USDA Update 2023 Annual National Conference

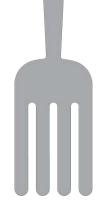
Child Nutrition Programs:

- Melissa Rothstein- Associate Administrator
- Julie Brewer Director, Community Food Systems Division
- Anne Fiala Lead, Summer EBT
- **Sheldon Gordon** Director, Nutrition, Ed, Training, & Technical Assistance
- Kevin Maskornick- Director, Community Meals Policy Division
- Tina Namian Director, School Meals Policy Division
- **Jess Saracino** Director, Program Monitoring and Operational Support
- Ed Harper-Director, Program Integrity and Innovation

Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs:

- Kathy Staley- Chief, Program Integrity and Monitoring Branch
- Katie O'Donnell- Nutritionist, Nutrition Services and Access Branch





USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Programs

USDA Foods

December 2023

Agenda

- Child Nutrition Updates
- USDA Foods in Schools Updates
- ICN Updates
- Q&A











Child Nutrition Updates



- ☐ Upcoming Priorities
- ☐Summer Meals Updates
- ☐ School Program Updates
- ☐ Child and Adult Care Food Program Updates

Child Nutrition Priorities for 2024

- Summer EBT Interim Final Rule Implementation
- Healthy Meals Incentive Initiative
- Implementation of the Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule
- Serious Deficiency Rule
- Revisions to Meal Patterns Dietary Guidelines for Americans Rule





Summer Meals Policy Updates



NEW SUMMER NUTRITION OPTIONS

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (P.L 117-328)

- Non-congregate SFSP meal service began in 2023
- Permanent Summer EBT beginning in 2024
- Interim final regulations to be issued by December 2023



Upcoming Webinars: Save the Date!

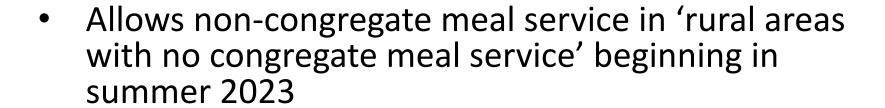
- Monday, January 8, 2 to 3 PM ET: Non-Congregate Summer Meal Service Implementation Webinar for State Agencies
- Wednesday, January 10, 2 to 4:30 PM ET: Summer EBT Implementation Webinar for State Agencies and ITOs
- Thursday, January 11, 2 to 3 PM ET: Non-Congregate Summer Meal Service Implementation Webinar for Sponsors and Sites



^{*}webinar dates are based upon late December 2023 publication date of the IFR



NON-CONGREGATE SUMMER MEAL SERVICE



- 2023 Guidance:
 - SFSP 01-2023, SP 05-2023: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas
 - SFSP 07-2023, SP 14-2023: Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas



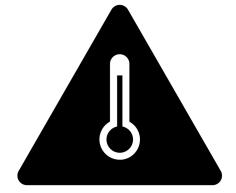
NON-CONGREGATE SUMMER MEAL SERVICE

- SFSP and SSO
- Service delivery models
 - Pick-up and delivery
- Multi-meal distribution
 - o Up to 10 meals
- Applications and area eligibility





SUMMER 2024 PROSPECTIVE WAIVERS

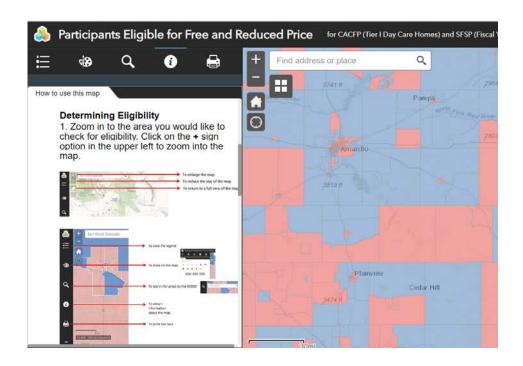


Prospective waiver process for commonly approved waivers

- Non-congregate feeding for sites experiencing:
 - Excessive heat
 - Poor air quality
- Offer versus serve



FY2024 CENSUS ELIGIBILITY DATA NOW AVAILABLE!



