



SCHOOL
NUTRITION TEAM

School Nutrition News

Fall 2022 Vol 15 Issue No 1

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Verification Updates

To maintain the integrity of the USDA child nutrition programs, each school food authority (SFA) must **annually** verify eligibility of children from a sample of household applications approved for free and reduced-price meal benefits for that school year. Verification uses a sample pool of all current, eligible, applications on file as of October 1. Use the Verification sample size letter to determine which sample size to use for Verification. The verification process must be completed by November 15.

Verification Collection Report (VCR)

Verification Collection Report must be completed by February 1. It is encouraged to print a hard copy and complete it with the required data before entering the information in the Online Services portal.

School Nutrition Superhero of the Month Nominations

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team is always looking for candidates to feature as the "School Nutrition Superhero" each month on the main DPI Facebook page. The goal is to recognize someone who is doing an excellent job in their role. If you know someone who would be an excellent School Nutrition Superhero of the Month, please send your nominations to DPIFNS@dpi.wi.gov.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 10-14,
2022

[National School Lunch Week](#)

OCTOBER 2022
[National Farm to School \(F2S\) Month](#)

October 14, 2022
[Great Lakes Apple Crunch](#)

USDA Guidance Memo Summaries

[SP 10-2022: Area Eligibility for Summer 2022 and SY 2022-23](#)

This memorandum provides guidance to State agencies as they transition from COVID-19 Nationwide waivers related to establishment of area eligibility in the Child Nutrition Programs for summer 2022 and SY 2022-2023. Additional flexibilities were offered including data from SY 2019-20 and applies to State agencies administering, and local organizations operating, the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option and afterschool snack program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program at-risk afterschool and family day care homes, and the Summer Food Service Program.

[SP 11-2022: Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement for the School Breakfast Program and the Two Cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in School Years 2022-23 and 2023-24](#)

As we return to normal operations, SFAs that used nationwide waivers to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during SY 2020-21 and/or SY 2021-22 may not have the data needed to determine eligibility for severe need reimbursement rates or the two cent differential reimbursement for NSLP lunches served in SYs 2022-23 and/or 2023-24. This memo provides the guidelines for SYs 2022-23 and 2023-24 that schools should use to determine eligibility for severe need and two cent differential reimbursement.

[COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #110: Waiver to Allow Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in School Year 2022-23 - EXTENSION](#)

This waives all States from certain requirements to take fiscal action for meal pattern violations related to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions during SY 2022-2023. This waiver is available to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). These flexibilities also apply to the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO).

USDA is granting a waiver, for all States, for the following regulations when there is a supply chain disruption with respect to foods served under the NSLP, SBP, or SSO and such disruption is due to COVID-19:

- The requirement to apply fiscal action for missing food components or missing production records as detailed in 7 CFR 210.18(l)(2)(i); and
- The requirement to apply fiscal action for repeated violations involving milk type and vegetable subgroups as detailed in 7 CFR 210.18(l)(2)(ii)

This waiver is available through June 30, 2023. SFAs do not need to apply for this waiver. This waiver is for State agencies only.

(Continued on page 9)



Important Reminder: Changes to Claiming for School-Run Childcare Centers in SY 2022-23

As announced in the [School Meals News Bulletin 2122-41](#), meals and snacks served to children enrolled in a childcare center, located in a school and administered by the school, may *not* be claimed under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) on days that school is not in session. This includes holidays, in-service days, winter and spring breaks, and summer break (if summer school is not in session).



Schools that serve meals to school-run childcare centers may consider joining the [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#). The CACFP allows children to receive up to two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal per day and is not limited to school days. Learn more about the differences in claiming meals under the NSLP/SBP/ Afterschool Snack Program and CACFP in the [Infant and Preschool Program Comparison Chart](#).

[Wisconsin Local Foods for Schools Program \(LFS\)](#)

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team (SNT) is pleased to announce that Wisconsin has received \$3,447,772 to purchase local unprocessed and minimally processed food. This funding is made available to help states deal with the challenges of supply chain disruptions. Wisconsin will issue non-competitive subawards to SFAs and Non-SFAs for food assistance purchases of domestic, local, unprocessed, or minimally processed foods for distribution to SFAs. The program will build a more resilient local food chain by expanding and strengthening local and regional markets. Purchases will target small businesses and/or socially disadvantaged farmers/producers. Applications are due October 18, 2022, though DPI reserves the right to accept applications beyond this date based on available funds.

This program will build a more resilient local food chain by expanding and strengthening local and regional markets.

