

# Monthly Update



## School Nutrition Programs

February 4, 2025

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

### Important Updates, Reminders, & Deadlines

#### **Town Hall Thursday at 2 – February 13 (NEW – held via Microsoft Teams)**

The February Town Hall will provide important reminders and updates, including a preview of the new dashboard feature in KN-CLAIM. Join the meeting on February 13 at 2 pm at this Microsoft Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 241 814 717 448 Passcode: hW7Wy3Ax).

Please note that Town Hall meetings will now be held on Microsoft Teams (not Zoom). The previous Zoom link will not work for Town Hall meetings moving forward. Instructions for joining a Microsoft Teams meeting are available at <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/join-a-teams-meeting-078e9868-f1aa-4414-8bb9-ee88e9236ee4>

#### **Equipment Purchase Request Form**

A new Equipment Purchase Request Form has been developed and should be used by sponsors when submitting a request for approval to purchase items not included on the KSDE Child Nutrition Programs Equipment List (located in SNP Food Service Facts Ch. 13). The new form is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, Food Service Facts, Chapter 13, Guidance and Resources.

#### **Ramadan Meal Service Waiver**

USDA has authorized KSDE to approve waiver requests to allow local Program operators to offer non-congregate meals to participants in attendance and fasting in observance of Ramadan. The waiver application is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, SNP What's New, Ramadan Meal Service Waiver Application.

#### **Reminder: Breakfast When School Starts Late**

Schools should offer breakfast on days with late buses or late starts when it will be two (2) hours or more from the time of the students' arrival until all students have been served lunch. Some students may have had longer bus rides and schedules that prevented them from having breakfast at home. Students should be informed about breakfast procedures on late-start days. The school breakfast menu must still meet program requirements. However, it may be simplified (i.e. a cereal/crackers, fruit, juice and milk) to facilitate quick, easy service.

#### **Congratulations to Farm to School Sub-Grantees!**

A total of \$123,842.66 in sub-grant funding will be provided to these sponsors for their projects to increase the use of local foods in Child Nutrition Programs: D0237 Smith Center (beef project), D0264 Clearwater (hydroponics), D0266 Maize (grow rings kit), D0269 Palco (gardening/chickens), D0340 Jefferson West (gardening), D0346 Jayhawk Schools (plant grow system), D0362 Prairie View (grow towers), D0373 Newton (gardening), D0445 Coffeyville (hydroponics/kitchen equipment), P0074 Child Care Links (bread maker kits/training), P0076 Martin Luther King Jr CACFP (blender/fruit & vegetable training), P0157 Norton Area Child Care Assn (freezer), P0164 JC Family Home Assn. (gardening),



P0167 The Opportunity Project Schools Inc. (planter), P0189 Quality Care Services, LLC (bread maker kits/training), P0243 First Christian Church Child Care Center (gardening), and P0757 Integrated Behavior Technologies (gardening).

## Professional Development & Training

### Training Opportunities

Many opportunities for learning are available to SNP sponsors. Go to <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, Training, CNW Calendar to access the schedule of live classes with dates, times, and Zoom links. Upcoming trainings include:

- **Wellness Wednesdays** each Wednesday in February from 9:30-10:30 am
- **Food Safety Basics** on February 19 from 2-5 pm
- **CACFP Child & Adult Meal Pattern** on February 27 from 1-3 pm

Training is offered 24/7 on the KSDE Training Portal. Create an account at <https://learning.ksde.org>. For detailed instructions on creating an account, go to <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, Training.

If you would like to schedule an in-service, culinary coach session, or have questions about professional development, contact Holly Steinlage at [Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov](mailto:Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov).

### Culinary Coaches – NEW Training Program!

KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness is excited to be launching a Culinary Coaches Program in SY 2025! This training opportunity allows sponsors to request in-person, hands-on culinary training conducted at their site. Sponsors can choose from four training topics: Critical Culinary Skills, Knife Basics, Cooking Basics, and Baking Basics. The sessions will be led by trained culinary coaches and will focus on developing culinary skills that will better enable child nutrition program sponsors to prepare scratch and speed scratch recipes. If interested in scheduling a culinary coach session, please contact Holly Steinlage at [Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov](mailto:Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov).

