



SNACT 2023 Conference

Building the Future of Child Nutrition

October 13, 2023

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs



CSDE in The Sun



- Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Hewes
- John Frassinelli
- Shannon Yearwood
- Susan Alston
- Fionnuala Brown
- Greg King
- Monica Pacheco
- Andy Paul





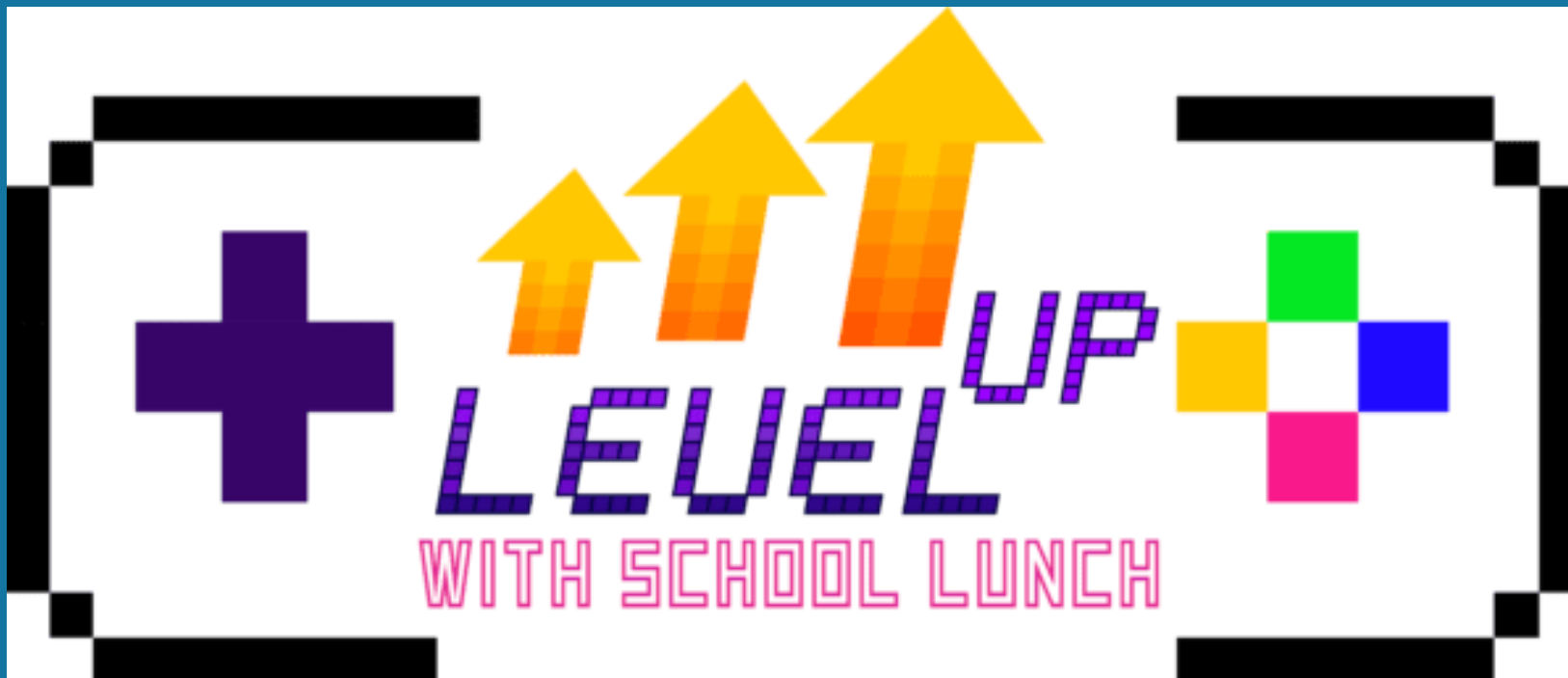
Today's Topics



- Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Updates
- Federal Updates
- State Updates
- Local Food for Schools Incentive Program
- Ask the CSDE!

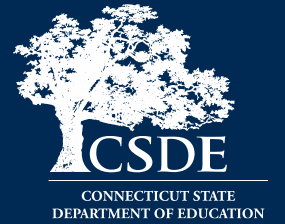


Happy National School Lunch Week!





