

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

This document summarizes the School Lunch Tray topics for 2025. The School Lunch Tray is the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) weekly e-newsletter for Connecticut sponsors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) school nutrition programs, including the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), [Afterschool Snack Program \(ASP\)](#) of the NSLP, [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#) of the NSLP, and [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\)](#).

Click the links in the “Links” column to access a PDF of the School Lunch Tray and the corresponding Table Talk webinar.

Date	Links	Topics
07-30-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 07-30-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triennial Assessment (Due June 30, 2025) and Reporting Form Due September 15, 2025</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 18-2025: Guidance on Fees for Electronic Payment Services in the School Meal Programs</li> <li>• Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar Series: How to Incorporate Fresh Produce into Scratch Cooking, Thursday, August 7, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition’s (ICN) Upcoming Webinars Webpage</li> </ul>
07-23-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 07-23-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Food Yields Added to Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA’s Back to School Webpage</li> </ul>
07-16-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 07-16-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) Due July 25, 2025</li> <li>• Calendar of School Nutrition Program Requirements and Activities for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• 2025 Summer EBT Program Reminder</li> <li>• Connecticut Foodshare: Summer Meals Outreach Partner</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA Training on School Lunch Menu Flexibilities: Beans, Peas, and Lentils</li> </ul>
07-09-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 07-09-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now Posted: Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Handbook for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated Menu Planning Guides for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Correction to Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the School Breakfast Program</li> </ul>

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

Date	Links	Topics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Research &amp; Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into Community Eligibility in the 2024–2025 School Year, July 10, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA’s Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals</li> </ul>
07-02-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 07-02-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April, May, and June 2025 Purchases Deadline Extended to July 2, 2025</li> <li>• Final Reminder: Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership Virtual Training on August 5, 12, and 19, 2025</li> <li>• USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) Due July 25, 2025</li> <li>• Need to Know</li> <li>• Updated Five-day Preschool Lunch Menu Form for Ages 1-2 in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)</li> <li>• Updated Menu Planning Guides for the Preschool Meal Patterns of the School Nutrition Programs for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Production Records for Grades K-12 and Preschool in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA’s Summer Food, Summer Moves Resource Kit</li> </ul>
06-25-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 06-25-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Final Reminder: 2025-26 Full-service Interschool Agreements Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April, May, and June 2025 Purchases Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Table Talk on Break Until New School Year Begins</li> <li>• Updated Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Handbook for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated ASP Forms for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated ASP Sample Menus for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated Menu Planning Guidance Series for Grades K-12 in the School Nutrition Programs for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Farm to School Trainings Offered by Regional Farm to School Coordinators for Food Service Staff Back to School Training Days</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Roundup: CSDE’s Manuals and Guides for Child Nutrition Programs Webpage</li> </ul>
06-18-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 06-18-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 10-25: Paid Lunch Equity Guidance for School Year 2025-26: PLE Request Due June 30, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• 2025-26 Full-service Interschool Agreements Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Meal Pattern Changes Required by USDA final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• New Product-based Limits for Added Sugars for School Year (SY) 2025-26, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• New ASP Meal Pattern for Grades K-12 for SY 2025-26, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Changes to Vegetable Substitutions in the SBP for Grades K-12 for SY 2025-26, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Schools Must Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Updated NSLP and SBP Meal Patterns for Grades K-12 for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated Menu Planning Checklists for Lunch for Grades K-12 for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resources: Overview of Menu Planning for Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP</li> <li>• Updated Preschool Meal Patterns for SY 2025-26: NSLP, SBP, and ASP</li> <li>• Updated Preschool Menu Planning Forms for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: Meal Pattern and Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: Crediting Summary Charts for the School Nutrition Programs for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: Noncreditable Foods in the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Comparison Charts for the School Nutrition Programs for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Crediting Resources for the School Nutrition Programs for SY 2025-26</li> <li>• Coming Soon: Updates to the CSDE’s Recorded Training Modules for the NSLP, SBP, and ASP Meal Patterns</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coming Soon: Updates to the CSDE's Recorded Training Modules, Preschool Meal Pattern Training for the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Coming Soon: Updates to the CSDE's Menu Planning Guidance Series for Grades K-12 and Preschool</li> <li>• Coming Soon: Updates to the CSDE's Menu Planning Guidance Series for Grades K-12 and Preschool</li> <li>• Good to Know</li> <li>• Fourth Annual PK-12 School Staff Appreciation Digital Backpack Program</li> </ul>
06-11-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 06-11-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Full-Service Interschool Agreements for School Year 2025-26: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Training on June 12, 2025: How to Complete the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Summary Webinar</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 11-2025, CACFP 09-2025, and SFSP 05-2025: Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 13-2025, CACFP 10-2025, SFSP 06-2025: Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 14-2025: Enhancing Child Nutrition Program Meal Standards</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 15-2025: Enhancing Child Nutrition Program Meal Standards</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: Using Bulk Milk Dispensers in the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA's Team Nutrition School Lunch Materials Webpage</li> </ul>

