

# National School Lunch Program

Bulletin

[EED NSLP Bulletin Web Page](http://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/NSLP9.html)

***Child Nutrition Programs***

*Finance & Support Services*

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To: Local Educational Agencies Date:  February 7, 2020

From: Elizabeth Seitz, NSLP Program Coordinator Bulletin: 2020-6

***LEAs are required by regulation to keep Bulletins, Instructions, and USDA Policy Memorandums for reference and to apply immediately the appropriate instruction to agency programs. Call Child Nutrition Programs if you need further clarification.***

## USDA Policy, Information, & Implementation Memos

* SP04-2020 - Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures
* SP05-2020 - Questions & Answers Regarding Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel
* SP06-2020 - School Breakfast Program: Continuation of the Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit Flexibility
* SP07-2020 - Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2020-21
* SP20-2019 - Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds for Procurement, Applying the Simplified Acquisition Threshold in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Foods Service Program Procurement Standards, and School Food Authority Operations

## Additional Topics

* 2020 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Annual Training
* 2020 National Good Food Network Conference
* Webinar Recording: Institutionalizing School Garden Programming
* Greenhouse Manual: An Introductory Guide for Educators
* USDA Increases Guam and Virgin Islands Reimbursement Rates
* ***Updated*** Procurement Plan
* CNP-Web and Primero Edge User Authorizations
* Smart Snack Waiver

## Resources

* Connecting Classrooms, Cafeterias, Communities: A Guide to Building Integrated Farm to School Programs
* A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools
* National School Lunch Program Order Form
* ***Updated*** Food Buying Guide
* Listserv

## Grant Opportunities

* ***None at this time***

## USDA Policy, Information & Implementation Memos

* **SP04-2020 – Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures** This memorandum supersedes SP55-2016 CACFP 26-2016 SFSP 18-2016, *Meal Service During Unanticipated School and Day Care Closures,* September 9, 2016. During unanticipated school closures, State agencies and Program operators may determine that operating the SFSP and/or NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) is a feasible option.
* **SP05-2020 - Questions & Answers Regarding Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel** This policy memo includes responses to questions submitted by State agencies and program operators on specific aspects of the regulations. This memorandum rescinds and replaces SP38-2016, “Questions & Answers (Q&As) on the Final Rule ‘Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
* **SP06-2020 - School Breakfast Program: Continuation of the Substitution of Vegetables for Fruit Flexibility** This USDA memorandum addresses that School food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) may continue 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 June 30, 2021.
* **SP07-2020 - Paid Lunch Equity: Guidance for School Year 2020-21** USDA enacted on December 20, 2019; Congress provides that only SFAs that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2019, shall be required to establish process for paid lunches according to the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) provisions in Section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1760(p) and implemented in National School Lunch Program Regulations at 7CFR 210.14(e). ***Please note:*** *Alaska State agency completes the PLE Tool for all district in the state.*
* **SP20-2019 - Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds for Procurement, Applying the Simplified Acquisition Threshold in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Foods Service Program Procurement Standards, and School Food Authority Operations** This memorandum was released in the January bulletin.

## Additional Topics

* **2020 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Annual Training**

Interested in sponsoring a summer feeding program? Annual Training is required for all new and returning sponsors of the USDA Summer Food Service Program. The following training dates will be offered in February and March:

* + - In-person trainingfor all new and returning sponsorswill be heldin Anchorage at the **BP Energy Center, 900 E. Benson Blvd on Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**. Those traveling from outside of Anchorage will need to find their own hotel accommodations.
    - Distance-delivery training via WebEx for allnon-school sponsors, new and returning, will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.**
    - Distance-delivery training via WebEx for allschool district sponsors, new and returning, will be held on **Thursday, March 19, 2020 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM.**

Please contact Jennifer Cherian at [jennifer.cherian@alaska.gov](mailto:jennifer.cherian@alaska.gov) for a registration form. WebEx login and dial-in information will be sent via email prior to the distance-delivery training dates.

* **2020 National Good Food Network Conference**

*March 10-13, 2020 // New Orleans, Louisiana*  
This event will reflect on the gains and missteps of past decades of food systems work, examine models and practices that are working now, and co-create new strategies for food systems change. This is a conference for people working to create healthier, greener, and more accessible food systems and will amplify the voices of frontline communities. To gain a deeper understanding of the nuts and bolts of food systems development, tangible skills to strengthen your impact, and new connections for solidarity and support, follow this [link to register](https://www.winrock.org/ms/2020-ngfn-conference/).