Effective as of October 1, 2023

Area Eligibility Mapper: https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility

SFSP03-2017 Area Eligibility memo: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/ab out-area-eligibility



TURNIP THE BEET 2023

 Voluntary award program for SFSP & SSO sponsors

 Recognition received for going above & beyond program requirements based on a point system

 https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-thebeet





SFSP STREAMLINING RULE GUIDANCE

WEBINARS

- Performance Standards, Budgets, and Management Plans in the Summer Food Service Program
- Evaluating and Approving SFSP Budgets



MEMOS

 Performance Standards, Budgets, and Management Plans

- Site Selection Criteria during Sponsor and Site Reviews
- Approved Levels of Meals for Vended Sites
- Initial Site Visits

Check out our breakout session at 9:15am on Wednesday!





UPDATED GUIDANCE

NEW MEMOS

- SFSP 13-2023 Unused Reimbursement in the Summer Food Service Program
- **SFSP 14-2023** Best Practices for Managing Unused Reimbursement in the Summer Food Service Program
- **SFSP 15-2023** Best Practices for Determining Proximity of Sites in the Summer Food Service Program

REVISED MEMOS

- SFSP 05-2017 Summer Food Service Program Questions and Answers Revised
- **SFSP 01-2008** Nationwide Expansion of Summer Food Service Program Simplified Cost Accounting Procedures



Summer studies happening now

- USDA Summer Food Service Program Improper Payment, Study
- Summer Non-Congregate Survey

For more information on:

- Published studies: Research & Analysis | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)
- Studies in progress: https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/current-data-collections





Summer EBT Updates



KEY DATES

• December 2023: USDA will issue Interim Final Regulations (IFR)

• December 2023 or as soon as practicable: iPOM due to RO

• January 1, 2024: Notice of intent to elect Summer EBT due to RO

• By February 15, 2024: Final POM due

• Summer 2024: States and ITOs may issue Summer EBT benefits



SUMMER EBT GUIDANCE

PUBLISHED MEMORANDA

SEBT 01-2023: Initial Guidance for State Implementation of Summer EBT in 2024

SEBT 02-2023: Initial Guidance for ITO Implementation of Summer EBT in 2024

SEBT 03-2023: Summer EBT Eligibility, Certification, and Verification

SEBT 01-2024, FM 01-2024: Summer EBT Administrative Funding Process for FY2024

SEBT 02-2024: Initial Guidance on Food Benefits for ITOs Administering Summer EBT







SUMMER EBT GUIDANCE

Summer EBT Implementation Toolkit

- Reporting Submission Requirements
- Notice of Intent
- Interim POM Template
- 5 Ways Governors can Support Summer EBT
- State-level estimates of eligible kids (SNAP/non-SNAP)
- 58 Q&As covering program administration, eligibility, and benefit issuance







Summer EBT SOON-TO-BE-RELEASED GUIDANCE

Implementation toolkit

- Eligibility flow and Program timeline graphics
- POM template
- Federal-State agreement
- Additional Q&As

