



SCHOOL
NUTRITION TEAM

School Nutrition News

Spring/Summer 2022 Vol 14 Issue 3

Summer 2022 Operation

All schools or districts that will serve and claim meals under the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in summer 2022 must complete the Summer 2022 SSO Application. The area eligibility waiver for the SSO is valid through the last day of the academic school year, not June 30, 2022. Any school food authorities (SFAs) that wish to provide meals after the last day of the regular school year under the SSO must qualify using school or census data. For more information on qualifying for the SSO or options for serving if your SFA does not qualify, reference [School Meals News Bulletin 2122-37](#).

All new information regarding the SSO will be released via the School Meals News Bulletin, so please continue to read it. Please email sso@dpi.wi.gov with questions about summer 2022 SSO operations.

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.

FEATURED STORIES

[Seamless Summer Option](#)

[Guidance for School-Run Childcare Centers](#)

[Lifecycle of Farm to School Workshops](#)

[Virtual SNSDC](#)

[Wisconsin Known Vendor List](#)

[Serving American Indian Traditional Foods](#)

[Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 19-22, 2022
[School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin Annual Conference](#)
Green Bay, WI

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

USDA Guidance Memo Summaries



[SP 03-2022: Allocation of Supply Chain Assistance \(SCA\) Funds to Alleviate Supply Chain Disruptions in the School Meal Programs and Q&A Guidance.](#)

This memorandum provides guidance on the distribution of up to \$1 billion in relief funding made available through the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, provided to assist school food authorities (SFAs) with addressing supply chain disruptions. Wisconsin received \$17,238,862, which was distributed to SFAs that elected to receive the funds in March.

[SP 04-2022: Question and Answer Guidance on the Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022.](#)

These Q&As address the following key provisions of the final rule:

Flavored Milk: The rule allows schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) to offer flavored, low-fat (one-percent) milk at lunch and breakfast and as a beverage for sale a la carte, and requires that unflavored milk (fat-free or low-fat) be available at each school meal service. For consistency across Programs, the rule extends the transitional milk requirements to the Special Milk Program for Children and to the Child and Adult Care Food Program for children ages six and older and adult participants. This rule also clarifies that lactose-free and reduced-lactose fluid milk meet the Special Milk Program for Children and the Child and Adult Care Food Program requirements for fluid milk to provide consistency across all Child Nutrition Programs.

Whole Grains: The rule requires that at least 80 percent of the weekly grains in the NSLP and SBP be whole grain-rich; the remaining weekly grains offered must be enriched.

Sodium: The final rule retains Sodium Target 1 for NSLP and SBP through SY 2022-23, retains Sodium Target 1 for SBP in SY 2023-24, and institutes a Sodium Interim Target 1A for NSLP for SY 2023-24.

Claiming Updates For School-Run Childcare Centers

Per USDA guidance, the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) can only operate until the last day of the academic school year under the current waivers. Schools that operate year-round childcare centers may no longer provide free meals under the SSO past the last day of the regular school year, unless the school qualifies for the SSO under normal eligibility requirements.

New this year, meals can only be claimed on days when school is in session at a childcare center under the NSLP/SBP. If the childcare center is operating on any holiday breaks, teacher in-service days and/or summer months when school is not in session, meals cannot be claimed on these days under the NSLP/SBP. Meals served to children enrolled in the childcare program can continue to be claimed when summer school is in session.

Schools have the following options for serving a school-operated childcare center:

1. Not claim meals on non-school days served to children enrolled in childcare, including all summer.
2. Start a contract for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This program can be used year-round to claim meals served to children enrolled in the childcare center. This program requires a separate contract, Administrative Review, and training process. To learn more, visit the [Join the CACFP](#) webpage.
3. Operate the SSO in the summer (if the school qualifies under normal eligibility requirements). This would only allow meals to be claimed during the summer. Meals cannot be claimed during any breaks that are less than 10 days long under the SSO.



GOALS Recipients

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

- Alyssa Flores, DPI
- Cassandra Goldamer, Berlin Area School District



Lifecycle of Farm to School Workshop Series

Interested in starting or expanding a school garden? Looking to increase local food offerings in your school meals program? Hoping to increase the number of meals served in the new school year? If you said “yes” to any of these questions, the Lifecycle of Farm to School Workshop series is for you! Learn about the stages of a school garden within a year timeframe and how to harness support to create a sustainable garden that can fuel and promote your school meals!

To learn more about upcoming workshops, visit the [Lifecycle of Farm to School](#) webpage and look for our Lifecycle of Farm to School booth at the SNA Industry Show in June!



Commodity Allocation and Receipt Summary (CARS)

The CARS report for your SFA is now available in the online [Wisconsin USDA Foods Ordering System](#). The summary covers the monthly USDA Foods distributions your SFA received during SY 2021-22. This summary shows the USDA Foods received by your SFA, the value of the items, and the percentage of your entitlement received.

