

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

May 25, 2023

Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv, the Food Service Directors Listserv and the SFSP Listserv and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP Monthly Updates and SFSP Monthly Updates.

Claim Deadlines for State Fiscal Year End – Important

School Nutrition Programs (SNP)

April and May claims submitted and in approved status by end of the day on **June 9** will be paid and money deposited by June 15. If April or May claims are not submitted and in approved status by the end of the day on June 9, payment will not be made until July due to the state fiscal year end closeout and will not receive the State Match reimbursement. The State Match re-apportionment payment will be processed on Monday, June 12 with direct deposit on Friday, June 15.

SNP claims submitted after the June 9 deadline will still be paid (assuming the 60-day deadline is met), but they will not receive the State Match portion of the reimbursement, and they will not get processed until July 10 when the state accounting system opens back up with direct deposit on July 14.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claims will need to be submitted and approved in KN-CLAIM by the end of the day on Friday, **June 9**. Voucher will be processed on June 12 and direct deposit on June 15.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

May Claims in approved status by the end of the day on **June 12** will be processed on June 13. Direct deposit will be on June 16. June claims won't be paid until SMART re-opens July 10 with direct deposit on July 14.

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool and Guidance for SY 2023-24

The PLE tool is now integrated into KN-CLAIM with information pulling from prior years to assist completion of the tool. Complete the PLE information under the Applications Tab directly under the Sponsor Application. Once the Sponsor Application is saved the first time, a "+" will appear and you can click on that to complete the PLE information using the Sponsor Site Application Quick Reference as a guide. Note: All Kansas Sponsors are required to maintain a positive balance in the Food Service Fund, so there is an option to be exempt from the PLE requirements for SY2023-24 by selecting "Exemption Granted."

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) – Deadline to Apply is June 30

Sponsors or a school or group of schools within the sponsor electing the **Community Eligibility Provision** for SY 2023-24 must complete the Community Eligibility Provision Application in KN-CLAIM by **June 30, 2023**. For questions about CEP contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office.

Reimbursement Rates

You will be advised by email when reimbursement rates for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 are posted on our website. Rates are normally not available from USDA until mid-July.



NSLP Sodium Target 1A Transitional Standard Effective July 1, 2023

State agencies and school meal program operators are reminded that Sodium Target 1A, as promulgated by the *Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium - Final Rule*, goes into effect on **July 1, 2023**, in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) only. There will be no change to sodium limits for breakfasts served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Please refer to this chart for specific Sodium Target 1A limits by grade level.

National School Lunch Program Transitional Sodium Limits:

Age/Grade Group	Interim Target 1A: Effective July 1, 2023
Grades K-5	≤ 1,110 mg
Grades 6-8	≤ 1,225 mg
Grades 9-12	≤ 1,280 mg

As a reminder, Sodium Target 1A is included in the *Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Final Rule* published in February 2022. The 2022 transitional “bridge” rule provided schools with short-term standards as they moved beyond COVID nutrition standard waivers. The proposed rule - *Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* - published in February 2023 aims to provide schools with long-term, durable nutrition standards in line with the latest nutrition science. The Department plans to develop a final rule based on feedback gathered during the public comment period and publish that final rule in early 2024.

FNS is pleased to share several resources to aid school meal program operators in Sodium Target 1A implementation. Schools can access lower sodium standardized recipes that meet school meal pattern requirements through the Institute of Child Nutrition's [Child Nutrition Recipe Box](#) and Team Nutrition's [Recipes for Healthy Kids: Cookbook for Schools](#). The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) also offers sodium reduction resources and online courses through the ICN's [Shaking it Up initiative](#), which features strategies and best practices for reducing sodium in school menus.

Adult Meal Price

The price charged for adult meals must be sufficient to cover the overall cost of the meal, including the value of cash-in-lieu of commodities. If cost data is not available, the sponsor should set the adult meal charge at least equal to the highest paid student price plus paid reimbursement. In non-pricing programs (District-wide Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and RCCIs) the adult charge must be at least equal to the free reimbursement rate.

Sponsors Serving Summer Meals through Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in July and/or August

Sponsors that are serving summer meals through the Seamless Summer Option in July and/or August **must complete and be approved for SY 23-24 operations PRIOR to July 1**. While completing program renewal, Sponsors operating SSO in July and/or August must indicate “Seamless Summer Option Only” within the Summer Meals section of each site application that SSO summer meals will be served. Select and enter the Site Qualification information that reflects how the site qualifies to serve summer meals. Indicate the days in which meals will be served for July and/or August in the Operating Schedule table. Designate the days of operation and complete the meal service table specific for summer meal distribution. For rural sites, indicate if meals will be served non-congregate, congregate, or both.



Financial Management Reminders

- The April claim deadline is June 29.
- Make transfers to the Food Service Fund for free adult meals and indirect costs before the end of the state fiscal year, June 30.
- Attendance Factor for SY 2023-2024 is .92.
- Financial Management Reports have been updated and can be accessed in KN-CLAIM under Reports, Sponsor Accessible Financial Tools & Reports. Authorized Representatives and their Designated Users have access to these reports.