Outreach toolkit

- Summer EBT one pagers and fliers
- Template letters and social media messages

External resources

- Code for America Implementation Checklist and Playbook

Training and Conferences

- Virtual training on IFR, SOS/APHSA Conference, SNA







School Program Updates

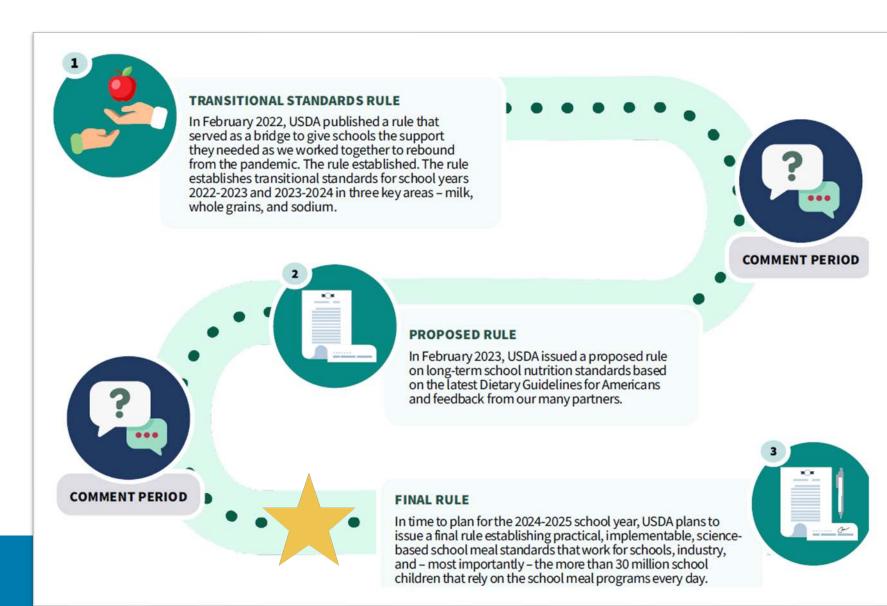


Final Rule-Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision-Increasing Options for Schools

Provision	Previous Minimum ISP	New Minimum ISP (Effective 10/26/2023)
Minimum ISP Threshold	40 percent or higher to elect CEP (ISP ≥40)	25 percent or higher to elect CEP (ISP ≥25)
Grace Year Eligibility	Less than 40 percent but equal to or greater than 30 percent (30 ≤ ISP < 40)	Less than 25 percent but equal to or greater than 15 percent (15 ≤ ISP < 25)
Eligible LEAs & Schools: Identification, Notification and Publishing Lists	40 percent or higher (ISP ≥40)	25 percent or higher (ISP ≥25)
Nearly Eligible LEAs & Schools: Identification, Notification and Publishing Lists	Less than 40 percent but equal to or greater than 30 percent (30 ≤ ISP < 40)	Less than 25 percent but equal to or greater than 15 percent (15 ≤ ISP < 25)

Next Steps for School Meal Patterns





Prospective Waivers

Provide States with the authority to allow non-congregate meal services for local Program operators that need to close schools due to unanticipated causes

NSLP/SBP (School buildings are closed with virtual learning)	SFSP/SSO (Schools are closed with no virtual learning)	At-Risk Afterschool Component of CACFP (unanticipated school closures)
Non-Congregate Meal Service	Non-Congregate Meal Service	Non-Congregate Meal Service
Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up	Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up	Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up
Meal Service Times	Meal Service Times	Meal Service Times
Offer Versus Serve	Service of Meals at School Sites	Enrichment Activity



Prototype Household Application for School Meals

- FNS released a new English & Spanish application prototype and accompanying instructions in May 2023
- They will be translated into 50 additional languages, with batches of translations released in 2024
- The goals of the update are to:
 - Improve end user experience by using plain language
 - Simplify the application prototype and instructions to improve user comprehension





School based studies happening now or soon...

- 2024-2025 National School Foods Study
- SFA Survey III on School Food Supply Chain Disruptions and Student Participation
- School Meal Operations Study Series
- Fourth Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study

For more information on:

- Published studies: Research & Analysis | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)
- Studies in progress: https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/current-data-collections



CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM INTEGRITY FINAL RULE



- Provides clarity and consistency by eliminating redundancy for Program Operators and State Agencies
- Focuses State agency resources on high-risk local operators
- Final rule provisions include changes to the AR cycle and meal pattern fiscal action

Check out our General Session tomorrow at 4:00!





Direct Certification with Medicaid Demonstration Project Opportunities

- New! Request for Application released on November 9, 2023
- January 16, 2024: Applications due for the SY 2024-2025 Demonstration Projects or early SY 2025-2026 Demonstration Projects
- **February 2024:** Notifications to State agencies of selection/non-selection and technical assistance will begin
- **New!** States may submit applications at any time for demonstration projects beginning in SY 2025-2026 and SY 2026-2027.

