

# NUTMEGGER



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LISTING



## WINTER 2024

### SNACT Vision

All CT students have access to nutritious school meals that promote a healthy lifestyle

### SNACT Mission

Provide school nutrition professionals with tools, resources and opportunities for program success and sustainability

### SNACT Values

Striving for excellence through:  
Integrity  
Commitment  
Inclusion  
Collaboration  
Dedication

*Rainbow veggie salad, Groton Public Schools*

## SNACT Fall Conference & Show

Photos on page 4 & 5



# SNACT BOARD

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<b>Program Development</b>	Diane Wilson (C), Tracey Winzer (C) Christine Benoit, Susan Maffe, Lynne Pellegrini, Beth Pratt
<b>Public Policy &amp; Legislation</b>	Maggie Dreher (C), Susan Maffe (C), Cindy Brooks, Ashley Carl, Dawn Crayco, Eileen Faustich, David Gelinias, Maureen Nuzzo, Erin Perpetua, Jeffrey Sidewater, Stuart Wisel and all regional reps
<b>CSDE Reps</b>	Shannon Yearwood, Greg King
<b>CASBO Rep</b>	Bernice Rizk

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy February everyone!

We have made it through the first half of the school year, I hope the second half brings sunshine and warmth.

It has been quite a busy first half, Our Annual Conference was amazing, so nice to see so many new faces!

Our Winter Warm up in January was a huge success, with compliments from attendees and industry.

We had an amazing Hot Topics with Melissa Decoffe and Lynn Pellegrini with our next one scheduled on February 9th hosted by Tyson Foods.

SNACT, SM4A and so many other partners are getting the word out that we need to carry on with free breakfast and eliminating the reduced status for next school year, everyone has a voice and should be heard? Be on the lookout for information from SNACT with how you can make YOUR voice heard.

And speaking of YOU-SNA's Annual National Conference is in Boston this year!! WOOHOO!!

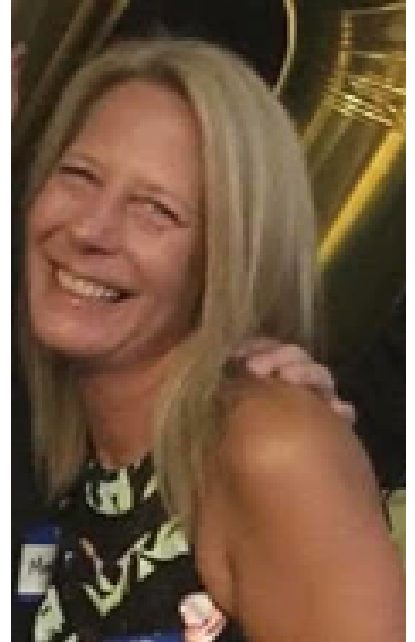
We hope to see so many of you there. Stay tuned for information on what we have planned (We will have SNACT Swag).

I was looking back on my Lunch Lady life and how 10 years ago I was the new girl in Groton and just earning my stripes, learning the ropes, finding MY voice... and now with the help of so many of you, my friends, I made it through my first Administrative Review, which is such a relief. More importantly 10 years ago I didn't have any of you on my side and I am a better person in all aspects of my life because of you.

The best parts of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut is the people, the friendships, the advice and yes even the opinions.

I look forward to the second half of my presidency and many more years in this association.

Kristina Roberge, SNACT President 2023-2024  
Food Service Coordinator, Groton Public Schools



# 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## Building the Future of Child Nutrition

October 13-14 2023

Our Fall Conference was held at Mohegan Sun, with  
Keynote Speaker Jon Colby.



