



SCHOOL
NUTRITION TEAM

School Nutrition News

Spring/Summer 2023 Vol 15 Issue 3

Summer 2023 Operation

Schools and districts that wish to serve meals utilizing the [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) in summer 2023 must qualify via the usual [Eligibility Requirements](#). If it is determined that the site(s) meets the eligibility requirements, the school or district must apply to operate the SSO. **SSO Applications close May 24, 2023, and must be approved prior to the start of summer operation.** There will be no retroactive approvals this summer. To request an application and confirm eligibility, please email SSO@dpi.wi.gov.

Sites that qualify should consider using the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in lieu of the SSO. The eligibility requirements for the SSO and SFSP are the same; however, the reimbursement rate for the SFSP is higher. For a detailed comparison of both programs, please review the [Summer Meal Programs Comparison Chart](#).

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

[Serving Summer Meals in School Based Childcare Centers](#)

[School Nutrition Summer Training](#)

[Reflections of an AmeriCorps Farm to School Member](#)

[Farm to School Workshop](#)

[Wisconsin School Breakfast Challenge](#)

[USDA Updates](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 18-21, 2023
[School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin Annual Conference](#)
Appleton, WI

OCTOBER 2023
[National Farm to School \(F2S\) Month](#)

USDA Guidance Memo Summaries

[USDA Policy Memorandum SP 06-2023: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs](#)

This memorandum clarifies how the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, impacts the Child Nutrition Programs.

Crediting of Starchy Vegetables: SFAs participating in the School Breakfast Program (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 legislative flexibility is effective for school years (SYs) 2022-23 and 2023-24, providing additional flexibility for SFAs in planning breakfast menus. SFAs are not required to make any menu changes.



Prohibition on the Use of Chicken from China: Raw or processed poultry products imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China cannot be used for any USDA Child Nutrition Program.

Compliance with Paid Lunch Equity Requirements: For SY 2023-24, only SFAs that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2022, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Any SFA with a positive or zero balance in its nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2022, is exempt from paid lunch equity pricing requirements found at 7 CFR 210.14(e) for SY 2023-24.

Renaming of the Farm to School Program: Under Section 777, of Division A of the Appropriations Act, Congress changes the name of the USDA Farm to School Program, authorized in Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 USC 1769(g), to the "Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program". This change is effective immediately and requires no action by CNP operators.

Establishment of a Noncongregate Meal Service Option in the SFSP: A noncongregate meal service option is established in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for rural areas. This option will be available beginning in summer 2023.

Establishment of a Permanent Summer EBT Program: A permanent Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children Program (Summer EBT) is established beginning in summer 2024. Summer EBT will provide EBT benefits on an ongoing basis to low-income children during the summer months to ensure continued access to meals and snacks when school is not in session.

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Serving Summer Meals in School Based Childcare Centers

As a reminder for schools that operate year-round childcare centers, 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 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 or SFSP in the summer, if the school qualifies under program eligibility requirements. This would only allow meals to be claimed during the summer. Meals cannot be claimed during any breaks fewer than 10 days under the SSO or SFSP.



FY 2022 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

Applications were received from 259 school food authorities (SFAs), requesting a total of 422 pieces of equipment. Applicants were notified in April whether or not they were selected to move forward with Part 2 of the application process. 33 SFAs went out for bids in April for 42 pieces of equipment. We hope to issue Round 1 awards in early summer and then will proceed with reallocating any remaining funds. Thank you to everyone who applied.



School Nutrition Summer Training (SNST) 2023

The School Nutrition Team is pleased to announce annual summer training dates and locations for the summer of 2023. This year's School Nutrition Summer Training (SNST), formerly SNSDC, will have both in-person and virtual options.

The first session is July 17-20, 2023, at the Northcentral Technical College in Wausau. The second session is August 8-10, 2023, at the Waukesha County Technical College. The virtual option will be offered August 14-17, 2023, with NEW advanced and beginner options.

Registration is now open for all three sessions. When registering for the in-person trainings at Wausau or Waukesha there is a non-refundable, one-time, fee of \$10 per registrant. Due to space limitations, a maximum of three staff per SFA may register for any given class. Waitlists will start if a class reaches capacity. The virtual option will be free of charge with no class capacity limitations.

We are also offering the ServSafe course and exam at each in-person location with a separate registration and fee. New courses this year will be Farm to School workshops, RCCI Basics training, a hot topics networking session, and Great Beginnings for newly hired directors and managers. For a full list of courses and descriptions, and to register, visit the [School Nutrition Summer Training](#) webpage.



