

**Completing the Application Process for Healthy Food Certification**

Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes

CONNECTICUT Education  
Connecticut State Department of Education  
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs

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1

**Module Topics**

- Application Requirements
- Steps for Completing HFC Statement
- Requirements for Food and Beverage Exemptions
- Resources

Resources and websites are listed in the yellow bar

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2

**Overview of HFC**

- Section 10-215f of Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.)
  - Began in school year 2006-07
- Applies to all public schools participating in National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

[https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_169.htm#sec\\_10-215f](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_169.htm#sec_10-215f)

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3

**Overview of HFC**

- Each board of education or governing authority (BOE) must certify annually to CSDE whether they will or will not follow Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS)

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4

**CNS Applies To**

- All foods available for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals
- All foods served in USDA's Afterschool Snack Program (ASP)

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5

**CSDE Webpage**

**Healthy Food Certification (HFC)**

Healthy Food Certification (HFC)

HFC Training Program

CSDE Training Program: Completing with Healthy Food Certification

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification/hfc-training-program>

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6



## HFC Application Requirements

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7

## HFC Statement: Addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099)



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8

## HFC Dates

- Certification period  
July 1 2025, through  
June 30, 2026
- Submission deadline  
July 1, 2025

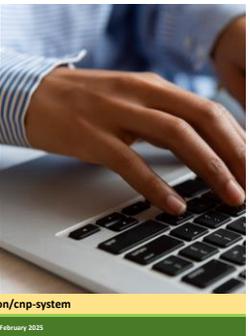


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9

## Completed Online

- CSDE's Online Application  
and Claiming System for  
Child Nutrition Programs  
(CNP System)



<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/cnp-system>

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10

## Online Submission Includes

1. HFC Statement
  - Completed and certified  
by authorized signer
2. Final BOE-approved  
minutes that reflect  
required HFC votes



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11

## HFC Statement Available in CNP System by Mid-May

- CSDE emails school food  
authorities when available
- Cannot complete prior  
to CSDE's email



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12





**CSDE Resource**

### Exemptions for Foods and Beverages in Public Schools

**Exemptions for Foods and Beverages in Public Schools**

The following exemptions apply to public schools and public charter schools in Connecticut:

Exemption	Applicable to Public Schools	Applicable to Public Charter Schools
Alcohol	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes
Any food or beverage that is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage and is not a nutrient-dense food or beverage	Yes	Yes

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/exemptions\\_food\\_beverages\\_public\\_schools.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/exemptions_food_beverages_public_schools.pdf)

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25

**CSDE Resource**

### Complying with Healthy Food Certification Training Program

- Module 2: HFC Requirement
- Module 6: Fundraisers

**Healthy Food Certification (HFC)**

**HFC Training Program**

**CSDE Training Program: Complying with Healthy Food Certification**

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification/hfc-training-program>

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26

### Step 3: Conduct required HFC votes at BOE meeting

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27

### Step 3: Conduct required HFC votes at BOE meeting

- Prepare BOE minutes
  - Specific motion language
  - Results of HFC votes
- Approved by BOE as final

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28

### Step 4: Complete HFC Statement and upload BOE minutes

- Begins in May 2025
- Wait for CSDE email and instructions

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**NEW! Online Nutrition Programs Online System**

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/cnp-system>

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29

**CSDE Resource**

### Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2025-26

**Instructions for Submitting Connecticut's Healthy Food Certification Statement for School Year 2025-26**

**For Public School Systems of the National School Lunch Program**

**Healthy Food for All of the Connecticut State Schools**

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/app/instructions\\_submitting\\_connecticut\\_healthy\\_food\\_certification\\_statement.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/app/instructions_submitting_connecticut_healthy_food_certification_statement.pdf)

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30

**If BOE Minutes are Not Final by July 1**

- Upload draft minutes by July 1
- Upload final minutes as soon as available



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31

**HFC Statement Overview**

- Section 1: Background
- Section 2: Certification Statement
- Section 3: Exemption Statement
- Section 4: Amendment to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099)
- Section 5: Board Meeting Minutes



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32

**HFC Statement Overview**

- Section 6: Contact Information
  - HFC contact person
  - Superintendent
  - Food service director
  - Business manager
  - Interschool agreements
  - School stores
  - Culinary arts programs



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33

**HFC Contact Person**



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34

**HFC Contact Person**

The point person responsible for coordinating the day-to-day implementation and monitoring of HFC under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes

**Terms to Know**



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35

**HFC Contact Person Responsibilities**

- Completes required HFC trainings
- Ensures all competitive foods comply with requirements



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36

### Who is HFC Contact Person

- Typically, food service director but can be anyone that district designates
- Business manager
- Food service director from food service management company

Successfully meet responsibilities

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/hfc\\_district\\_contact\\_responsibilities.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/hfc_district_contact_responsibilities.pdf)

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37

### CSDE Resource

## Responsibilities of District Contact Person for Healthy Food Certification

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/hfc\\_district\\_contact\\_responsibilities.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/hfc/hfc_district_contact_responsibilities.pdf)

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38

### Resources

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification>

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39

### CSDE Webpage

## Healthy Food Certification Webpage

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification>

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40

### CSDE Webpage

## Healthy Food Certification Webpage

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification>

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41

### CSDE Webpage

## Connecticut Nutrition Standards

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/connecticut-nutrition-standards>

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42



**Questions?**

Contact the CSDE's  
HFC coordinator  
or school nutrition  
programs staff

<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/nutrition/healthy-food-certification/contact>  
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/cnstaff/countyassign.pdf>

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43



**Thank you for  
participating!**

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44

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45