# 2023 ANNUAL TRADE SHOW





# 2024 Position Paper

School meals are an essential investment in the future of America's children. They are [proven](#) to boost academic achievement, improve student behavior and health, and combat food insecurity and obesity. School meal programs are at a perilous juncture since Congress has allowed critical federal assistance to lapse while financial, operational and complex regulatory challenges escalate. *To ensure the long-term sustainability of school meal programs, the non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA) urges Congress to:*

- **Permanently increase federal reimbursement rates for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) by 40 cents per lunch and 15 cents per breakfast.**  
In a recent [SNA survey](#) of school meal program directors, virtually all (99.3%) reported challenges with increasing costs and fewer than 1 in 5 indicated the current reimbursement rate is sufficient to cover the cost of producing a lunch. Critical assistance for historically underfunded school meal programs is expiring; the loss of [Keep Kids Fed Act](#) reimbursements in July 2023, combined with the end of [Supply Chain Assistance funds](#) in September 2024, will force many districts to tap education funds to cover meal program losses. When asked about the financial sustainability of their programs in just three years, 91.6% of directors flagged concerns. Increased reimbursements are crucial to cover costs, enhance menus and support hiring and retention, as 90.5% of programs report challenges with staffing shortages.
- **Ensure USDA maintains the current, successful school nutrition standards, rather than implementing additional rules.**  
[Research](#) shows students eat their healthiest meals at school, thanks to current [nutrition standards](#) which already limit calories, fat and sodium and require fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat milk in meals. In School Year 2023-24, schools made additional sodium reductions and most [increased](#) scratch preparation (52.6%) and locally grown foods (55.6%) on menus.

Regardless of those efforts and despite a lack of any nutrition mandates for dining or retail foods, USDA has [proposed](#) even more restrictive, long-term school mandates that fail to account for known challenges, including palatability and student acceptance, as well as availability and pricing of prescriptive foods formulated solely for schools. Contending with skilled labor shortages, insufficient reimbursements and increasingly complex rules, many schools will be forced to rely on highly processed foods to meet additional mandates. Over 93% of school nutrition program directors have [expressed](#) concerns about proposed further sodium cuts and new milk and added sugar mandates. To keep students eating healthy school meals, USDA must support school nutrition professionals in their continued efforts to maintain the current, successful standards.

- **Expand NSLP/SBP to offer healthy school meals for all students at no charge.**  
School districts that offer free meals to all, through state initiatives or the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), have [reported](#) a variety of successes, including decreased stigma for low-income students as well as increased school meal participation and operational efficiencies. Of school meal programs that must now charge students for meals following the end of pandemic waivers, 92.8% report challenges with unpaid meal debt. Congress should ensure every student has equal access to nutritious school meals that support their academic achievement. SNA also supports federal and state proposals to advance this goal, including eliminating the reduced-price category and increasing the CEP multiplier.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The CT Legislative Session has begun! SNACT continues to advocate for school nutrition programs in CT. We are active members of the of the School Meals for All Coalition (SM4A). We held a legislative training session for members, led by our legislative strategist John Bailey of TCG and issue action alerts and updates to keep members up to date. As of this writing, Governor Lamont has included funding to continue universal breakfast and no cost meals for students who qualify for reduced meals in his budget and SNACT has been supportive. Check the SNACT website for updates!

We are also excited to have a sizable CT coalition attending LAC (SNA's Legislative Action Conference) and plan to meet with all of our elected Federal representatives while we are in DC.

**Ashley Carl, FSD Plainville Community Schools,  
representing SNACT during the January 24 Press  
Conference at the State House.**



# MISTLETOE MINGLE



Members had a great time at our mistletoe mingle on December 7 at Gouvert Vineyards!