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06-04-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 06-04-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE Summer Meals Office Hours on June 5, 2025</li> <li>• Connecticut Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (CT LFSIP) and Carryover of Funds</li> <li>• Reminder: Save the Date for the How to Complete the Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP) Triennial Assessment Summary Webinar: June 12, 2025</li> <li>• USDA Foods Reminder</li> <li>• Request Alternate Lunch Time Outside the Timeframes of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• School Year (SY) 2025-26 Meal Application forms</li> <li>• Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Program Contact Resources for Schools</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Changes to Authorized Signers</li> <li>• Farm to School Field Trip at Veggiestock: June 7, 2025</li> <li>• USDA Foods Update for SY 2025 - 2026</li> </ul>
05-28-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 05-28-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of April and May 2025 Purchases Due May 30, 2025</li> <li>• National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Required Sponsor Online Application Training - June 3, 2025</li> <li>• Save the Date for the CSDE Training Session in Collaboration with the University of Connecticut Rudd Center - June 12, 2025</li> <li>• Requests to Extend the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) into the Summer Months (July and August) due June 13, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE school nutrition programs Table Talk, Thursday, May 29, 2025</li> <li>• Produce Safety University: The Produce Lab, live Webinar, June 3, 2025</li> <li>• Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership - Upcoming Virtual Training - August 5, 12, and 19, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: The Child Nutrition Recipe Box: <i>Healthy Recipes for Child Nutrition Professionals</i></li> <li>• Chef Ann Foundation Bulk Milk Grants for Schools Due June 26, 2025</li> </ul>

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05-21-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 05-21-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder to Receipt USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Orders in FFAVORS within Two Days</li> <li>• Need to Know</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: Guide to Required Policy for Unpaid Meal Charges in the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Recording Available for CSDE Webinar on May 15, 2025: Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2025-26 and ASP Operational Requirements</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)'s Nutrition Standards for Added Sugars Fact Sheets</li> </ul>
05-14-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 05-14-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder to Attend the CSDE May 15, 2025, Training Session: Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2025-26 and ASP Operational Requirements</li> <li>• Need to Know</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 11-2025, CACFP 09-2025, SFSP 05-2025: Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods</li> <li>• USDA Foods Timely Payment for Deliveries</li> <li>• Final Deliveries for USDA Foods for School Year 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Farm to School</li> <li>• Farm to School Conference a Fresh Success</li> </ul>