SNT Member Updates

Welcome back to...

Rebekkah Plano, Assistant Director

Favorite School Meal: French toast sticks

Hobbies and Interests: Lifelong Green Bay Packers fan, avid reader, novice sewer, earnest gardener, and seasoned cook

Favorite part of your job with SNT so far: Contributing to a talented team, dedicated to improving the nutrition and quality of school meals for children across the state of Wisconsin

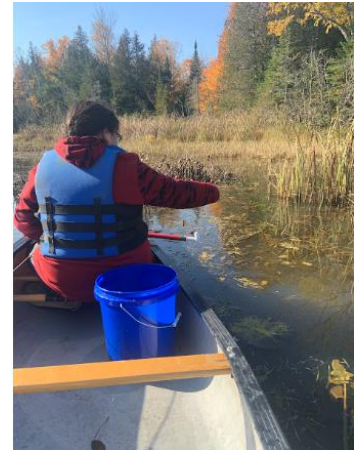


AmeriCorps Service Reflection: Lindsay Larson, Bayfield School District

I write this reflection on the shortest day and longest night of the year; Winter Solstice. Biboon (winter in Ojibwemowin) is a season for rest and contemplation; therefore, a perfect time to look back at my last few months as an educator at the Bayfield School District. Fond memories of elementary students picking cherry tomatoes off the vine and popping them into their mouths, harvesting, processing, and reseedling manoomin (wild rice), preparing herbal tea daily for staff and students, and taking the ferry across to LaPointe Elementary all come to mind. I also reflect on the role I play in making this programming available.

My name is Lindsay Larson, and I am an AmeriCorps Farm to School Educator. I work with students in grades K-12 and teach nutrition and gardening lessons with a focus on traditional foods. I have focused most of my career in the realm of food and medicine: managing and tending numerous gardens and farms, working in food service, spending many years as a baker, and starting my own herbalism business. Nothing has been quite so rewarding as encouraging food sovereignty to the youth of our community. Seeing a fifth grader inoculate shiitake mushroom logs or having a kindergartner ask me if they correctly identified milkweed makes it all worthwhile.

A majority of students in the district have a connection to the Red Cliff Nation, and with that, integrating Ojibwe culture into the curriculum is encouraged in every grade level and discipline. In the elementary schools gitigaan (garden) lessons this looks like using Ojibwemowin to explain the life cycle of a plant and name vegetables, as well as sharing the story of the three sisters and how they grow together. Traditional plants are also cultivated in the gitigaan like gete-okosomin (old squash). There are also opportunities for harvesting and processing traditional wild foods like manoomin, ziinzibaakwadwaaboo (maple sap), giigoonh (fish), wazhashkwedoons (mushrooms), mawinzwaan (berries), waawaashkeshiwi (vension), and mashkiki (medicinal herbs). This education has the intention of food sovereignty first and foremost. Giving youth the space to practice traditional harvest and growing methods is an ongoing process, and as a non-native educator I'm looking forward to learning more so I can continue to teach culturally for the students.



Braden Cadotte reseeds manoomin at Raspberry Campground

AmeriCorps Service Reflection (cont'd)

Again, as I sit here on the Solstice with chilly toes and a warm heart, I think about the Spring Equinox – direct sowing root veggies and herbs, the Summer Solstice – tending the garden, eager for students to return, and one year from today, reflection on all that has been carried with students through this programming and beyond, helping them connect with themselves, the earth, and the living beings we share it with.

Farm to School Workshop Series

Interested in building or expanding a school garden? Wondering how to incorporate local produce from the garden into your school meals? Looking for a fun, hands-on experience with the opportunity to network with your peers? If so, register for the [Farm to School](#) workshops at [School Nutrition Summer Training!](#)

The Farm to School Team will be live in Wausau at Northcentral Technical College's Agricultural Center of Excellence on Wednesday, July 19! In the great outdoors, we will learn to plant vegetable seeds, build garden beds, weed, cultivate, and protect garden plants all with an eye on food safety. We will be harvesting foods from the garden and learn important post-harvest handling processes to keep those foods fresh until meal service.

On Thursday, August 10 we will visit the Pewaukee High School for a hands-on kitchen course! Together we will work through seasonal menu planning to identify opportunities to easily work locally grown produce into school meals. Then, we will move into the kitchen to learn to process fresh produce – washing, chopping, blanching, and freezing all with a focus on food safety. We will consider how to handle the food waste, whether that is from the kitchen or after student meals, by exploring composting options. And finally, we will explore student engagement tools to highlight and educate about the local garden produce you plan to serve.