CT Grown for CT Kids Week



■ FY 2023

- 72 applications
- 32 proposals funded
 - \$452,169 in grant awards





CSDE General Structure



Commissioner Russell-Tucker

Deputy
Commissioner
Sone-Moyano

Deputy
Commissioner Dr.
Hewes

Talent Office

Special
Education

Office of Student
Support Services

Performance
Office

Academic
Office

Turnaround
Office

Office of
Strategic
Planning &
Partnerships



CSDE Updates



- **Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs:**
 - Education Services Assistant, Child and Adult Care Food Program
 - Education Services Specialist, School Nutrition Programs

- **School Lunch Tray Table Talk (TT)**
 - Procurement 101 Training: October 19, 20
 - Next TT: November 2





CSDE Updates



[CT.gov Home](#) / [Department of Education](#) / [Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs](#)

Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs

[Overview](#)

[Documents/Forms](#)

[Laws/Regulations](#)

[Contact](#)

Provided by:
Department of Education

Overview

[School Nutrition Programs](#) | [Program Guidance](#) | [Forms](#) | [Resources](#) | [Nutrition Education](#)

This webpage contains current information for operating the USDA's school nutrition programs.

- [CSDE Waiver Requests to USDA](#)
- [Local Food for Schools Incentive Program \(LFSIP\)](#)
- [State Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses \(STABLE\)](#)

FEEDBACK +



Federal Updates



- **Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)**
 - Final Distribution Issued 9/17; childcare and Summer
 - P-EBT Local Administrative Cost Grant
- **Supply Chain Assistance – Round 4**
 - Opt in due October 27, 2023
 - Unaccepted funds will be redistributed
 - Domestic
 - Unprocessed or Minimally Processed
 - Liquid Milk* (LFSIP)





Federal Updates



The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 (PL 117-328)

- P-EBT, Summer: \$120/eligible child
- Summer Electronic Benefits for Children (SEBTC)
 - CSDE and DSS
 - \$40/child/month
 - 3-month expungement
 - Students in CEP schools, not Directly Certified, will have to apply
 - Statewide Application
 - 50/50 Administrative Costs
 - Goal: 2025





Federal Updates



The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 (PL 117-328)

- Rural, Non-congregate for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
 - EdAdvance
 - Torrington
 - Winchester
 - Montville
- Renames the Farm to School Program: to “Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program”
- Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)
 - June 30, 2022: +/- balance – may be exempted





Federal Updates



The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 (PL 117-328)

- Prohibits use of raw or processed poultry products into the U.S. from the People's Republic of China in any USDA CNP
- Crediting of Starchy Vegetables
 - Credit any vegetable offered, including potatoes and other starchy vegetables in place of fruit – SY 2022-23 & 2023-24 only





Federal Updates



Rules in Effect

- **Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule – NSLP highlights**
 - **Return to 5- year cycle: ARs & PRs**
 - July 1, 2024
 - **Some streamlining as applicable**
 - July 1, 2024
 - **Requires State directors of school nutrition programs, State directors of distributing agencies, and school nutrition program directors, management, and staff who work on NSLP procurement activities to complete procurement training annually.**
 - **August 23, 2024**



Federal Updates



Rules in Effect



- **Final Rule: Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP**
 - Numerous changes
 - CSDE was approved to delay implementation to January 1, 2024



Federal Updates



Rules in Effect

- **Final Rule: Child Nutrition Programs – CEP Increasing Options for Schools**
 - In effect October 26, 2023
 - Lowers threshold for eligibility from 40% Identified Student Percentage (ISP) to 25%
 - Does *not* increase 1.6 multiplier
 - CSDE approved for mid-year election waiver





State Updates



- **School Transition Assistance for Breakfast and Lunch Expenses (STABLE) funds**
 - **\$16 M for SY 2023-24**
 - **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) appropriation from CT General Assembly**
 - **Eliminates household charges for:**
 - **School Breakfast Program (SBP) meals***
 - **Reduced-priced National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meals**



** For sites that participated in SBP in SY 2022-23*



State Updates – New Opportunity



For SFAs that:

- ✓ Had zero or positive balance in nonprofit school food service account as of **June 30, 2022**
- ✓ Opt in to the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) exemption – *additional opportunity announced. Deadline to opt in: October 31, 2023*
- ✓ Want to lower or eliminate paid lunches for any period of time during SY 2023-24 only
- ✓ Include on the Financial Report due October 31, 2023



State Updates



Connecticut General Assembly – *Coming Soon*

- **Local Food for Schools Incentive Program**
 - **CT Department of Agriculture**
 - FY 24: \$350,000
 - FY 25: \$1,500,000

- **“Wholesome Meals” aka Chefs to Schools**
 - **5 Alliance Districts**
 - **Competitive**
 - **\$150,000 for each of three years (FY 24 – FY 26)**



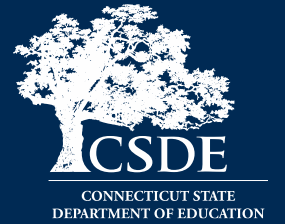


Questions





Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)