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05-07-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 05-07-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: CSDE Summer Meal Program Interest Survey Due May 8, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE Summer Meals Training on May 8, 2025</li> <li>• Final Reminder: Next CSDE Office Hour for Triennial Assessment Using the WellSAT Website: Monday, May 12, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Save the Date for CSDE Training Session: Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Meal Pattern Updates for School Year 2025-26 and ASP Operational Requirements, May 15, 2025</li> <li>• Updated List of Acceptable Food and Beverages Dated May 7, 2025</li> <li>• Recording Available for CSDE Webinar from May 1, 2025: Overview of the Final Rule Meal Pattern Changes for the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Recording Available for CSDE's Summer EBT Information Session on May 5, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Summary of Provisions in the Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Final Rule</li> </ul>
04-30-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-30-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Registration Deadline is April 30, 2025, for University of Connecticut Rudd Center Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy on May 21, 2025</li> <li>• Final Reminder: Attend CSDE's Training Session, Overview of the Final Rule Meal Pattern Changes for the School Nutrition Programs, on May 1, 2025</li> <li>• Final Reminder: Attend CSDE's Information Session: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Program: May 5, 2025</li> <li>• Agenda for the Connecticut Farm to School Conference on May 7, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE Summer Meal Program Interest Survey Due May 8, 2025</li> <li>• Next CSDE Office Hour for Triennial Assessment Using the WellSAT Website: Monday, May 12, 2025</li> <li>• School Lunch Hero Day: May 2, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Requirements for Classroom Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program</li> </ul>

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04-23-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-23-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next CSDE Office Hour for Triennial Assessment Using the WellSAT Website: Monday, April 28, 2025</li> <li>• Save the Date for CSDE Training Session: Overview of the Final Rule Meal Pattern Changes for the School Nutrition Programs, May 1, 2025</li> <li>• Save the Date for CSDE Information Session: Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (S-EBT) Program: May 5, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Attend the Connecticut Farm to School Conference on May 7, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Start with Half a Cup Portion Guides for Fruits and Vegetables</li> <li>• Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) STAR Webinar: Strategies for Navigating Bids and Vendor Selections in School Nutrition, April 24, 2025</li> <li>• Free Workshop: Teaching in Your School Garden, April 29, 2025</li> <li>• Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) Webinar: Reducing Sodium with Scratch Cooking in School Meals, May 1, 2025</li> <li>• ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Strategies for Incorporating Plant-Based, Minimally Processed Standardized Recipes for All Students</li> </ul>
04-16-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-16-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 07-25: Interschool Agreements for School Year 2025-26: Due July 1, 2025 (Full Service) or August 30, 2025 (Vended)</li> <li>• Reminder: Save the Dates for CSDE Office Hours: Triennial Assessment using the WellSAT website</li> <li>• Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification of Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for school year 2025-26</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 08-25: Payment of Fiscal Year 2024-25 State Funds for the National School Lunch Program</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Instructions for Completing the Authorized Signatures Change Form</li> <li>• Application Available for The New England Food Vision Prize 2025</li> </ul>

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04-09-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-09-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of March 2025 Purchases Due April 18, 2025</li> <li>• Attend the Connecticut Farm to School Conference on May 7, 2025</li> <li>• Save the Date for CSDE Training Session: Overview of the Final Rule Meal Pattern Changes for the School Nutrition Programs, May 1, 2025</li> <li>• Save the Date for CSDE Training Session: Meal Pattern and Implementation Updates for the Afterschool Snack Program for School Year 2025-26, May 15, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: University of Connecticut Rudd Center Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy, May 21, 2025: Registration Deadline is April 30, 2025</li> <li>• Save the Date: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Sponsor Online Application Training, June 3, 2025</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 06-25: State Severe Need School Breakfast Program Grant for School Year 2024-25</li> <li>• USDA Foods Direct Delivery Inventory at HPC</li> <li>• USDA Foods Orders for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Requirements for Field Trip Meals in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program</li> <li>• Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) STAR Webinar: Strategies for Navigating Bids and Vendor Selections in School Nutrition: April 24, 2025</li> <li>• ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Strategies for Incorporating Plant-Based, Minimally Processed Standardized Recipes for All Students</li> <li>• ICN iBites Podcast</li> <li>• ICN iBites Digest</li> </ul>