At the bottom of the report, the amount next to the line, “Total Value Received: Entitlement, Bonus, DoD, UNPFV, and Raw Product” is the total value of USDA Foods your SFA has received for SY 2021-22. SFAs use this amount for end of year reporting.

Detailed instructions for accessing the CARS report in the Wisconsin USDA Foods Ordering System can be found on page 33 of the [Online Instructions for SY 2021-22](#)



School Breakfast Expansion Grant

In September 2021 USDA awarded DPI \$1,997,999 in a [School Breakfast Expansion \(SBE\)](#) grant. DPI is awarding sub-grants to qualifying schools to start a new breakfast program (up to \$10,000) or to expand and maintain their existing breakfast programs (up to \$4000).

There were 1,677 Wisconsin schools that met eligibility requirements set by USDA were invited to apply for the grant. Out of these schools, WI DPI received applications from 399. All schools that completed the application are being awarded the funds!

The sub-grants are being distributed in two allocations – one for SY 2021-22 and one for SY 2022-23. Schools opted to use these funds for grab and go carts, labor hours, milk coolers, breakfast promotion, purchasing local foods, meats for breakfast meals, staff training and more.



SNACS Updates

Did you know that SNT's School Nutrition Accountability Software (SNACS) can be used for much more than Administrative Review (AR)? It is the perfect solution for smaller schools and districts that currently manage their participation in school nutrition programs through manual processes. SNACS is free to use, and users have access to the SNACS online free and reduced meal application. SNACS also helps with application approval and Direct Certification processes, offers step-by-step guidance through the annual verification process, contains a student information system and much more.

To learn more about using SNACS and the many features SNACS offers, visit the [SNACS Webpage](#) and use the "Schedule a Demo" button to request a live demo of the software with a member of the SNACS Support Team. If you think you might be interested in using SNACS for the 2022-23 School Year, please schedule a demo before the end of May.

If you are interested in more information about using SNACS as part of the AR, we are planning to host a live virtual demo of the SNACS AR module this fall. Keep an eye out for more information closer to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

Please reach out to the SNACS Team at DPISNACSSupport@dpi.wi.gov with any questions.



School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC) 2022

Due to uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and DPI travel restrictions in place during the planning process, [SNSDC 2022](#) will be held virtually this summer. We will miss connecting face to face this August but look forward to opportunities for in-person training and networking soon.

SNSDC is scheduled for the weeks of August 8 and August 22, 2022. The same courses will be taught each week; you may register for the individual classes that work best for your schedule. New this year is a live kick-off event at the beginning of each of the training weeks. SNT Management Team will address the upcoming school year, new regulations, and take time to reflect on the past two years. These opening remarks will last 30 minutes. We will also offer two new courses this year, Planning to Return to Competitive Procurement and School Breakfast Financial Models and Service Models.

Registration is open and will remain available until one week prior to the beginning of classes each week. We hope to see you there!



SNT Member Updates

Congratulations to...

Claire Koenig, previously a Public Health Nutritionist, who has stepped into the role of Nutrition Education Consultant with Team Nutrition!



American Indian Traditional Foods in USDA School Meals Programs

The [American Indian Traditional Foods Toolkit](#) on our webpage is updated with new information! The toolkit highlights the traditional foods of Wisconsin tribes. USDA encourages the service of traditional foods in the school meals programs and recognizes the importance and cultural relevance of these foods in native communities. This resource provides guidance to SFAs to bring traditional foods to the cafeteria, classroom, and school garden through farm to school programming.



American Indian Traditional Foods
in USDA School Meals Programs
A WISCONSIN FARM TO SCHOOL TOOLKIT



For more information on indigenous and traditional foods in Wisconsin, visit our [Traditional Foods](#) webpage!

Wisconsin Known Vendor Lists

When soliciting for bids or proposals, SFAs are encouraged to use “Wisconsin Known Vendor Lists”, where available. There are lists for Vended Meals and Food Service Management Company (FSMC) providers, Bread, and Prime/Commercial Distributors. These lists can be found on the [Procurement Template](#) webpage under Meal Service Agreements and Procurement Templates. SFAs should contact the vendor to obtain information about their services and a client list. Consider interviewing the contact(s) on the client list to find out about territory, service, price, etc.

These lists are a service for SFAs and no endorsement is made or implied by the DPI. These lists do not imply certification or approval to do business under the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. If a vendor does not appear on these lists and would like to be added or is currently on the list and needs to make changes, email Jessica Oele jessica.oele@dpi.wi.gov and Lera Karns lera.karns@dpi.wi.gov. Please include contact name, phone, email, and company mailing address.



