

School Nutrition News

A Newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Finance and Management

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Winter 2020

We Love School Breakfast a Waffle Lot!

After a successful launch of the Wisconsin School Breakfast Challenge last year, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team (SNT) is pleased to once again partner with Hunger Task Force (HTF) and No Kid Hungry (NKH) for another challenge this school year! We are excited to announce a new partner on board, the School Nutrition Association (SNA) of Wisconsin.

The challenge began December 2, 2019 and will end on March 6, 2020, during National School Breakfast week. Similar to last year, schools across Wisconsin enrolled in the challenge will compete for monetary prizes and recognition by demonstrating increased participation in their School Breakfast Program (SBP). In addition, a new category, The Big Cheese, was added this year. This optional, but highly encouraged competition, offers schools an additional opportunity to win prizes by participating in various breakfast-related activities to improve their breakfast programs. If your school has recently added a breakfast program or made positive changes to an existing one, sign up to enter the contest for a chance to win. It's not too late! Visit the [Hunger Task Force website](#) for details.



Give SNACS a Try

Did you know that SNACS (School Nutrition Accountability Software) can be used for much more than the Administrative Review? SNACS is the perfect solution for smaller districts that currently manage their participation in school nutrition programs using manual processes. SNACS is free to use and offers access to an online free/reduced price meal application. SNACS also provides assistance with the application approval and direct certification processes, contains a meal counting system to accurately capture daily meal counts and aid in compiling the monthly reimbursement claim, offers step-by-step guidance through the annual verification process and submission of the Verification Collection

Report, and has automated letter generation capabilities. The SNACS support team

will be reaching out to School Food Authorities (SFAs) during the next several months to see if your SFA has interest in utilizing SNACS as your software solution. Contact [DPI SNACS Support](#) to schedule a demo of SNACS today!



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program SY 2020-21 Application

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) provides funding for elementary students to receive a fresh fruit or vegetable snack two or more times per week free of charge. This school year, 202 schools have the opportunity to snack on fresh fruits and vegetables that are not always your average bananas and celery sticks. Participating schools are encouraged to purchase different varieties of fresh produce that students may not have otherwise had the opportunity to try. Some of the foods Wisconsin schools have tried this year include minneolas, candy stripe beets, and wax beans.

The school year (SY) 2020-21 application will open March 2, 2020 and close April 10, 2020. For the application, instructions, and more information, check out the [FFVP](#) webpage in early 2020 (<https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs/fresh-fruit-vegetable>).



A special shout out and congratulations to the following School Food Authorities (SFAs) for using 100 percent of their allocation B funding in SY 2018-19: Baraboo School District (SD), Barron Area SD, Bayfield SD, Central City Cyberschool Milwaukee, Inc., Eau Claire Area SD, Kenosha Common SD, Lac du Flambeau SD, Oneida Nation School System, Richland SD, Rocketship Southside Community Prep, St. Joseph Academy, Inc., Two Rivers SD, and Waukesha SD. Keep up the great work!

Whole Grain-Rich Requirement

New this school year, only half of all grains offered per service line must be whole grain-rich. To help ensure grain requirements are met, use the updated [menu planning worksheets](#), which are available under "Menu Planning Tools." Included with the worksheets are instructions and examples. As a reminder, lunch service lines are assessed separately from breakfast service lines. On an Administrative Review (AR), fiscal action will **only** be assessed if **no** whole-grain rich products were offered during the week of review at the previous **and** current AR. Check out the [Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs](#) for more information on whole grain products.



2019 USDA Equipment Grant Update

The application period for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Grant closed on November 15, 2019. In total, 154 pieces of equipment were requested by 94 SFAs to service over 335 sites. Schools have been notified regarding their application status and next steps. Thanks to all of the applicants for their time and interest.

Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment

The Local School Wellness Policy Final Rule requires that, at a minimum, an assessment of the local wellness policy be conducted once every three years. The first triennial assessment must be completed by June 30, 2020. The SFA must develop a triennial assessment report that describes:



- The extent to which schools comply with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the wellness policy compares to a model wellness policy; and
- The progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.

While there is local discretion on the format of the report, the SNT encourages using the [Local Wellness Policy Report Card](#). This online tool can be used to assess the extent to which schools comply with the wellness policy and provide a description of progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy. The [WellSAT](#) tool can be used to assess how your policy compares to a model policy. There is a section on the Local Wellness Policy Report Card to include your WellSAT results. Once the Local Wellness Policy Report Card is complete, the report can be used to communicate the results to the public.

Infants and Preschool in the NSLP and SBP: Webpage Updates!



Check out the revamped [Infants and Preschool in the NSLP and SBP webpage](#)! The webpage has a new look and organizes resources by meal components and specific topic areas. Additional resources have been added such as the Feeding Infants Guide, "Is it a Grain-Based Dessert?" handout, and the USDA Halftime webinars.