Please consider joining us!



Wisconsin School Breakfast Challenge

During the month of February, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team partnered with Hunger Task Force (HTF), Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry (NKH) and the School Nutrition Association (SNA) of Wisconsin to promote breakfast in schools through the Wisconsin School Breakfast Challenge. Schools worked hard to complete activities in the categories of Nutritional Quality, Farm to School, Community Involvement, School Administrator Involvement, Marketing and Social Media, and Student Engagement to score points to win prizes. We saw the most participation in our Colby Cheese group which consisted of district sizes larger than 875 students. Winners were announced during National School Breakfast Week (NSBW), March 6-10. Congratulations to our winners: Stevens Point Area Senior High and P.J. Jacobs Junior High; Oconto Elementary, Middle, and High School; and Kenosha Lutheran Academy! They served up some "egg-cellent" breakfasts!



We want to thank all those who participated and hope that you saw more engagement at breakfast. Even though the challenge is over and National School Breakfast Week has passed, the fun doesn't have to stop there! Anyone can use the activities from the challenge such as serving up a hot breakfast item, getting local community groups or administrators to come have breakfast, having students create posters, creating theme days, and gauging student interest in entrees through surveys or tasting tables to increase participation at breakfast. As we witnessed during the challenge, the more involvement from the school community, the more participation and fun can be had at breakfast. We look forward to our next year's challenge - it's never too early to prepare! For questions and ideas about how to promote your program, contact DPISBP@dpi.wi.gov.



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

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 Updates (cont'd)

SNACS is free to use, and users have access to the SNACS online free and reduced meal application. SNACS also streamlines the 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 2023-24 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 2023-24 school year. Please reach out to the SNACS Team at DPISNACSSupport@dpi.wi.gov with any questions.

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[USDA Policy Memorandum SP 03-2023: Offsite Monitoring of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and School Meal Programs After the Public Health Emergency Ends](#)

The National School Lunch Act has onsite monitoring requirements that were impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Food and Nutrition Service issued nationwide waivers that allowed State agencies and Program operators to waive the requirements for onsite monitoring through implementation of these waivers and complete the monitoring offsite (with state agency approval).



The public health emergency is scheduled to end May 11, 2023 and on June 10, 2023 nationwide onsite monitoring waivers will expire and onsite monitoring requirements for CACFP and School Meal Programs will be in effect.

(Continued on page 9)

USDA Guidance (cont'd)

[USDA Policy Memorandum SP 05-2023: Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas](#)

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, established a permanent noncongregate meal service option for rural areas with no congregate meal service available. This memorandum and Q&A provides guidance on the administration and operation of noncongregate meal service in rural areas during summer 2023 for the Summer Food Service Program and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option. All SFAs operating SFSP or SSO and interested in operating a noncongregate meal service must be approved by the Department of Public Instruction.

[USDA Policy Memorandum SP 02-2023: Determining Eligibility for Severe Need Reimbursement Rates for the School Breakfast Program and the Two Cent Differential Reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program in SY 2023-24.](#)

This guidance provides clarification on how to determine eligibility for the severe need breakfast (SNB) reimbursement rates and the two-cent differential reimbursement in the NSLP in SY 2023-24.

Schools are eligible for the SNB reimbursement rates if 40 percent or more of NSLP lunches served to students at school during the second preceding school year were at the free or reduced price rate. SFAs are eligible for the two-cent differential reimbursement for lunches if 60 percent or more of the NSLP lunches served in the second preceding school year were at the free or reduced price rate.

Typically, data from SY 2021-22 would be used to determine eligibility for SNB and the two cent differential reimbursements in SY 2023-24. However, all schools participated in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during SY 2021-22 under the [Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-22](#) and served all students free meals. While the SSO is part of the NSLP, a distinction must be made between the two programs for purposes of determining eligibility for SNB and the two cent differential reimbursement rates, since all meals are claimed at the free reimbursement rate under SSO. As a result, schools that utilized the waiver do not have the data needed to determine eligibility for SNB rates and the two cent differential lunch rates in SY 2023-24. For SY 2023-24, the September, October and November 2022 NSLP claims will be utilized to determine if an SFA is eligible for the SNB rates or the two-cent differential.



About Us



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program.intake@usda.gov

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