* **Webinar Recording: Institutionalizing School Garden Programming**

This webinar recording features a special National Farm to School Network Partner Open Space presented in partnership with the School Garden Support Organization Network. The Open Space webinar features district-run school garden program directors from a small, medium and large school district sharing their experience and expertise in launching and maintaining district run garden programs. This webinar was recorded on December 12, 2020. [Watch here](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/webinar-archive-institutionalizing-school-garden-programming__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!6aVBM7G3R_5zNaGvUk_8OghHPFmApkONLuEzp1_BN_OIQSMyL4QHrv71FuiH4OBJ74eS-Q$).

* **Greenhouse Manual: An Introductory Guide for Educators**  
  United States Botanic Garden, the National Association for Appropriate Technology, and City Blossoms developed this freely available manual in response to an expressed need to help guide would-be greenhouse managers and educators as their schools explore ways to build new infrastructure or reinvest in existing greenhouse facilities. Its purpose is to support and expand the planting and use of school gardens and greenhouses, farm to school activities, and the integration of plant science in the curriculum. The manual lays out a basic understanding of greenhouses, how to integrate greenhouses into lessons, and how to use greenhouses in classroom curricula and after-school activities. [View the resource here](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.farmtoschool.org/resources-main/greenhouse-manual-an-introductory-guide-for-educators__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!6aVBM7G3R_5zNaGvUk_8OghHPFmApkONLuEzp1_BN_OIQSMyL4QHrv71FuiH4OB5268NWg$)
* **USDA Increases Guam and Virgin Islands Reimbursement Rates** In a [Federal Register notice](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001F0Mglmop863xWuCad5o4i6Lywl_dRg_Kejg3wlAtUR4e4MMD7NXJs7_AdYWDQhRhI6PRo3pIq625g6H1n0Jf29TagjbI72sk6vMwevmENbdIKIh7VJa4yf3UMViXwI8MHmRFGUUMaYT3AL0oRrAxxgbykgrVWVo6dTRoX9Xy8eQS_lHQW6GQf6z5mHqtmPNgAKRBFSZKx9qX-BAJ15yK9eVkcuJaf0UXULVhPyXVlQ-aEDE7SHl_mnABIAlnNIz-N-szC1tyjCvqp4kcMjSo9cDMX5p2XsVpgVBDxtfcj3NyBdHPlbAVC7D4Si2TBvkM0knWMHhoFwlE0c5J7e5bzA==&c=rITPpUt_GRoI2eYTozwjsj38Z3Hq5134fLdBfRaz67_z-mn0eQvNWA==&ch=rESfSDo_TI-28T1DSK8TcjzxqT9MFLTOXGJnJ1CJIMcVb8l_H4r6RA==__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!7ayFUwDTFAKLP6NBCLM4i3rq3oLnI_g4XCKEEEt_Yehp9f_tMoyHW_9U1M1GlzhpzwIjU-jc$), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) established new reimbursement rates for Guam and the Virgin Islands. This rate adjustment is in effect beginning July 1, 2019 for SY 2019-20. This 17 percent increase in the reimbursement rate is based on data indicating that the costs of producing school lunches, breakfasts, and snacks are higher than those in the continental United States, as well as other factors impacting both Guam and the Virgin Islands school meal programs.
* ***Updated* Procurement Plan**

Per USDA Policy Memo SP20-2019; CACFP07-2019; SFSP06-2019 federal procurement thresholds were increased: Micro-purchasing from $3,500 to $10,000 and formal from $150,000 to $250,000.  Local agencies do not have to increase local thresholds, but if they choose to, procurement plans and/or purchasing policies should also be adjusted.