# Congratulations to the winners of our 2023-2024 Elections

## **Vice President (Term: 2024-2025):**

**Randall Mel, Jr.** , Food and Nutrition Manager, Middletown Public Schools

## **Secretary (Term: 2024-2026):**

**Meghan Sullivan**, RD, CD-N, Director of Food and Nutrition,  
Pomperaug Regional School District 15

## **Industry Council Chair (Term: 2024-2026):**

**Jason Bloch**, McCain Foods

## **Regional Representatives**

**Charter Oak** (Term: completing 2023-2025 1 Year Term):

**Christopher Scoppetta**, RDN, Dir. of Food & Nutrition Service, Hartford Public Schools

**Minute Maid** (Term: 2024-2026):

**Mohegan** (Term: completing 2023-2025 1 Year Term):

**Carol Dodson**, Food Service Director, Montville Public Schools &  
**Kristina Roberge**, Food Service Coordinator, Groton Public Schools

**Naugatuck** (Term: 2024-2026): **Becky Tyrrell**, Food Service Director, Ed Advance

**Nutmeg** (Term: 2024-2026):



# WINTER WARM UP

Our January 9 Winter Warm Up started with a great conference featuring a CSDE presentation on Managing USDA Foods and 2 sessions led by Patrick Garmon of the Institute of Child Nutrition, followed by an afternoon trade show. A list of exhibitors is on our website!



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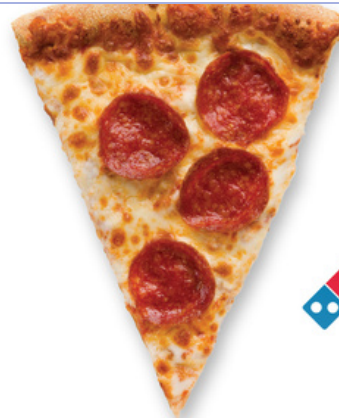
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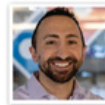
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# GOLD KIST CHICKEN

## Spring SCHOOL MENU

Spring into Flavor with our Chicken Fillets and Chicken Tenders!



### 7522 | WHOLE GRAIN BREADED Chicken Breast Fillets



Nutrition Facts	
113 servings per container	
Serving size 1 Piece	
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>230</b>
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 1g	2%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	3%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 20mg	4%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 16g	3%
Dietary Fiber 2g	4%
Total Sugars 1g	2%
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 21g	
Vit D 5mg 10%	Calcium 20mg 2%
Iron 1.2mg 2%	Potas. 41mg 8%

Fully-Cooked, Whole Grain Breaded, Skinless and Boneless Whole Muscle Chicken Breast Fillet.

1 piece serving size provides: 2 oz. equivalent M/MA and 1.25 oz. of grain equivalent.\*



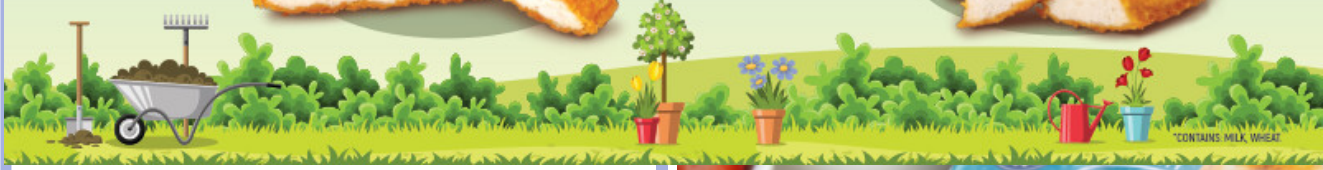
### 7572 | WHOLE GRAIN BREADED Chicken Breast Tenders



Nutrition Facts	
110 servings per container	
Serving size 3 Pieces	
Amount per serving	
<b>Calories</b>	<b>240</b>
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 1g	2%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	3%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 20mg	4%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 16g	3%
Dietary Fiber 2g	4%
Total Sugars 1g	2%
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 21g	
Vit D 5mg 10%	Calcium 20mg 2%
Iron 1.2mg 2%	Potas. 41mg 8%

Fully-Cooked, Whole Grain Breaded, Skinless and Boneless Whole Muscle Chicken Breast Tender.

3 piece serving size provides: 2 oz. equivalent M/MA and 1.25 oz. of grain equivalent.\*



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