- Established by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) with funding through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)
- Purpose and authorization
 - Help states deal with pandemic-related supply chain disruptions
 - Strengthen food systems by helping to build a fair, competitive and resilient local food chain and expand local and regional markets



LFSIP



- **\$200 million allocated to states and territories**
 - \$1.873 million for Connecticut
- **Must be used exclusively to purchase local and regional unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products primarily from historically underserved and small producers**
- **Limited to school food authorities (SFAs) currently operating NSLP and/or SBP**
 - SFSP not eligible



LFSIP



Examples of unallowable products

- Baked goods such as breads, muffins, or crackers
- Prepackaged sandwiches or meals
- Prepared and/or pre-cooked items that come ready-to-eat or that require no further preparation beyond heating, e.g. chicken nuggets, fish sticks, pre-made pizzas
- **Fluid milk- CT specific**



LFSIP



LFSIP Phase 1

- **\$873,000 allocated to schools**
- **Base payment of \$2,000 to all eligible SFAs**
 - Additional proportional amount based on each SFA's share of statewide student enrollment
- **SFAs choose to elect or decline funds**
- **Must participate in Phase 1 to be eligible for Phase 2**



LFSIP



LFSIP Phase 1

- SFAs encouraged to work with socially disadvantaged and small business farmers and producers
- At least 80% of items purchased must be Connecticut Grown or produced
- Up to 20% can be sourced from producer within region (up to 400 miles)



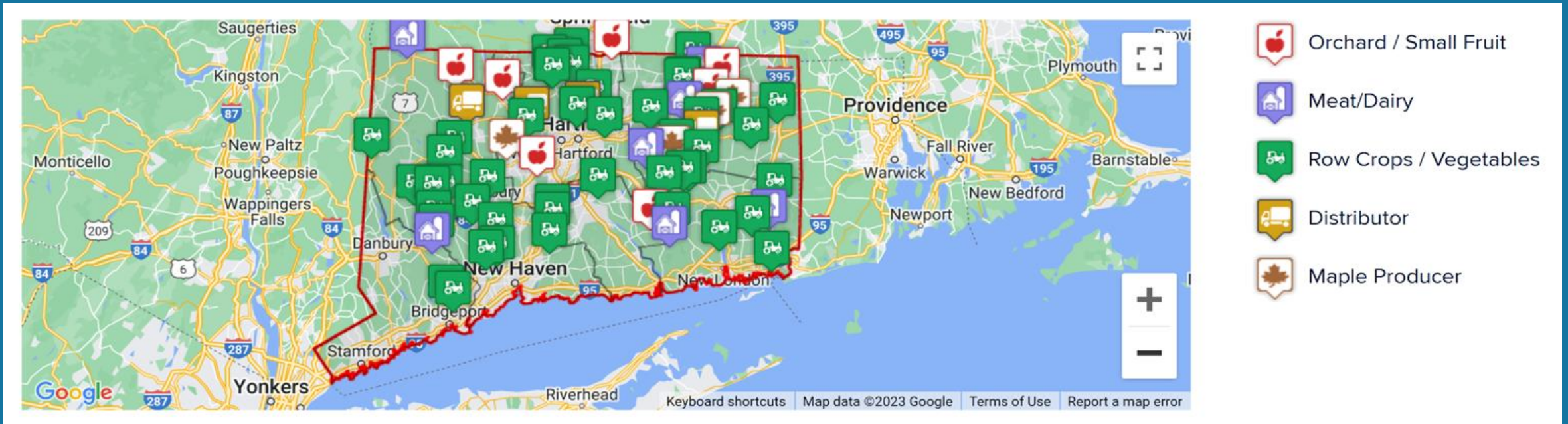
LFSIP



LFSIP Phase 1

- Technical Assistance (TA) Advisors are reaching out now
- Put local on your Tray
- Department of Agriculture
- University of Connecticut Extension Office

How do you find a Farm or Food Hub?