* **CNP-Web and Primero Edge User Authorizations** Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) assigns a user name and password to nutrition and education staff when a User Authorization form is completed and submitted to CNP when access is needed for the claiming system (CNP-Web and Primero Edge), as part of the staff’s job duties. These forms state:

*“I will not share my user name and password in order to maintain the integrity of the data. If another user uses the CNP Web or Primero Edge under my user name and password and provides false information, I understand that I will be responsible for the information supplied to CNP.*

*I will notify the CNP immediately if my user name and password have been compromised. CNP will give me a new user name and password.*

*If I no longer need access to the CNP Web, I understand that it is my responsibility to submit a form to end access.”*

CNP staff have been noticing quite a number of user names and education staff that are sharing their user names and passwords which is **NOT ALLOWED**. When this occurs CNP staff will immediately turn off that user name’s access and that staff will be required to obtain a new user name and password. If this behavior continues we may be forced to deny access to the CNP-Web and Primero Edge for those staff members. Please be sure you are not sharing your user names with other staff. If a new member needs access they must submit a User Authorization form located on our web page:

[CNP-Web Access](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/nslp3)

[Primero Edge Access](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp/primero)

If you have any questions regarding this requirement you may contact me at [Elizabeth Seitz](mailto:Elizabeth.seitz@alaska.gov) (Elizabeth.Seitz@alaska.gov) or 907.465.8709 or [Debbie Soto](mailto:Debbie.soto@alaska.gov) (Debbie.soto@alaska.gov) or 907.465-8712.

* **Smart Snack Waiver** This notice serves as a reminder that the waiver request process is an **annual** requirement; a new request form and all supporting documentation—including an Implementation Assessment of your Wellness Policy—must be submitted for approval each year.

To find out more information on Smart Snacks including the waiver form and Competitive Foods you can check out our web page at: [Competitive Foods (Smart Snacks)](https://education.alaska.gov/tls/cnp/competfoods.html)

## Resources

* **Connecting Classrooms, Cafeterias, Communities: A Guide to Building Integrated Farm to School Programs**The newly published [Vermont FEED Guide](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/vtfeed.org/resources/connecting-classrooms-cafeterias-communities-guide-building-integrated-farm-school__;!!J2_8gdp6gZQ!_itx_CGefte05j9l_Ny3VcgdorOABM3k_J7uwqgxySugA1VeEPlJn8ELLE-AHAVSptRCQw$) is intended to support school communities in developing robust, long lasting, and integrated farm to school programs, addressing whole school change. It reflects 20 years of practice, evaluative research, and innovation in the field.  The guide is organized around farm to school action planning, a step-by-step process to help you assemble a team, identify shared goals, and plan and conduct strategic activities. In addition, it provides valuable content on classroom curriculum, school meal programs, and community building. The guide is filled with useful templates, curricular design strategies, and creative ways to communicate and celebrate farm to school success. Available for free download and to purchase as a hard copy with this [link.](https://vtfeed.org/resources/connecting-classrooms-cafeterias-communities-guide-building-integrated-farm-school)
* **A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools** This Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools is a helpful resource for anyone managing school vending machines, fundraisers, or snack bars to better understand the Smart Snacks standards. If you are interested in getting printed copies of this guide you may go to the following link:

[A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-smart-snacks-schools) and submit a request with USDA.

* ***Updated* Food Buying Guide** USDA has finally released the updated Food Buying Guide to help nutrition staff with understanding when purchasing foods, such as how much is in a #10 can of peaches or the number of portions you get from 20 pounds of ground beef. You can download the [Food Buying Guide](https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Appendix/DownLoadFBG).
* **Listserv**- Did You Know? Alaska Child Nutrition Programs has a listserv. The purpose of the listserv is to provide information and updates on the USDA Child Nutrition Programs, including the National School Lunch Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

To receive all of the hottest news and updates from Alaska Child Nutrition Programs, Subscribe to ak\_child\_nutrition\_programs by filling out the form found here: [Alaska Child Nutrition Programs ListServ](http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/ak_child_nutrition_programs).

You will receive a confirmation link via email which you should click to complete your subscription.

## Grant Opportunities

* ***None at this time.***

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**DATE: EVENT:**

**February 1st Verification Summary Collection Report DUE**

**February 15th Self-Monitoring review for Counting and Claiming should be done for all sites and at least 50% of Breakfast sites**

**February 15th Self-Monitoring review for Afterschool Snack or At-Risk Meals Programs at least the first self-monitoring should be done.**

**April 15th Applications for Provision Operations DUE**

This institution is an equal opportunity