Smart Snacks Standards and Fundraisers in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin DPI SNT recognizes the importance of fundraisers to schools and student organizations. Understanding federal and state regulations ensures sales of foods and beverages to students on the school campus during the school day are conducted in a manner that promotes good nutrition.

Sales of foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks standards and sales of non-food items (e.g., wrapping paper, apparel, etc.) are not limited by federal policy. Fundraising activities that occur during non-school hours, on weekends, or at off-campus events also are not limited by federal policy.

The school day is defined as the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day. These federal standards are the minimum requirements. State agencies and/or school districts can establish stricter standards, if desired. Consult your school's Local Wellness Policy or Wellness Committee for more information.

As a reminder, the DPI allows two fundraiser exemptions per student organization, per school, per school year, not to exceed two consecutive weeks each. Exempt fundraisers are those in which students may sell foods or beverages that do not meet the Smart Snacks requirements. These exempt fundraisers may not be held in the meal service area during meal service times.

For further details, review the [Smart Snacks In A Nutshell handout](#), posted on the [Smart Snacks webpage](#). You may also contact [Christine Novak](#) at (608) 261-6325.

New and Updated SNT Webcasts!

The following webcasts are **new** and located on the [SNT Webcasts webpage](#):

- Wisconsin School Day Milk Program
- Product Formulation Statements
- Serving Meals in Classrooms

The following SNT webcasts are **updated**:

- Administrative Review: Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality
- Overview of Free, Reduced and Verification
- Getting Started in Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility
- Processing Applications and Direct Certification in Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility
- Special Situations in the Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Process
- Filling out the Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program: The Basics
- Offer versus Serve - Meal or No Meal Lesson and Game
- Lunch Meal Pattern
- Smart Snacks
- Verification Process

[SP 37-2019 Q&A on the Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs \(CNP\): Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements](#)

This memorandum provides Questions and Answers on the final rule *Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements* (83 FR 63775, December 12, 2018), which provides menu planning flexibilities in the CNPs. These flexibilities include: (1) Flavored, low-fat (1 percent) milk can be offered in NSLP, SBP, Special Milk Program (SMP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (ages 6 and over), without the need to demonstrate hardship; (2) Half of the weekly grains in the NSLP and SBP must be whole grain-rich, the remaining weekly grains offered must be enriched; (3) Sodium Target 1 continues through SY 2023-24, moves Target 2 to SY 2024-25, and removes the Final Target. These flexibilities went into effect July 1, 2019, for the 2019-20 school year.

[SP 38-2019 Meal Requirements under the NSLP and SBP: Q&A for Program Operators](#)

This memorandum includes questions and answers updated to incorporate changes resulting from two final rules: (1) *Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010* (81 CFR 24348, published April 25, 2016); and (2) *Child Nutrition Programs: Flexibilities for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Requirements* (83 FR 63775, December 12, 2018). This document also includes updated crediting questions and a new Resources section. Outdated references, citations, and questions have been removed throughout the document, and minor edits were made to clarify content.

It is important to note these two changes brought to light in this guidance memo:

- Schools may no longer use the Whole Grain Stamp (gold emblem) as a way to determine whole grain-rich products. This is due to the fact that the product may contain eight grams of whole grain, but it may also contain non-creditable grains (non-enriched, refined flour) which do not credit toward the grains requirements in CNPs.
- Roasted legumes (chickpeas, edamame) may be used to meet the full daily meat/meat alternate (M/MA) requirement. In the past, they could only be used to meet up to half of the daily M/MA requirement. Reminder that nuts, seeds and soy nuts may only be offered to meet up to half of the M/MA requirements and may not be offered as a vegetable or used to meet the weekly legumes requirement.

[SP 16-2019 School Breakfast Program: Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit \(Update\)](#)

The [Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2020, and Further Health Extenders Act of 2019](#) (P.L. 116-69), enacted November 21, 2019, extends the flexibility allowing SFAs participating in the SBP to credit any vegetable offered, including potatoes and other starchy vegetables, in place of fruit without including vegetables from other subgroups in the weekly menus through December 20, 2019.

[SP 39-2019 Clarification on the Milk and Water Requirements in the School Meal Programs](#)

This updated memorandum clarifies regulations that water made available to students in the NSLP and SBP shall not compete with the milk requirement. While water must be made available, schools must not directly or indirectly restrict the sale or marketing of fluid milk.

[SP 40-2019 Smoothies Offered in CNPs](#)

This updated memorandum clarifies juice and yogurt allowances based on the childcare and preschool meal pattern updates and incorporates the meal pattern flexibilities related to flavored milk. This memorandum also changes the policy for commercially prepared smoothies. Commercially prepared smoothies can now contribute to the M/MA, fruit, vegetable, and milk components of the federal meal requirements for all CNPs. For more information on crediting smoothies refer to the [Crediting Smoothies in a Nutshell](#) webpage.