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

Even with another challenging school year, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is serving 85,527 elementary students in 239 Wisconsin schools during the 2021-22 school year – the largest participation since the program launched in the state in the 2008-09 school year.

When collecting feedback on the program after last school year (2020-21), almost all schools reported that children showed an increased interest in fresh fruits and vegetables outside of the FFVP. Some of the more nontraditional fruits and vegetables served included mango, gooseberries, sugar snap peas, and rutabaga sticks.

We asked schools to tell us about their successes. Here are some of the responses:

- Children are encouraged to try fruits and vegetables that they don't like because "their taste buds grow up." If they won't take a bite, we encourage them to lick or sniff them.
- We have heard from some parents that their children are asking them to go to the farmer's market to see what fruits and vegetables are there!
- Over the course of the school year, there was a noticeable decrease in the number of leftovers, and students became more and more excited about trying a new fresh fruit or vegetable.

The FFVP grant application period for SY 2022-23 has closed; schools receiving grant awards will be notified this summer. Interested in learning more about the FFVP? Visit the [FFVP Webpage](#) for program information, guidance, nutrition education materials, and more!



FY 2021 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

We received 160 applications for 259 pieces of equipment. Applicants were notified in early March if they were selected or not to move forward with Part 2 of the application process. Eligible applicants went out for bid in mid March. We awarded 17 SFAs with 23 pieces of equipment and we anticipate reallocating the remaining funds over the summer. Thank you to everyone who applied.



USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[SP 05-2022: Meal Requirements Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators Updated to Support the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022](#)

This Q&A addresses meal requirements for the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP) and have been updated to reflect the transitional standards for milk, whole grains and sodium which are intended to be transitional requirements in effect for school years (SY) 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. This memorandum rescinds and replaces SP 38-2019, *Meal Requirements under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators*

[SP 07-2022: Promoting Access to Voting through the Child Nutrition Programs](#)

On March 7, 2021, President Biden passed Executive Order (EO) 14019 directing Federal agencies to consider ways to expand citizens' opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process. Through the Child Nutrition Programs, operators have the ability to reach Americans to provide them with information about voting.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) encourages all State agencies administering the Child Nutrition Programs to provide local program operators with promotional materials, including voter registration and non-partisan, non-campaign election information, to disseminate among voting-age program participants and their families. Ideas include, but are not limited to, encouraging:

- School food authorities administering the NSLP in high schools, and adult day care centers and emergency shelters participating in Community Adult and Child Feeding Program (CACFP) to promote voter registration and election information among voting-age participants and use congregate feeding areas, such as cafeterias, or food distribution sites, as sites for the dissemination of information;
- Schools to provide parents and guardians with voter registration and election information when distributing NSLP free and reduced price meal applications and/or other communications to households;
- Operators of the CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program to post flyers with voter registration and election information to reach parents and/or guardians of young participants; and
- All program operators to post information on their website and social media channels, and link to relevant resources, including [Vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov).

A sample flyer is available at the [Quick Guide to Voting](#) website which provides an example of information that may be used by program operators. The Child Nutrition Programs play an essential role in the health and development of our nation's children and can also play a role in enabling all Americans to participate in our democracy.



USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[SP 08-2022: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs \(enacted March 15, 2022\)](#)

This memorandum provides clarification on how the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, P.L. 117-103, impacts the Child Nutrition Programs.

In Section 740, Division A of the Appropriations Act, Congress provides that school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the SBP may credit any vegetable offered, including potatoes and other starchy vegetables, in place of fruit without including vegetables from other subgroups in the weekly menus. This flexibility is effective for school year (SY) 2021-22 and 2022-23, and provides additional flexibility in planning breakfast menus, but does not require SFAs to make any menu changes.

In Section 751, division A of the Appropriations Act, it states that Program funds may not be used to procure raw or processed poultry products from the People's Republic of China. This extends the existing prohibition through September 30, 2022.

Under Section 752, division A of the Appropriations Act, only an SFA that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2021, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches, using the Paid Lunch Equity Tool, for meals served through the NSLP.

Absent from this Appropriations Act is a provision stating that none of the funds made available by the Appropriations Act or any other act may be used to restrict the offering of low-fat (one-percent fat) flavored milk in the NSLP and SBP, as was included in Section 789, division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act and extended several times during SY 2021-2022. However, low-fat flavored milk may continue to be served as outlined in the [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022](#). Beginning July 1, 2022, the transitional meal pattern standards go into effect, allowing low-fat flavored milk to be offered in both the NSLP and SBP, as well as in the CACFP and the Special Milk Program for children six and older. For more information about the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium, please visit [Nutrition Standards for School Meals](#).



About Us



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

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May 2022 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
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1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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