### Virtual Wellness Workshops in February

Join KSDE for the "Wellness Wednesdays" webinar series in February. A one-hour Zoom session will be offered each Wednesday morning in February with topics aimed at assisting Kansas school wellness committees in implementing wellness policies and creating healthier school environments. This year's theme is Heart Health. Sessions will be from 9:30 to 10:30 am at this link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/81507958865?pwd=bx7xCpCRuewqd6WAw1NMzbDA1o5Fie.1> Passcode: 512850

- **February 5, Improving & Maintaining Heart Health in Children: How We Can Have an Impact.** Join KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness in kicking off the Wellness Wednesdays series with an introduction to this year's theme, Heart Health. Learn about the American Heart Association's "Life's Essential 8 for Kids" - key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health. Hear best practices and new ideas for how to further support heart health and overall wellness by promoting healthy habits at an early age.
- **February 12, Tobacco Use: Why Prevention Efforts are Critical to Protecting Young Hearts.** The use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes can have lifelong harmful effects on the cardiovascular health of children and adolescents. Join Teresa Denk Smajda, Student Wellness Specialist at Shawnee Mission School District, to learn why tobacco prevention efforts at a young age are important and hear initiatives available to support schools.



- **February 19, Fueling Healthy Hearts: Nutrition & Cardiovascular Health in Children.**  
An overall healthy eating pattern has a significant role in cardiovascular health, especially if those healthy habits are started at an early age. Hear how child nutrition program sponsors and the meals they serve are key to establishing heart-healthy eating habits and lifelong cardiovascular health.
- **February 26, Promoting Heart Health Through Restorative Sleep.**  
Getting a good night's sleep not only helps children feel their best, but it is also associated with heart health. Too little sleep can lead to cardiovascular disease, higher blood pressure, and obesity. Learn about the science behind sleep and evidence-based interventions to promote healthy, restorative sleep in children.

### **Kansas Certificates in Child Nutrition Management Awarded**

The Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management is a program sponsored by Child Nutrition & Wellness and approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. To receive a Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management, 120 hours of KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness approved management classes must be completed. These Child Nutrition Professionals completed the requirements in 2024 and will be awarded the Certificate at the February 2025 State Board meeting: Lynn Fry of USD 320 Wamego, Kim Fitzgerald of USD 320 Wamego, Cayde Sterling of KVC Hospital, Inc., LaDonna Schutz of USD 340 Jefferson West, and Erin Taff of USD 430 South Brown County. The awardees are to be commended for their initiative to achieve the Certificate and prepare themselves to lead Child Nutrition Programs of excellence. Congratulations!

## **New Resources**

### **National School Breakfast Week: March 3-7**

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) takes place March 3-7, 2025! This year's theme, "Clue In to School Breakfast," brings the fun and excitement of mystery-solving into the cafeteria. Get ready to don your detective hats and start unraveling the mysteries of National School Breakfast Week with SNA resources available at <https://schoolnutrition.org/about-school-meals/national-school-breakfast-week/>.

### **Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association Market Directory**

The Kansas Specialty Crop Growers Association has launched a Market Directory that will allow Child Nutrition Program sponsors to search for produce by a county or crop. Access the website at [www.kscga.org](http://www.kscga.org), then click on Grower/Market Directory, Directory Info and Access. Scroll down and click the box titled "Enter-KSCGA Grower/Market Directory". Start finding local products and contact the producers for purchase options!

### **Earn a Free Culinary Kit for Your School Kitchen**

Participate in the Local Foods Culinary Training that is available on the KSDE Training Portal and earn a free culinary kit for your school kitchen! Each school kitchen with a staff member completing the training is eligible to receive a culinary toolkit consisting of a dough cutter, wire whisk, digital scale, and blender (1 kit per school kitchen), while supplies last. Instructions for completing the survey to receive the toolkit are posted at the end of the online training. This 2-hour training features Kansas products and producers, gives helpful information on how to implement Farm to Plate in Kansas Child Nutrition Programs, and provides recipes and culinary tips for incorporating the Kansas products featured in the training into local menus. Go to <https://learning.ksde.org>, K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: General Classes, Local Foods Culinary Training (2 Hours), to access this training.



## **Empowering Your 2025 SRTS Projects: Building Grant Writing Capacity & Preparing Successful Proposals**

Kansas Safe Routes to School is partnering with the [Kansas University - Center for Public Partnerships & Research](#), with support from the [Kansas Health Foundation](#), to offer a free grant writing webinar. This 1-hour Zoom webinar is for nonprofit organizations, state associations/coalitions, school districts, state agencies, and tribal councils/communities in Kansas looking to build grant-writing capacity and learn what it takes to prepare a successful proposal. The webinar will briefly review the [KDOT Seven Es](#) which summarize the key components of a comprehensive, integrated approach to successful and sustainable SRTS efforts. Join the webinar on **February 26th at 2pm** by registering here: [Empowering Your 2025 SRTS Projects: Building Grant Writing Capacity & Preparing Successful Proposals](#). Presenters will be Ann Katt, SRTS Coordinator, KDOT and Jenny Memmott, Senior Grants Monitor, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research.

**As always, if you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your Child Nutrition Consultant or the Topeka office.**

### *The CNW Team*



For more information, contact:

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