2024 Federal Audits

Current OIG and GAO Audits

Audits in Fieldwork Phase

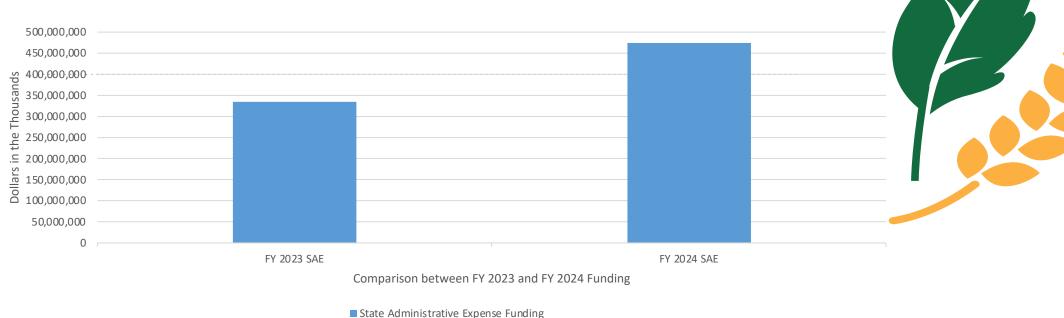
- Tribal Food Security GAO
- Food Insecurity and the Charitable Food Assistance Network GAO
- Federal Customer Experience and Service and Delivery GAO
- Charter School Participation in School Meal Programs GAO
- SAE Funds for Child Nutrition Programs GAO
- COVID 19- Pandemic EBT OIG

Audits in Planning Phase

CACFP Meal Reimbursement Claims Process for Child Care Centers – OIG



FY 2024 State Agency Funding





FNS released \$474.2 million dollars in State Administrative Expense (SAE) funds.



FNS made \$55.5 million dollars available in Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Audit Funds. States can request up to 2% of funds used by the State during the second preceding fiscal year.



FNS released \$25 million in non-competitive Technology Innovation Grant (nTIG) funds



USDA Cooperative Agreement With Urban School Food Alliance

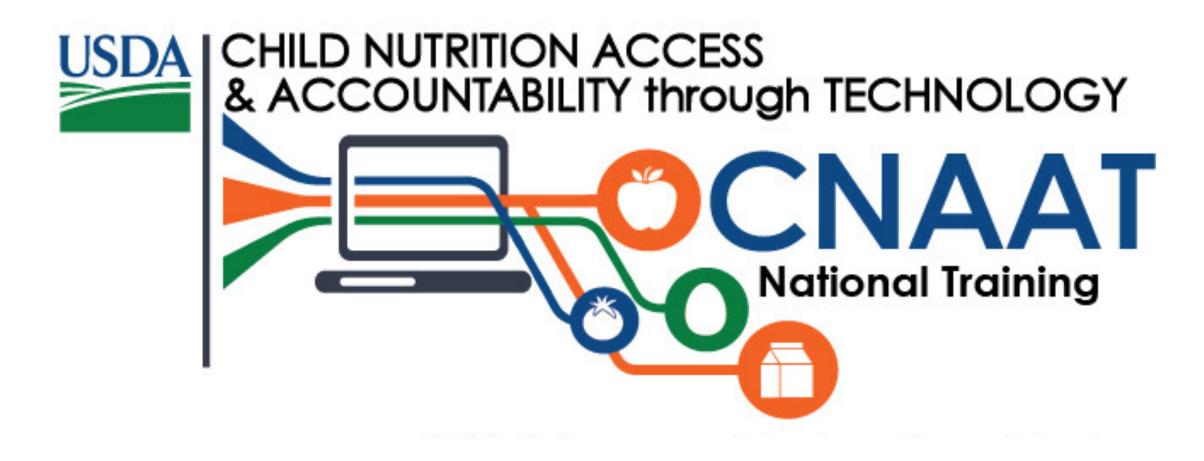
Through the new agreement with USDA Urban School Food Alliance will:

•Organize an advisory group of school nutrition stakeholders to create an action plan that will address challenges with school food procurement through the development of targeted trainings and resources.