Excess Cash Balance – Food Service Fund

To maintain the nonprofit status of the Food Service Fund, the fund balance or net cash resources of the fund should not exceed three (3) months' average expenditures. If the balance exceeds this threshold, the sponsor must take steps to reduce the balance or have an acceptable plan for using surplus revenues. The plan must be reviewed and approved by KSDE. Only allowable expenses to the Food Service Fund are approvable. **Due to the uncertainty of costs and participation in school meal programs for SY 2023-24, Sponsors that have excess cash balances will be allowed to indicate that higher food and labor costs paired with lower reimbursement rates and uncertain participation may impact the food service fund and can be used as acceptable reasoning on a spend down plan.**

Professional Development Update

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 <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar. There is no preregistration for the live virtual classes through Zoom. Sponsors can also access online training through the KSDE Training Portal, <https://learning.ksde.org/>. New to the KSDE Online Training Portal: SFSP Meal Pattern Training and Building Partnerships.

Technical Assistance

KSDE will also be offering in-person Technical Assistance sessions throughout the state in July. Contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant for information.

Town Hall Tuesdays

There will not be regularly scheduled Town Hall meetings in June or July unless new guidance is received from USDA that would result in a need to convene! Town Hall meetings will resume in August.

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 6, 8:30 am-12:30 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/84927468947?pwd=WU9TTXRMTSt5OFd4Qi80NIhiNWJZQT09>
- SNP Administrative Update for RCCI's – June 8, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/86458134762?pwd=Ly9TOTd0K2kxa3VkQVNnZ3k4TW4rdz09>
- SNP Administrative Update/CACFP Administrative Workshop – July 6, 8:00 am-12:00 pm
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88237490614?pwd=Z1FOSmY3ODIsYVY5bE5EclJHVHhp4UT09>

Sponsors unable to attend a live virtual session will have the opportunity to take the training through the KSDE Learning Portal later.



Meal Pattern Training Opportunities

To assist program operators with implementing the transitional standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium final rule and to meet all meal pattern requirements, Sponsors are invited to participate in the following meal pattern training opportunities via live webinar. To access the times and webinar links, visit <https://cnw.ksde.org>, Training, CNW Calendar.

- Nutrition Standards for School Meals – June 20
- Calculating Components – June 22
- Is This Meal Reimbursable: Breakfast – August 2
- Is This Meal Reimbursable: Lunch – August 3

SY2023-24 Jump Start Your Success in School Nutrition Programs – July 17th

Make plans to join CNW for the SY2023-24 kick-off event on July 17th in Topeka at the Shawnee County Library from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Jump Start will offer a blend of in-person, live virtual, on demand and personalized training opportunities for new and aspiring school food service directors and managers. This training opportunity is for those with less than three years of experience. Those with three years of experience or more may participate as a mentor.

The SY2023-24 free, multi-week Jump Start program will offer real-time and immediately applicable training opportunities that are facilitated by CNW staff and mentors. Jump Start has been developed to incorporate personalized training and leadership development through mentoring opportunities and to encourage open-group discussion so participants can be actively involved in learning best practices from the field. Participants who complete the Jump Start program will develop the skills and knowledge needed for the successful operation of school nutrition programs. For more information about Jump Start as a participant or mentor, contact Kelly Chanay at kchanay@ksde.org. All participants must register at https://ksde.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_577eu6HSSn2VhRk

Professional Development Tracking in KN-CLAIM – New for SY2023-24

New for SY 2023-2024, professional development completed, including required Food Safety Training, can now be tracked in KN-CLAIM on the Training Tab. Tracking Food Safety Training on this new tool is required. Tracking other training taken to meet professional standards requirements is optional. The Training Quick Reference is available in KN-CLAIM to provide specific instructions on how to enter information and use this new tool!

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

The application to participate in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) for school year 2023-24 is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP 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 31, 2023. Schools selected to participate will be notified in July 2023. Participating schools will be reimbursed for their documented expenses monthly. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Seymour at 785-296-1473 or kseymour@ksde.org.



New Body Venture Exhibit – Apply now for SY2023-2024

Body Venture is KSDE's traveling health education exhibit for students in grades K-5. This exciting exhibit has been updated and can visit approximately 100 schools next school year. The Body Venture experience helps students learn why it is so important to "Eat Smart. Play Hard." Requests to schedule Body Venture for the 2023-2024 school year are now being accepted. The Request to Schedule form is available at <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, SNP What's New.

Turnip the Beet 2023 Nomination Packet

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is pleased to share the availability of the [Turnip the Beet 2023 Nomination Packet](#). 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. Please consider applying for a Turnip the Beet award. More information can be found on the [Turnip the Beet webpage](#) or by contacting Barb Depew at bdepew@ksde.org or Eryn Davis at edavis@ksde.org.

Child Nutrition & Wellness KANSANS CAN 2022-23 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 <https://cnw.ksde.org>, SNP, What's New. **Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30, 2023.** 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 2023 State Board of Education Meeting.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy summer and thankful for each of you and all you do for Kansas children! As always, contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office if we can assist in any way!

Cheryl, Karen, and Kelly



For more information, contact:

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