Rounds of Supply Chain Assistance Funds to return the Grant Award notification and indicate they are opting out. These funds do not have to be spent by the end of this school year and can remain available until fully used.

### **Kansas Online Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals – Reminder**

Sponsors using the Online Kansas Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application must print the applications or store them electronically within 30 days of receiving.

### **Menu Planning Tools Updated for 80% Whole Grain Rich Requirement**

Menu Planning Tools have been updated to reflect the 80% Whole Grain Rich requirement and can be accessed at: [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), School Nutrition Programs, Guidance, Menu Planning & Production Records, Recordkeeping Forms.



### **New Fruit Yield Data Added for the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-Based Tool!**

New from Team Nutrition: New food yields data has been added to the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based \(FBG\) Tool](#) and Mobile App! Now available, the following fruit yield data: purees (banana, blueberry, and strawberry), frozen mango, and frozen berry blend. This is a continuation of yield data from phase two of the FBG Yield Study, with the first set of data (sorghum) being released in July 2022. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases coming soon. Check out the Food Buying for Child Nutrition Programs today!

### **Celebrate National School Lunch Week – October 10-14, 2022**

Let's get ready for #NSLW22! Created by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, National School Lunch Week (NSLW) was established to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. Celebrate with special menus, events, and activities, all with the goal of:

- Increasing student participation
- Spreading the message that you are serving healthy, delicious lunch at school
- Earning media coverage from local papers, TV stations and bloggers

Why not spread the word and promote the #NSLW22 party? SNA created downloadable social media graphics for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for this week-long event. Download the [Peace, Love & School Lunch #NSLW22](#) graphics and share the excitement with your community. Download the [#NSLW22-themed images and logos](#) to bring your #NSLW22 celebration to life. Start planning now!

### **Professional Development Opportunities**

Many opportunities for learning are available for School Nutrition Program Sponsors. Go to [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), CNW Calendar to access the class list with dates, times and ZOOM links. Training is also offered through the KSDE Training Portal 24/7. New to the portal: Monthly/Annual Financial Report Tutorial, Pre-Verification Worksheet Tutorial, Post-Verification Worksheet Tutorial, and Verification Training.

### **Culinary Quick Bites Featuring Local Foods**

Make sure to check out the KSDE YouTube Playlist for the most recent Culinary Quick Bites featuring blueberries, corn and tomatoes at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd\\_2hYclboc\\_QUbcjw6GfQP7i2Zv2MHM](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd_2hYclboc_QUbcjw6GfQP7i2Zv2MHM)

**KSDE Training Portal Tip:** Having trouble viewing trainings on the portal? For best results, the KSDE IT Team recommends using Edge or Firefox browsers.

### **October is Farm to School Month**

#### **Mountain Plains Crunch Off, October 2022 – Register now!**

- **What:** The Midwest states will be crunching into local food of choice during Farm to School month to see which state will get the most “crunches” and be crowned the Crunch Champion!
- **When:** Any date in October
- **How:** Begin getting your Crunch group together. Register at: [https://ksde.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d9VPRUhrVr5ppc](https://ksde.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d9VPRUhrVr5ppc)
- **Questions:** Contact Barb Depew, Farm to Plate Project Director at [bdepew@ksde.org](mailto:bdepew@ksde.org) or call 785-296-0062



### Sign Up to be a Team Nutrition School- Free Resources Available!

**Team Nutrition Schools** are part of an important network of over 52,000 schools committed to providing healthy school meals and nutrition environments for students. The Team Nutrition Network now shows the number of **Team Nutrition Schools** in each State, using a friendly interactive map. To view the map for Team Nutrition Schools, visit [fns.usda.gov/tn/schools/search/interactive](https://fns.usda.gov/tn/schools/search/interactive). Signing up to become a Team Nutrition School is free and easy, and any school participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to enroll.

During National School Lunch Week, the Team Nutrition School Network will highlight school lunch trays from 10 Team Nutrition Schools. These trays will be featured on the Network starting on October 11. In March 2023, Team Nutrition plans to highlight additional trays from Team Nutrition Schools. Team Nutrition Schools are encouraged to share their diverse and popular school meal menus and tray images with us by emailing [TeamNutrition@USDA.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@USDA.gov).

In addition, Team Nutrition will highlight Team Nutrition Schools and their taste-testing events during the Team Nutrition Meal Talk webinar on Wednesday, October 12 at 2 pm CST. Team Nutrition staff and guest speakers from the Pennridge School District in Pennsylvania and Kern County Superintendent of Schools in California will share tools, tips, strategies, success stories, and best practices related to hosting taste-test events with elementary and secondary school students. Attendees will hear about new ideas and tools for conducting taste-test events as well as strategies for incorporating taste-test results into menu planning. For more information and to register, visit [fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-talk-webinar-series](https://fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-talk-webinar-series).