[SP 41-2019 Salad Bars in the NSLP and SBP](#)

This memorandum includes policy changes and general updates to outdated resources/website links and updated questions and answers. On salad bars, minimum portion sizes must be indicated and should be reasonable for that menu item. Schools are encouraged to use signage showing students what a portion looks like. The point of sale should be stationed after the salad bar. However, if a school is not able to do this, pre-portioned items should be provided, or students must be instructed on how to select the appropriate portion(s) and appropriately sized serving utensils must be provided. Production records must be kept for salad bars, recording what was put out, how much, and what was left over. For more information on salad bars in School Nutrition Programs refer to the salad bar section or our [Menu Planning webpage](#).

[SP 29-2019 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Allocation of FY 2020 Funds](#)

This memorandum revises the current FFVP Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 funding allocations discussed in SP 29-2019, *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program: Funding Allocation Distribution*. Due to an Agricultural Marketing Service transfer adjustment, the amount available for FFVP distribution for FY 2020 has been reduced from \$175.5 million to \$174.5 million. Due to this adjustment, Wisconsin will be receiving \$3,583,508, which is \$18,616 less than indicated in SP 29-2019.

[SP 04-2020 Meal Services During Unanticipated School Closures](#)

This memorandum provides updated guidance on the CNP flexibilities available during unanticipated school closures. Schools may face unanticipated closures due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or, when approved by the State agency, a similar cause. Unanticipated school closures prevent children from receiving educational instruction and the nutritious meals they would normally receive. SFAs participating in the NSLP and/or the SBP and institutions participating in the CACFP, and sponsors participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are encouraged to use the flexibilities described in this memorandum to help ensure that children do not experience a lapse in food security when extreme weather or other events force area schools and child care facilities to close.

Teaming Up to Increase Program Participation

The Wisconsin SNT is excited to announce the 2020 Teaming Up to Increase Program Participation Workshop. This dynamic workshop is designed to help you identify strategies and opportunities to increase student participation in the school meal programs. At this workshop, you will hear Wisconsin school nutrition directors share their stories of creative solutions for improving meal program participation. Through engaging, facilitated conversation and peer-to-peer discussion, you will determine the best strategies to implement at your school and leave the workshop with a plan of action for moving forward.

Who: School Nutrition Directors and Managers

Where: Thursday, June 25, 2020 (8:30am – 2:45pm)

Where: Chula Vista Resort - 2501 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Cost: \$30 Registration Fee
(includes breakfast and lunch)

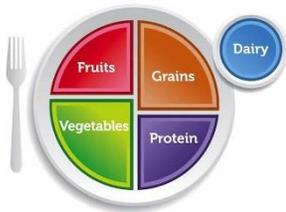
Register at: [DPI Training Webpage](#)

Registration opens on February 17 and closes on May 29, 2020.
(dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training)

Participants are able to reserve overnight accommodations at Chula Vista for Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at the state rate of \$82 for a single room. State rates are available only until May 25, 2020. Contact Chula Vista at 1-877-326-8175 and reference group ID #H55548.

Do not miss your chance to become inspired, learn innovative ways to increase student participation in the meal programs, and network with your peers. Registration is limited to 150 participants so be sure to register early!

MyPlate Student Educational Video



Wisconsin Team Nutrition is excited to announce the release of a new educational video designed to help students understand healthy eating styles. The [Choosing a Healthy Eating Style](#) video educates students on MyPlate and three key messages from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans:

- make half your plate fruits and vegetables and vary your veggies;
- make half your grains whole grain, and
- drink and eat less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars.

The video also showcases how school meals are making it easy for students to choose a healthy eating style at school. Please share the video with your students today!

SNT Member Updates

Welcome to...

Brittany Zerbe

Public Health Nutritionist



Favorite School Meal: Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup

Hobbies and Interests: Running, cooking, and baking

Most Recent Vacation: Sonoma Valley, California

Favorite Part of Your Job with SNT: Visiting schools around the state of Wisconsin!

Margaret (Maggie) Byrne

Public Health Nutritionist



Favorite School Meal: Tacos

Hobbies and Interests: Cooking, yoga, hiking, traveling and spending time with family and friends

Most Recent Vacation: NYC to visit my twin sister

Favorite Part of Your Job with SNT: Getting to interact with students and staff at the schools when out on reviews!

Congratulations to...

Claire Koenig and family, who welcomed a healthy baby girl on January 17!

Farewell and Best Wishes to...

Rebekkah Plano, who took a new position as the Director of Food Services with the Wisconsin Heights School District in Mazomanie. Keep an eye out, you may see her at future trainings! Good luck Rebekkah, we know you will do great!