•Develop new tools to educate school districts on best practices for purchasing school foods.

•Develop an interactive bid template that will help standardize procurement processes in school nutrition.





Coming to Chicago in August 2024!



Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative HMI



Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative (HMI)

Improving the nutritional quality of school meals with innovative ideas, best practices, training and food systems transformation.









Grants for Small/Rural School Food Authorities (SFA) Recognition Awards

School Food System
Transformation
Challenge Sub-Grants

Healthy Meals Summits

Join us at the Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative: Spread the News session on Tuesday at 2:45pm in the Regency Ballroom





HMI: Grants for Small/Rural SFAs and Recognition Awards

Support improvements in the nutritional quality of school meals through the generation and sharing of innovative ideas and tested practices

Small and Rural SFA Grants:

264 grants were awarded in August 2023

Recognition Awards:

Application Period Open Through June 30, 2025







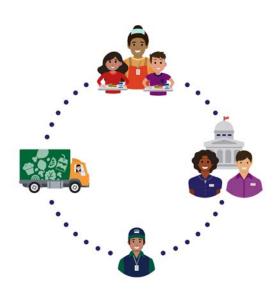
HMI: School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants Cooperative Agreements

Awardees:

- Center for School and Community Partnerships at Boise State
- Chef Ann Foundation
- Full Plates Full Potential
- Illinois Public Health Institute

❖ Goals:

- Support local and regional food systems
- Expand school food procurement pathways
- Engage supporting organizations
- Balance Regional and National focus







School Food System Transformation Challenge Sub-Grants

❖ 2 RFAs released in November 2023:

- Chef Ann Foundation Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS)
- Center for School and Community Partnerships at Boise State Supporting Community Agriculture & Local Education System (Project SCALES)

❖ 2 RFAs for release in January 2024:

- Full Plates Full Potential
- Illinois Public Health Institute





Healthy Meals Summits

- Summits will take place in St. Louis and Las Vegas:
 - April 9-10, 2024 in St. Louis
 - October 22–23, 2024 in Las Vegas
 - October 23-24, 2025 in Las Vegas
- Celebrate the accomplishments of recognized and awarded SFAs
- Share best practices and lead a national conversation about the critical importance of school meals
- Network with peers and school nutrition partners



Traditional Indigenous Foods

- Supporting the Use of Traditional Indigenous Foods in CNP Cooperative Agreement Request for Applications
- Serving Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs
- TA 01-2024 Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs
- Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs









Crediting Tip Sheets





English

Spanish





New and Updated School Resources

Menu Planner

Lunch e-Poster





State Developed Recipes

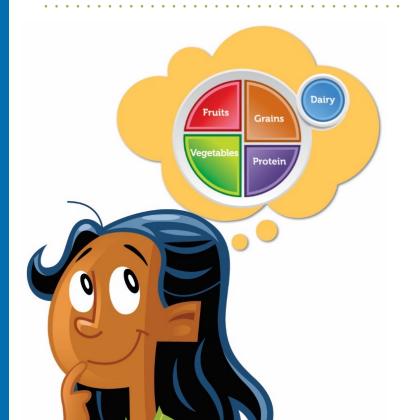






Find More Information Here







TeamNutrition@USDA.gov



@TeamNutrition



TeamNutrition.USDA.gov





Farm to School Census



https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov

- 2019 Census results show SFAs are interested in farm to school:
 - Nearly 2/3 of schools participate in farm to school activities
 - Nearly 3/4 of schools are using local foods in school lunches
- The **2023 Farm to School Census** is underway 18,000+ SFAs being surveyed
- SFAs are being asked about their farm to school activity in SY 2022-2023
- Resources for State Agencies:
 https://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/census-partner-resources

Farm to School Funding





- State Formula Grants are now entering year two of the period of performance.
- New FY 2024 Farm to School Technical
 Assistance Cooperative Agreements have been awarded!
- The FY 2024 Farm to School Grant
 Program Request for Applications is now available!
 - > State agencies are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000.
 - Apply online at Grants.gov:

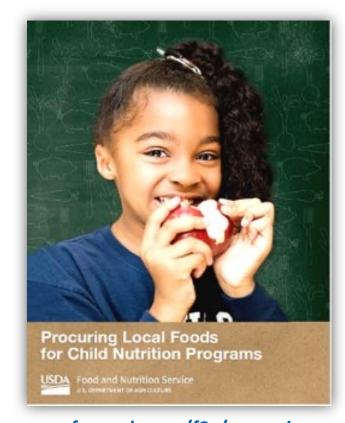
https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350548

Farm to CACFP Listening Sessions

- Our goal is to gather feedback on existing Farm to CACFP resources and learn what additional resources and training are needed.
- For State Agencies: December 13th at 2:30pm-4:00pm EST



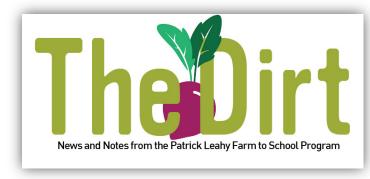
Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program Resources



www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/procuringlocal-foods



www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/fact-sheets#FoodSafety



Subscribe at:

www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/e-letter-archive









www.fns.usda.gov/resource/usdafarm-school-stickers







Child and Adult Care Food Program Updates



Policy Memo Update

- CACFP 08 -2023, SFSP 10-2023: Best Practices for Streamlining Applications for Year-Round Program Operations Published June 12, 2023
- CACFP 11-2023: Feeding Infants and Meal Pattern Requirements in the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Questions and Answers (Revised September 2023) Published September 20, 2023
- SP 02-2024, CACFP 02-2024, SFSP 02-2024: Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program Published November 29, 2023



Research Studies



In Progress

- Family Day Care Home (FDCH) Participation Study
- Emergency Shelters Characteristics Study
- Adult Day Care Study
- Study of Nutrition and Activity in Child Care Settings -II (SNACS – II)

For more information on:

- Published studies: https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis
- **Studies in progress:** https://www.fns.usda.gov/ops/current-data-collections

CACFP Resources



In Progress

- Meal Benefit Income Eligibility Form and Instructions
- Technical guides

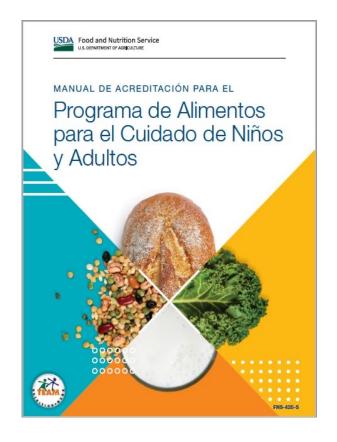
https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp





New for Child Care Organizations

in English and Spanish







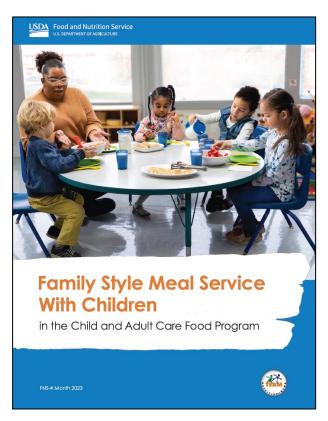






Family Style Meal Service With Children in the CACFP





Operator Booklet



Classroom Posters

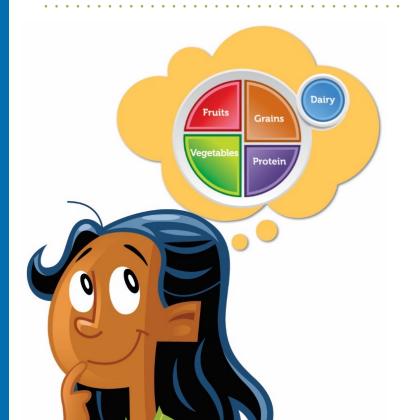


Training Slides



Find More Information Here







TeamNutrition@USDA.gov



@TeamNutrition



TeamNutrition.USDA.gov







Using USDA Foods to Support School Meals

Kathy Staley

Chief, Program Integrity and Monitoring Branch

Katie O'Donnell

Nutritionist, Nutrition Services and Access Branch







USDA Foods Entitlement



- •SY23-24 per meal effective rate is .3650 cents per meal
- •SY22-23 entitlement reconciliation with SY22-23 actual lunch count has been completed
- Important for States to monitor lunch counts throughout school year