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04-02-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 04-02-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 05-2025, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification Requirement for all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) Participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) Due April 7, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE Summer Meals Training on April 3, 2025: Seamless Summer Option Regulations</li> <li>• 2025-26 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Announcement: Applications Due April 30, 2025</li> <li>• Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Exemption Request for Unpaid Meal Charges Due April 30, 2025</li> <li>• CNP System Now Open to Submit 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Important Update: Deadline Extended for Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (Federal LFSIP)</li> <li>• Save the Dates for CSDE Office Hours: Triennial Assessment using the WellSAT website</li> <li>• Save the Date: Farm to School Conference, May 7, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Finding Previous Editions of School Lunch Tray</li> <li>• FoodCorps' 17 Children's Books We Love All About Food</li> </ul>
03-26-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-26-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 05-2025, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Annual Notification Requirement for all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) Participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or the School Breakfast Program (SBP) Due April 7, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE Summer Meals Training on March 27, 2025: Summer Meal Programs Outreach</li> <li>• Save the Dates for CSDE Office Hours: Triennial Assessment using the WellSAT Website</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 13 Ounce Equivalentents</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resource: Professional Standards Topics and Training Hours for the What's in a Meal Training Modules</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Summary of Final Rule Updates to the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• CT Grown for CT Kids Culturally Appropriate Culinary Training: April 3, 2025</li> </ul>

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03-19-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-19-2025</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 03-20-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 04-25, State Transition Assistance for Reduced-price (STAR) Funds for School Year 2024-25 Attestation Addendum (Due April 4, 2025)</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: Considerations for Farm to School Forward Contracting</li> <li>• USDA Resource: Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 12 Whole Grain-Rich Requirement</li> <li>• Reminder: Comment Period Closes March 26, 2025, for USDA's Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• University of Connecticut Rudd Center Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) Academy, May 21, 2025: Registration Deadline is April 30, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Worksheet to Calculate the Weekly Percentage of Whole Grain-rich Menu Items in School Lunch and Breakfast Menus for Grades K-12</li> </ul>

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03-12-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-12-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership Training Survey: Due March 14, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of February 2025 Purchases Due March 14, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE Office Hours on the Triennial Assessment using the Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellsAT) Website: Monday, March 17, 2025</li> <li>• Need to Know</li> <li>• Termination Notice for Agreement No. AM25CPLFS000C010 for the Project Titled, Local Food for Schools and Child Care Cooperative Agreement (LFSCC)</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 09-2025: Buy American Accommodation Process for School Year 2025-2026</li> <li>• Schedule of Program Year 2025 Summer Meal Programs Trainings</li> <li>• Registration for Program Year 2025 Summer Meal Program Trainings</li> <li>• How to Check Funding Status of Federal and State Reimbursements</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Summary of Final Rule Updates to the Meal Patterns for the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Good to Know</li> <li>• Food Research &amp; Action Center (FRAC) Webinar: A Deep Dive into the Community Eligibility Provision: March 20, 2025</li> <li>• ICN STAR Webinar Recording: Mastering Scratch Cooking in Schools</li> </ul>

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03-05-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 03-05-2025</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 03-06-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025</li> <li>• New USDA Foods Office Hours Session on March 5, 2025</li> <li>• Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership Training Survey: Due March 14, 2025</li> <li>• Product-based Limits for Added Sugars in Breakfast Cereals and Yogurt, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Product-based Limits for Added Sugars in Flavored Milk, Effective July 1, 2025</li> <li>• Updated List of Acceptable Food and Beverages Dated March 4, 2025</li> <li>• Connecticut School Recycling and Composting Laws: Effective July 1, 2026</li> <li>• Recording Now Available for Rudd Center's Webinar, Introduction to the Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT)</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Reminder About Rudd Center's 2022 LSWP Triennial Assessment Report</li> <li>• Connecticut DEEP Webinar: Complying with School Recycling and Composting Laws in Connecticut</li> </ul>