Team Nutrition Schools have access to free exclusive printed materials. Team Nutrition Schools have received an e-mail with instructions for ordering select printed resources, while supplies last. These resources include:

- **Taste-Test Poster** (limit 1 pack of 2 posters per school);
- **Be a Food Critic! Poster** (limit 1 pack of 2 posters per school);
- **Stronger With School Meals Activity Booklet** (limit 6 packs of 50 booklets per school) and buttons (limit 20 packs of 2 buttons with different designs per school);
- **Discover New Foods Decals**, which include decals for Dairy, Fruits, Grains, Proteins, and Vegetables (limit 20 sets of 5 per school);
- **Fueling My Healthy Life Decals**, which includes decals for Active, Busy, Colorful, Creative, and Flavorful (limit 20 sets of 5 per school);
- **Make Today a Try-Day! Stickers** (limit 10 rolls of 100 stickers per school); and
- **Launch Your Day with Breakfast! Stickers** (limit 10 rolls of 200 stickers per school).
- **Local School Wellness Policy Refresh! Infographic** (English and in Spanish)

Note: New schools that join the Team Nutrition Network will receive the ordering instructions to request these free materials no later than one week after their enrollment has been approved.

### Virtual Body Venture

There is still an opportunity for students to experience the Virtual Body Venture Exhibit! For more information about the Virtual Body Venture contact Kelly Chanay at [kchanay@ksde.org](mailto:kchanay@ksde.org) to request virtual materials and a classroom kit.



### Coming October 3: How School Lunch Is Made and How You Can Help

Printed copies of “How School Lunch is Made and How You Can Help” will be available for program operators on October 3. Inspired by questions USDA receives from students about school lunch, this 12-page article provides information to students about what’s in a school meal, who decides what’s on the menu, and how students can influence what’s offered. For more details, visit [fns.usda.gov/tn/how-school-lunch-made-and-how-you-can-help](https://fns.usda.gov/tn/how-school-lunch-made-and-how-you-can-help).

### Staffing Update

Please join us in welcoming three new Child Nutrition & Wellness team members:

- Jessica Reece will begin work as a Child Nutrition Consultant on October 3. She is from Hays, Kansas and will be a field consultant. She has a bachelor’s degree in Dietetics from KSU and is a Registered Dietitian.
- Eryn Davis will begin work as a Dietitian Specialist on October 24. She lives in Topeka and will work in the Topeka office. Eryn has a bachelor’s degree in Dietetics from KSU and is a Registered Dietitian.
- Robert Dillman has accepted the Child Nutrition Consultant position for the KCK area as of October 3. He has a bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in Dietetics from Oklahoma State University and is a Registered Dietitian.
- We are also pleased to announce that Hilary Hanvey will assume the School Nutrition Programs’ Senior Consultant role, replacing Karen Campbell who is now serving as Assistant Director.
- We are also excited to announce that Holly Steinlage has accepted the role of Training Coordinator, replacing Kelly Chanay who is now serving as Assistant Director. Holly will also serve as the Food Safety Help Desk.

### White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

For the first time in over 50 years, the White House convened a conference to help elevate hunger as a national priority and spark major improvements and expansions to the federal nutrition programs, paving the way to significant reductions in food insecurity for millions of individuals and families.

To end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity to reduce diet-related diseases and disparities, the White House has specified areas of action in five pillars:

1. **Improve food access and affordability:** End hunger by making it easier for everyone — including urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities — to access and afford food. For example, expand eligibility for and increase participation in food assistance programs and improve transportation to places where food is available.
2. **Integrate nutrition and health:** Prioritize the role of nutrition and food security in overall health, including disease prevention and management, and ensure that our health care system addresses the nutrition needs of all people.
3. **Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices:** Foster environments that enable all people to easily make informed healthy choices, increase access to healthy food, encourage healthy workplace and school policies, and invest in public messaging and education campaigns that are culturally appropriate and resonate with specific communities.
4. **Support physical activity for all:** Make it easier for people to be more physically active (in part by ensuring that everyone has access to safe places to be active), increase awareness of the benefits of physical activity, and conduct research on and measure physical activity.
5. **Enhance nutrition and food security research:** Improve nutrition metrics, data collection, and research to inform nutrition and food security policy, particularly on issues of equity, access, and disparities.



### Autumn Thoughts

We encourage sharing of National School Lunch Week, Farm to School Month and “Crunch” activities and pictures at #FuelingKSKids. Are you feeling groovy about your plans to celebrate? These occasions are perfect to increase enthusiasm about school meals in your community. We realize challenges continue in this new school year but know you are all doing your best to fuel Kansas students for success. You may not have had a spare minute to think about October celebrations, but it’s not too late to take part. Contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or Barb Depew ([bdepew@ksde.org](mailto:bdepew@ksde.org)), Farm to Plate Project Director, for ideas.

If you are a new Authorized Representative or Food Service Director and feeling overwhelmed with day-to-day activities, let alone these celebrations, and would appreciate a technical assistance visit from the CNW team, please reach out to the Topeka office or your area consultant. We are here to assist you!

“Peace, Love and School Lunch!”

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

**Cheryl, Karen and Kelly**



For more information, contact:

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