The Lifecycle of Farm to School Workshop Series

Do you have an interest in expanding your school garden and/or your local food offerings? If so, the Lifecycle of Farm to School workshop series is for you! The project features eight workshops, highlighting stages of a school garden over a year. You can find resources and videos from five past workshops (Seed Starting, Building and Planting, Garden Maintenance, Harvesting, and Processing) on the [Lifecycle of Farm to School webpage](#). The remaining workshops include:

Date: October 6, 2022, Location: Nourish Farms (Sheboygan Falls), Topic: Menu Planning

Date: October 26, 2022, Location: CESA 10 (Chippewa Falls), Topic: Composting

Date: November 2022 (Date TBD), Location: School District of Holmen, Topic: Serving Local Foods

These workshops are **free** so please attend if you can!

Registration is available approximately one month prior to each workshop on the [Lifecycle of Farm to School webpage](#). Questions? Email F2Sgrant@dpi.wi.gov.



USDA Foods Training

This is a free training for schools and directors interested in learning more about how to run a successful direct diversion program for the next school year (SY 2023-24). Wisconsin USDA Foods Contract Specialists will hold the USDA Foods Direct Diversion Processing Program Training and Food Show on Tuesday, November 1. This training and food show is the first day of the Wisconsin School Nutrition Association (SNA) fall conference. The food show is a great companion to the training and is an opportunity to taste test USDA Foods products from processors and food brokers for SY 2023-24. The events will be held at the Three Bears Resort in Tomah, Wisconsin. Watch for event updates and registration on the SNA-WI Events webpage. (hyperlink to come)



New! Let's Cook! Online Culinary Training Course

Team Nutrition has developed a new [Quality Meal Improvement training](#) for school food service professionals. The *Let's Cook! Online Culinary Training Course* is designed to provide you with information and culinary techniques to prepare fresh and flavorful foods for your school meal program. Each of the eight lessons that make up the course are interactive, with step-by-step instructions, images, videos, and dedicated time for you to practice what you've learned in your own kitchen. The lessons include:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Mise en Place, Knife Cuts, and Kitchen Equipment](#)
- [Knife Cuts for Fruits and Vegetables](#)
- [Vegetable Preparation Techniques](#)
- [Herbs and Spices](#)
- [Stocks, Soups, and Sauces](#)
- [Grains](#)
- [Standardized Recipes](#)
- [Menu Planning](#)

The lessons range in length from 15 to 60 minutes and may be completed at your own pace. By completing all eight lessons, you can earn four hours of Culinary Skills training for your GOALS certificate. Let's Cook, Wisconsin!



Coming Soon! Special Dietary Needs Example Policy

The School Nutrition Team has created an example Special Dietary Needs policy that can be used at your school or district. The template is *almost* ready so keep your eye out for communication via the SNT bulletin or check back on the [Special Dietary Needs](#) webpage. On this page, you can also find access to the contact information of the SNT's special dietary needs specialists.



SNT Member Updates

Congratulations to...

Heidi Rolf and husband who welcomed a healthy baby boy on May 4th!

Farewell and Best Wishes to...

Hannah Snider, Public Health Nutritionist, who left our team in August for a new position with General Mills in Minneapolis!



Janelle Winter, Assistant Director of the School Nutrition Team, who left our team in September for a new position at the USDA Midwest Regional office in Chicago!



Welcome to...

Jeffery Laubert, Nutrition Program Consultant

Favorite School Meal: Walking Tacos

Hobbies & Interests: Spending time outdoors, reading, trying new restaurants

Favorite Part of your job with SNT: Helping school staff find answers to unique questions. No day is the same!

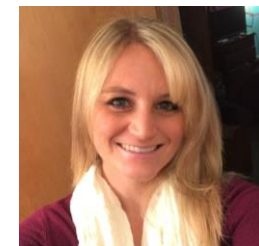


Jennifer Tweed, Nutrition Program Consultant

Favorite School Meal: Build your own burrito bowl

Hobbies & Interests: Music, playing my trombone, cooking and enjoying all things outdoors

Favorite Part of your job with SNT: Working with people from all over the state and this great team!



GOALS Recipients

Congratulations to the following people who have recently earned their GOALS Certificate:

- **Karri Wiegert**, Mishicot School District
- **Diane Wittman**, Appleton Area School District



Training Team Updates

Thank you to the hundreds of school nutrition professionals who attended our virtual live School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC) this August. Our team appreciated your participation and agreed with the feedback that continuing to provide virtual training opportunities is beneficial.



Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin Lessons

Wisconsin Team Nutrition has a new nutrition education resource! [*Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin*](#) is a series of lessons that use Wisconsin-produced foods to teach nutrition concepts to elementary students. The primary goal of the lessons is to broaden the food experiences of Wisconsin students and provide another aspect to learn about nutrition as part of the study of our great state. The lessons connect Wisconsin foods to the state's history, culture, and people.