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02-26-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-26-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025 - <i>USDA Triennial Assessment due June 30, 2025</i></li> <li>• Reminder: USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025; New Office Hours Session on March 5, 2025</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 03-25: Requirements for Submitting the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) Statement for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• New Federal LFSIP Reimbursement Request Form (Phase 1 and/or Phase 2)</li> <li>• Operational Memorandum No. 03-25: Process for Submitting the HFC Statement for School Year 2025-26: Due July 1, 2025</li> <li>• USDA Memo SP 07-2025 and CACFP 07-2025: Requirement to Accept Medical Statements from Registered Dietitians for Schools and Child and Adult Care Institutions and Facilities</li> <li>• Updated "Medical Statements" Section of CSDE's Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs Webpage</li> <li>• Data on HFC Participation for SY 2024-25</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Competitive Foods in Schools</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Resources on State and Federal Laws for Competitive Foods</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Resources for Meeting the Federal and State Requirements for Competitive Foods in Schools</li> </ul>
02-19-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-19-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025-<i>USDA Triennial Assessment due 6/30/2025</i></li> <li>• Need to Know</li> <li>• Now Available: CSDE's List of Area Eligible Schools and List of Site Eligible Schools for School Year 2024-25</li> <li>• CSDE Summer Meal Programs Training on Area Eligibility: Thursday, February 20, 2025</li> <li>• Updated Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS) for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Competitive Foods in Schools</li> <li>• Posting of USDA Webinar on Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Foundation for Fresh Produce Have a Plant Influence Toolkit: Seasonality</li> </ul>

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Date	Links	Topics
02-13-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-13-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2025 Purchases Due February 14, 2025</li> <li>• Instructions for Ordering USDA Foods for School Year 2025-26: Orders due March 7, 2025</li> <li>• New Date for Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 27, 2025 - USDA Triennial Assessment due 6/30/2025</li> <li>• Serving Breakfast on Days with Delayed Openings</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: USDA On-Demand Training: Identifying Top Sources of Added Sugars and Simple Swaps</li> <li>• Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) ICN Recorded Webinar: USDA: Menu Planning for NSLP Afterschool Snack Service</li> <li>• ICN Recorded Webinar: STAR: Reading and Understanding Food and Nutrition Facts Labels</li> <li>• The Road to Successful Menu Planning for School Meals Training Series</li> <li>• FRAC Webinar: Summer Meals: Serving Kid-Friendly, High-Quality Meals: February 20, 2025</li> </ul>
02-05-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 02-05-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Reminder: Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 6, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of January 2025 Purchases Due February 14, 2025</li> <li>• USDA 2024-25 School Food Authority (SFA) Survey on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation: Due March 10, 2025</li> <li>• Reminder: Proper Procurement of Capital Expenditures and Equipment</li> <li>• Reminder: Daily Alternate Lunch Choices for Grades K-12 Cannot Include Grain-based Desserts</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: School Wellness Policies</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: School Breakfast Outreach</li> <li>• Upcoming Farm to School Workshop: Culinary and Knife Skills Training, February 13, 2025</li> </ul>

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

Date	Links	Topics
01-29-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-29-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder: Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellsAT) Website</li> <li>• New CSDE Resource: County Assignments for Summer Meals</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Eligibility for Free and Reduced-price Meals and Free Milk in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Menu Planning for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Food Safety for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Handwashing</li> <li>• Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 Continuing Professional Education Self-Study Modules</li> </ul>
01-22-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-22-2025</a>  <a href="#">Table Talk 01-23-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellsAT) Website, February 6, 2025</li> <li>• Updates on USDA's "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Posters</li> <li>• Updated USDA Foreign Translation Free and Reduced Applications</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 6 Meal Pattern Documentation Part B - Crediting Commercial Processed Foods and Module 11 Grains Component</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guidance Series for the Preschool Meal Patterns</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Crediting Handouts for K-12 and Preschool</li> <li>• USDA Product Information Sheet and USDA Foods Database Survey: Deadline April 18, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes</li> <li>• USDA Team Nutrition Webinar: Reducing Sodium in School Meals, February 20, 2025</li> <li>• 2025-26 Connecticut Farm to School Institute: Application Deadline is February 12, 2025</li> <li>• March is National Nutrition Month</li> <li>• New England Dairy Webinar: Dairy Allergy versus Lactose Intolerance Webinar, February 27, 2025</li> </ul>