USDA DoD Fresh



SY22-23

- \$582,755,413
- 368,062,951 pounds
- 19,054,283 cases





USDA Foods Processing



SY23-24

- 65 National **Processors**
- •48 USDA Foods diverted to processors

SY24-25

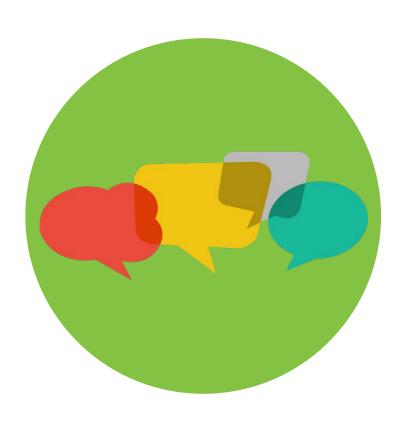
- Summary End **Product Data** Schedules (SEPDS)
- Material Price File
- Posted to **Processing** PartnerWeb page





WBSCM News and Updates





WBSCM User Feedback Sessions

- USDA hosts monthly WBSCM user feedback sessions for **State** and **local/recipient agency** users.
- These sessions are intended to identify challenges and opportunities for potential enhancements and future trainings.
- Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next scheduled Tuesday, December 12 at 3 PM ET.
- If you are interested in participating in future sessions, please contact Samantha Escamilla (samantha.escamilla@usda.gov).





WBSCM News and Updates

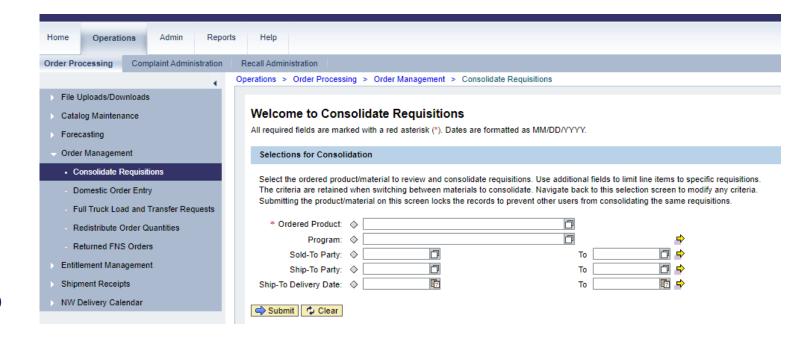


Coming Soon: Updates to the Consolidation Workbench

Consolidate Requisitions screen will have additional filters to limit the number of requisitions for a product/material pulled at one time.

Available filters: Program, Sold-To Party, Ship-To Party, and Delivery Date.

These updates are scheduled to go live in **Nov/Dec 2023**.