Recipe Corner:

Moroccan [Kati Kati Chicken](#)

At Small Victories trainings this fall, Kati Kati chicken was whipped up for a delicious dinner. With tons of requests by food service directors, we decided to share this lovely USDA recipe with you all!



AmeriCorps Farm to School Members are here to Support You!

Our team of dedicated AmeriCorps Farm to School (AC F2S) members had quite the impact on their communities in the 2018-19 service year! In the last year alone, our members have:



- Served 32 Wisconsin school districts by helping them implement sustainable F2S programs;
- Provided 1,156 hours of quality nutrition education to over 6,200 students throughout the state;
- Conducted close to 500 local food taste test activities in classrooms, cafeterias, and school gardens;
- Worked with 135 farmers who gave educational presentations to students and/or sold/donated local foods to schools;
- Spent 221 hours with students in school gardens growing 30 different items such as lettuce, herbs, carrots, and peppers;
- Planned or participated in over 100 community events promoting F2S and rallying support in their communities; and
- Recruited 615 volunteers who served over 2,500 hours supporting F2S in their communities.

If you are not already connected to the AmeriCorps F2S member(s) in your area, it is not too late. Our members are eagerly awaiting opportunities to support F2S in your school district. We understand how overwhelming it can feel to think about implementing a brand new program in your school, but that is why we are here to support you! Members will work with you to develop relationships with your local farmers and create a seamless action plan to increase the number of fresh local foods offered to our students. This is a great opportunity to promote your awesome school meal programs, teach children healthy eating habits, and support your local farmers. Not sure if there are members in your area yet? Email Kara Ignasiak at kara.ignasiak@dpi.wi.gov to get connected or check out [the AmeriCorps website](#). New host site applications are open now!

USDA Quantity Recipes Relocated Online

Looking for USDA quantity recipes previously on the Team Nutrition webpage? The recipes can now be found in the Institute of Child Nutrition's [Child Nutrition Recipe Box](#). Keep in mind that these are quantity recipes. A recipe is only standardized once it has been tested and adapted to your operation. Coming in the spring of 2020, users will be able to save recipes to create their own recipe book and generate shopping lists from selected recipes. Happy cooking!

Social Media Scrapbook

Get in the know with Wisconsin School Nutrition! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to discover opportunities, resources, events, and to see what other Wisconsin school nutrition programs are accomplishing.

 : @WisDPI.SNP

 : @WisDPI_SNP

 : @wisdpi_snt

Want to be featured on DPI SNT social media accounts?

Share your photos and updates with us by clicking "Share A Photo" on the [SNT webpage](#) or emailing [DPI SNT Social Media](#). We love to see all the hard work you do for Wisconsin students in action. Thank you for your efforts in serving healthy, balanced meals to your students every day!

Wisconsin Chili Lunch Day

Drummond Area School District participated in the Wisconsin Chili Lunch Day and incorporated local, Wisconsin-grown ingredients. #farmtoschool #WISchoolsMealsRock

(Photo courtesy of Drummond Area School District)



Farm To School Month

Onalaska School District served up some delicious looking butternut squash that was grown at the Onalaska Middle School to celebrate #F2SMonth!

(Photo courtesy of Onalaska School District)

A Visit from the Secretary of Agriculture

Verona Area School District got an exciting visit from Sonny Perdue, the Secretary of Agriculture who was there to recognize excellent work creating a school dedicated to health and wellness, as well as their involvement in "Fuel Up to Play 60." The Secretary ate lunch with the elementary students at Sugar Creek Elementary.

(Photo courtesy of Verona Area School District)



Mark Your Calendar!



[National School Breakfast Week](#)

March 2-6, 2020
School Breakfast: Out of this World

<https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2020/>

[Teaming Up to Increase Participation Workshop](#)

June 25, 2020
Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells
dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training

[2020 Spring SNA-WI Conference](#)

March 17-18, 2020
Madison Concourse Hotel
<https://www.sna-wi.org/event/2020SpringConf>



GOALS Certificate of Excellence

Enhance and promote the unique skill set required to operate a school meals program by applying for a GOALS Certificate of Excellence! This newly-streamlined process has you [select a training track](#) and access the required and elective courses to earn a GOALS certificate. Depending on which of the three tracks you select, the total number of required training hours will vary from 50-110. These courses can be completed through a combination of in-person and online training. SNT staff will be creating and updating webcasts and offering new courses at our summer trainings to help you meet the training hour requirements.



This achievement recognizes you for your expertise in school nutrition and plays a critical role in making your students college and career ready. Congratulations to the school nutrition directors, managers, and staff who have completed their GOALS Certificate of Excellence thus far; the expertise you have gained by completing the curriculum is vital for the success of our Wisconsin students. We hope to see your application soon!

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

School Nutrition News

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