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

Date	Links	Topics
01-22-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-22-2025</a> <a href="#">Table Talk 01-23-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website, February 6, 2025</li> <li>• Updates on USDA's "And Justice for All" (AJFA) Posters</li> <li>• Updated USDA Foreign Translation Free and Reduced Applications</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 6 Meal Pattern Documentation Part B - Crediting Commercial Processed Foods and Module 11 Grains Component</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Menu Planning Guidance Series for the Preschool Meal Patterns</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Crediting Handouts for K-12 and Preschool</li> <li>• USDA Product Information Sheet and USDA Foods Database Survey: Deadline April 18, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Reducing the Risk of Choking in Young Children at Mealtimes</li> <li>• USDA Team Nutrition Webinar: Reducing Sodium in School Meals, February 20, 2025</li> <li>• 2025-26 Connecticut Farm to School Institute: Application Deadline is February 12, 2025</li> <li>• March is National Nutrition Month</li> <li>• New England Dairy Webinar: Dairy Allergy versus Lactose Intolerance Webinar, February 27, 2025</li> </ul>
01-15-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter 01-15-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onsite Monitoring for School Year 2024-25 Must be Completed by February 1, 2025</li> <li>• Direct Certification Web Application is Not Operating</li> <li>• Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Phase 2</li> <li>• Save the Date: Webinar on Rudd Center's New Wellness School Assessment Tool (WellSAT) Website</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Special Diets in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpages: Claim Submission Schedule, Income Guidelines, and Reimbursement Rates</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: CSDE's Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs webpage</li> <li>• USDA Webinar: Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting</li> <li>• Chill Out with Cold Milk Cooler Giveaway Deadline: February 28, 2025</li> </ul>

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

Date	Links	Topics
01-08-2025	<a href="#">SLT Newsletter</a> <a href="#">01-08-2025</a> <a href="#">Table Talk</a> <a href="#">01-09-2025</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSDE 2025-26 Annual Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process Training for School Food Authorities (SFAs), January 30, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of December 2024 Purchases Due January 17, 2025</li> <li>• CSDE 2025-26 Annual Food Service Management Company (FSMC) Request for Proposals (RFP) Process Training for SFAs, January 30, 2025</li> <li>• Federal Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Requirements: Report of December 2024 Purchases Due January 17, 2025</li> <li>• Table Talk, Thursday, January 9, 2024: Focus on USDA Foods Available List for School Year 2025-26</li> <li>• Introducing the CSDE's New Connecticut Regional Farm to School Coordinators and Required Webinar on January 13, 2025</li> <li>• Important Update for USDA Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program</li> <li>• Updates to CSDE's Webpages for Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updated CSDE Webpage: Crediting Foods in School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• New CSDE Webpage: Crediting Documentation for the Child Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• Updates to What's in a Meal Training Modules for School Year 2024-25: Module 6 Meal Pattern Documentation Part A - School Menus</li> <li>• Request for Proposal (RFP) for Chefs to Schools: Application Deadline February 5, 2025</li> <li>• Resource Roundup: Using Cycle Menus in the School Nutrition Programs</li> <li>• School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) peer Mentorship Program</li> </ul>

## Summary of School Lunch Topics for 2025

For more information, visit the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/summary\\_slt\\_topics\\_2025.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/nutrition/slt/2025/summary_slt_topics_2025.pdf).

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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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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