The image shows a map of Connecticut with various icons representing different types of farms and food hubs. The map includes major cities like Hartford, New Haven, and Providence, and major highways like I-95 and I-84. A legend on the right side of the map identifies the icons:

- Orchard / Small Fruit (Red apple icon)
- Meat/Dairy (Purple barn icon)
- Row Crops / Vegetables (Green tractor icon)
- Distributor (Yellow truck icon)
- Maple Producer (Brown maple leaf icon)

[Visit putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/farm/](https://putlocalonyourtray.uconn.edu/farm/)
<https://guide.ctnofa.org/>



LFSIP



LFSIP Phase 1

- SFAs will need to report monthly on purchases made- producer, product, how much was purchased, dollar amount should be recorded
- Current Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs-
 - [Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov)



LFSIP



Local Food for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP)

- [CSDE Operational Memorandum No. 14-23 !\[\]\(8ad829ebc770aeb8c34e7123d70b7292_img.jpg\)](#) : Local Food for Schools Incentive Program
- [Webinar: LFSIP Information Session](#)
- [Monthly Reporting Form: Monthly Local Foods for Schools Incentive Program \(LFSIP\) Reporting Form - Phase 1](#)



LFSIP



- **Once reports are reviewed, the funds will be reimbursed up to the total allocation amount noted in Operational Memorandum 14-23 for each SFA**
- **Phase 2 coming soon!**



LFSIP



- Let's look at the reporting tool-
- Monthly Local Foods for Schools Incentive Program (LFSIP) Reporting Form - Phase 1



LFSIP



Farmers Market

- Here today in the food show
- Farmers, TA Advisors, Resources
- Great time to ask questions



LFSIP



- For LFSIP questions-
- Monica Pacheco
- Monica.Pacheco@ct.gov



Questions



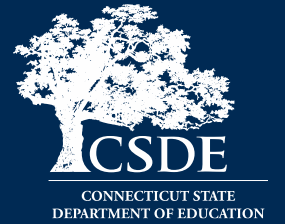


Ask the CSDE!





CSDE Child Nutrition Programs



School Nutrition Programs Staff	
County	Consultant
Fairfield County (includes Region 9) Litchfield County (includes Regions 1, 6, 7, 12, and 14)	Fionnuala Brown 860-807-2129, fionnuala.brown@ct.gov
Hartford County (includes Region 10) Middlesex County (includes Regions 4, 13, and 17)	Teri Dandeneau 860-807-2079, teri.dandeneau@ct.gov
New Haven County (includes Regions 5, 15, and 16)	Greg King 860-713-6804, greg.king@ct.gov
New London County Tolland County (includes Regions 8 and 19) Windham County (includes Region 11)	Susan Alston 860-807-2081, susan.alston@ct.gov

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/CNstaff/countyassign.pdf>



CSDE Child Nutrition Programs



Other Nutrition Programs Staff	
Program	Consultant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) • Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) • National School Lunch Program (NSLP) • School Breakfast Program (SBP) 	Contact your school nutrition team member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) • Food service management companies • NSLP procurement 	Andy Paul 860-807-2048, andrew.paul@ct.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Distribution Program (USDA Foods) 	Allison Calhoun-White 860-807-2008, allison.calhoun- white@ct.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm to school and school gardens • Food Distribution Program (USDA Foods) • NSLP procurement 	Monica Pacheco 860-807-2086, monica.pacheco@ct.gov



CSDE Child Nutrition Programs



Other Nutrition Programs Staff, continued

Program	Consultant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of NSLP• Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hartford County (includes Region 10)Litchfield County (includes Regions 1, 6, 7, 12, and 14)Tolland County (includes Regions 8 and 19)Windham County (includes Region 11)	<p>Caroline Cooke 860-807-2144, caroline.cooke@ct.gov</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Nutrition Programs websites• Healthy Food Certification (HFC)• Nutrition education and resources• School Lunch Tray and CACFP Updates• Special diets (meal modifications)	<p>Susan Fiore 860-807-2075, susan.fiore@ct.gov</p>



CSDE Child Nutrition Programs

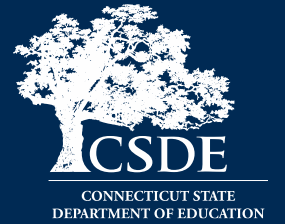


Other Nutrition Programs Staff, continued

Program	Consultant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants and contracts• NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant• Summer EBT for Children	<p>Sean Fogarty 860-807-2055, sean.fogarty@ct.gov</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Milk Program (SMP)• Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fairfield County (includes Region 9)Middlesex County (includes Regions 4, 13, and 17)New Haven County (includes Regions 5, 15, and 16)New London County• Summer EBT for Children	<p>Terese Maineri 860-807-2145, terese.maineri@ct.gov</p>



CSDE Child Nutrition Programs



Other Nutrition Programs Staff, continued	
Program	Consultant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) at-risk afterschool meals program	Susan Boyle 860-807-2074, susan.boyle@ct.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Division Director	John Frassinelli 860-807-2050, john.frassinelli@ct.gov
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bureau ChiefPandemic EBTSummer EBT for Children	Shannon Yearwood 860-807-2050, shannon.yearwood@ct.gov



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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

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