A version of *Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin* was originally published in 2011. The lessons, which are intended for third through fifth grade students, have been extensively edited and updated to better meet the needs of today's educators and students. The revised lessons can be used as a series or as standalone lessons and funding is not required to complete the lessons. There are nine lessons, six of which cover local agricultural products: apples, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, squash, and milk. The other three lessons discuss MyPlate, the parts of a plant, and foods from around the world. Each lesson has an optional taste test activity to provide students an opportunity to further explore and enjoy Wisconsin-produced foods.

Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin can be coordinated with other Harvest of the Month activities, such as featuring Wisconsin-produced foods on the school menu or displaying promotional materials in the cafeteria. Wisconsin school districts are encouraged to use the *Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin* lessons and other toolkit [Resources](#) in their elementary classrooms, school cafeterias, and in the community.



Nutritious • Delicious • Wisconsin

2022-23 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

This school year, elementary students in 235 Wisconsin schools will enjoy fresh fruit and vegetable snacks at least two days per week! FFVP funding provides schools the opportunity to offer students unique produce that they may not have been able to try elsewhere. Last school year, Wisconsin students snacked on papayas, watermelon turnips, and Wisconsin apples, among other local fruits and vegetables. One school said that during lunch times, students paid closer attention to the types of fruits and vegetables being served and compared them to the tastes of those they tried from the FFVP. Another student said, "it was fun to hear students talk about which fruits and veggies they were going to ask their parents to get at the grocery store." Schools that operate the FFVP consistently demonstrate the program's positive effects on nutrition and wellness throughout the school.



The Wisconsin [FFVP webpage](#) includes information about the program, eligibility, requirements, and helpful resources for schools participating in the program.

Grant funds from USDA make the FFVP possible nationwide. We are happy to announce that all qualifying Wisconsin schools that applied for the FFVP were awarded funding for the 2022-23 school year. If your school did not apply, please consider applying next school year. FFVP grant application information for the 2023-24 school year will be available in early 2023.

SNACS Update

Is your SFA scheduled for an Administrative Review (AR) this year? You will need access to our School Nutrition Accountability Software (SNACS)! After your AR has been scheduled, visit the [SNACS Webpage](#) for instructions on requesting access to SNACS. On the webpage, you will also find a variety of SNACS How-to Guides under the SNACS for Administrative Review heading. If you have questions, please contact DPISNACSSupport@dpi.wi.gov.



New "On the Menu" Webinar Series

The Training Team will host quarterly webinars this school year on the second Tuesday of the month from 2 - 2:30 pm. The premiere of the new "On the Menu" webinar series is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11 and will provide a demonstration of the Interactive Menu Planning Production Records! This tool helps ensure daily minimums for the meal patterns are met for the week and then pre-populates your menu into a production record. We hope to see you there!

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[SP 12-2022: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Allocation of Funds for Fiscal Year 2023](#)

This memorandum provides the funding allocation amounts for all State agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2023; provides information on funding requirements and deadlines; and serves as a reminder of important program requirements. Wisconsin was awarded **\$4,429,413** in FFVP funding for FY 2023. This is up from the \$4,341,008 awarded last year.

[SP 14-2022: Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants for School Food Authorities](#)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, (Public Law 117-103) authorizes the distribution of \$30 million for state agencies to competitively award Equipment Assistance Grants to eligible school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program. Wisconsin was allocated \$407,465 in funding, which is up from the previous year.

[SP 14-2022: Notice of Additional Funding for Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2022 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Subgrants for School Food Authorities](#)

An additional \$50 million in FY 2022 Equipment Assistance Grant funding above the \$30 million announced in SP 14-2022 was announced in September 2022. Wisconsin was allocated \$695,633 which brings Wisconsin's total to \$1,103,098. Additional information will be released in the School Meals News bulletin.

[SP 15-2022: Second Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance \(SCA\) Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs and Third Allocation of SCA Funds](#)

USDA Food and Nutrition Service is providing an additional \$943 million for the second round and \$471.5 million in the third round of supply chain assistance (SCA) funds under the previous authority because of the underlying conditions fueling supply chain disruptions and other economic uncertainty remains significant in many parts of the country. These funds are part of USDA's efforts to provide consistent and nutritious school meals to children.

The state agency will distribute the second and third rounds of SCA funding to eligible SFAs via the same formula used to distribute the first round of funds. Additionally, the funds remain limited to the purchase of unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products. SFAs that have already signed an attestation are not required to sign another statement but will need to complete a short interest survey later this fall.

Wisconsin is allocated \$16,369,076 for the second round and \$9,174,275 for the third.

About Us

School Nutrition News is published three times per year by the Department of Public Instruction.



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October 2022 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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- 1. mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax:**
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

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