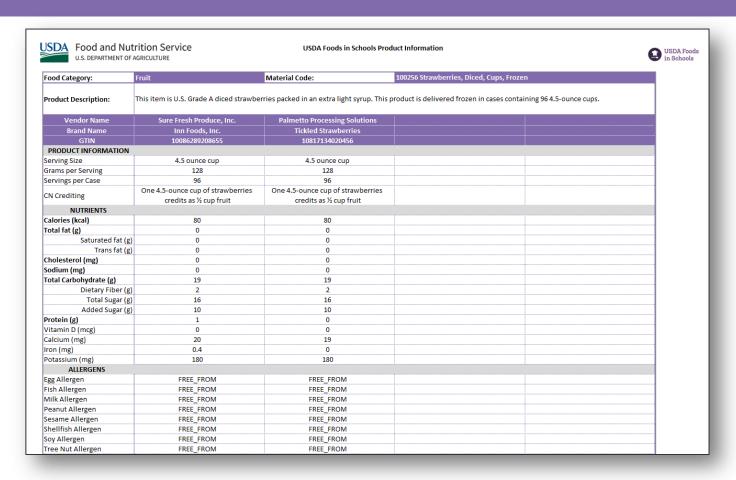






USDA Foods Database Update





https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foods-database





Product Information Sheet Update



United States Department of Agriculture



100256- Strawberries, Diced, Cups, Frozen Category: Fruit



Product Description

 This item is U.S. Grade A diced strawberries packed in an extra light syrup. This product is delivered frozen in cases containing 96 4.5-ounce cups.

Crediting/Yield

- One case of strawberry cups provides 96 ½-cup servings of fruit.
- CN Crediting: One 4.5-ounce cup of strawberries credits as ½ cup fruit.

Culinary Tips and Recipes

- Strawberry cups are individually portioned and are ready to thaw and serve for breakfast, lunch, or space.
- Individually portioned fruit cups are a convenient option for breakfast in the classroom, field trips, or grab-and-go lunches.
- To find culinary techniques and recipe ideas, visit the <u>Institute of Child Nutrition</u> or <u>USDA's Team</u> <u>Nutrition</u>.

Food Safety Information

 For more information on safe storage and cooking temperatures, and safe handling practices, please refer to: <u>Developing a School Food Safety Program</u> <u>Based on the Process Approach to HACCP</u> <u>Principles.</u>

Visit us at www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis

Nutrition Facts Serving size: 1/2 cup (128g) sliced strawberries Amount Per Serving Calories 80 Total Fat 0g Saturated Fat 0g Trans Fat 0g Cholesterol 0mg Sodium 1mg Total Carbohydrate 21g Dietary Fiber 2g Sugars 16g Protein 0g Source: USDA Foods Vendor Labels

Allergen Information: Please refer to allergen statement on the outside of the product package for vendor-specific information. For more information, contact the product manufacturer directly.

Nutrient values in this section are from the USDA Food Composition Database or are representative values from USDA Foods vendor labels. Please refer to the product's Nutrition Facts label or ingredient list for product-specific information.

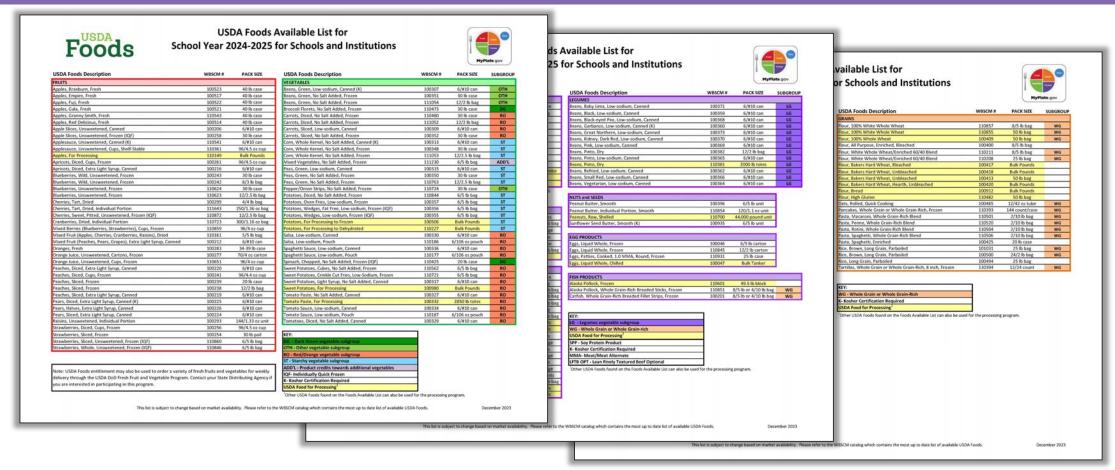


https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foodsproduct-information-sheets





USDA Foods Available List for SY24-25



https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/usda-foods-available







ICN Updates





Questions?

