Community of Practice Call

COVID-19 Emergency Food Service
May 6, 2021

Paloma Perez Bertrand
Multicultural Nutritionist
LunchAssist

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CALIFORNIA FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS®

California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy
LunchAssist PRO
SY 20-21 Professional Development and The Collective
agenda

- district spotlights
- policy + funding updates
- CDC updates
- resources, grants, events
- panel discussion

usda professional standards

1130, 3240, 3450, 4110, 4120, 4150

1 hour of professional development

Photo: Borrego Springs Unified School District
one remaining call!

JUNE

3

join us...

9:00-10:15 a.m. PST / 12:00-1:15 p.m. EST
district spotlights
borrego springs unified school district, ca
lucia mar unified school district, ca
lucia mar unified school district, ca
lucia mar unified school district, ca
orcutt union school district, ca
orcutt union school district, ca
orcutt union school district, ca

Taste of California Challenge Grant Recipient

congrats!
THANK YOU TO OUR HEROES!

Thank You

#SchoolNutritionHeroes
policy + funding
Policy updates | Federal

12 new waivers:

- **All schools** may serve meals for free under the SSO until **6/30/22**
  - no area eligibility waiver required!
  - allowable for open and/or closed sites
- SFSP reimbursement rates paid for SSO meals
- State reimbursement on top of that! (CA)

Kids Eat Free
policy updates | federal

extended until June 30, 2022:

- non-congregate meals service
- meal time requirements
- parent meal pick-up
policy updates | federal

meal pattern waivers:

● current SSO meal pattern waiver expires on the first day of SY 21-22

● new SSO meal pattern waiver for SY 21-22
  ○ age grade groups & sodium should be easily waived
  ○ all other areas should be in compliance with the meal pattern unless there are truly extenuating circumstances
  ○ waivers will need to be approved on a case-by-case basis
policy updates | federal

summer food service program (SFSP):

- current SFSP meal pattern waiver expires 6/30/21
- all other SFSP flexibilities expire on 9/30/21
policy updates | federal

child and adult care food program (cacfp):

- area eligibility waiver extended until 6/30/22
virtual reviews:

- administrative reviews
- site monitoring
Summer is on the way. This Summer Meals Food Safety Training Guide is a resource you can use to train your staff on important food safety practices that help keep food safe for the children you are feeding. Site managers can use this guide as a reference with food safety reminders and best practices. Each page has quick information on different topics that cover your training needs. A list of additional resources available from the Institute of Child Nutrition can be found at the back of the training guide. The information presented in the training guide may or may not apply to all summer meals sites, so adapt it to your summer meals program as applicable. The three sections in the training guide promote key food safety practices essential to a successful summer meals site.

- Practicing good personal hygiene
- Checking and documenting food safety temperatures
- Proper cleaning and sanitizing

These practices help ensure that the food children consume is safe and reduce the risk of a foodborne outbreak. A foodborne outbreak at a summer meals site could result in multiple children and staff becoming sick, bad publicity, and possibly cause the shutdown of the site.

This free, downloadable training guide can be found at TheICN.org/FoodSafety. The Summer Meals Food Safety Training Guide, along with posters and tip cards, are available in English and Spanish. Printed copies of the posters and tip cards are available for order by email to helpdesk@theicn.org.

**Attention School Nutrition Managers!** Take a quick 3-question survey to help ICN develop a resource for new or aspiring school nutrition managers. Click below to provide your feedback on ways that ICN can best develop a resource for School Nutrition Leadership for Managers. This course will provide new or aspiring school nutrition managers the information and tools to succeed in their job.

Click here for the survey: [https://bit.ly/3g3MNDA](https://bit.ly/3g3MNDA)

**The Policy Pulse with LunchAssist**

Love Letters from Waiver Land

LunchAssist | Jennifer McNeil, RDN, SNS

On April 20th, the USDA released the [waiver process](https://bit.ly/34xLxY3) allowing all schools to extend their meals program through June 10, 2023. Justice for George and Walters for Kids, the organization that created the waiver, is proud to see this important issue of childhood nutrition.

- **To summarize:** Waiver #4 is actually just a summary of all the new waivers.
- **To understand:** Waivers #4 is a tool that helps you manage your meals program.
- **To use:** Waivers #4 is a tool that helps you manage your meals program.

**Free Meals for All**

The most impactful waiver is #4B. This allows all schools to operate the Seamless Summer Option during SY 21-22 in lieu of the National School Lunch or Breakfast Programs. Schools can do so regardless of whether they qualify for the waiver. This waiver will allow schools to provide meals to students for the first day of SY 21-22. Worked out to lower reimbursement rates with SSPD. Keep reading.

Money, Money, Money

We are excited about waiver #4B. Yes! This provides SSPD reimbursement for all students served during SY 21-22. Waiver #4B is a big relief for schools that will be dependent on SSPD to support their programs. For the US states that provide extra reimbursement, we reckon you'll get states 5 on top of the SSPD rates, resulting in much higher reimbursement checks. **Make it Rain.**

**The Basics**

- **Non-Discrimination Meal Service, Meal Time Requirements, and Parent Meal Pick Up waivers have all been extended, allowing schools to continue to get off their meal service, home delivery, and other types of innovative meal service.**

**What’s for Lunch?**

Two trends in school meal patterns have been created for this school year during SY 21-22. In short, USDA expects folks to follow the meal patterns, except for the school’s requirements because let’s be honest, these are a bit aggressive. \#8

**Area Eligibility**

We’ve received a lot of questions about the Area Eligibility waivers, which are under the Area Eligibility waiver #9. This does not apply to Alternative Programs and Day Care homes. That’s it. Waiver #9 allows all schools to operate under SSPD and pretty much eliminates the need for an Area Eligibility Waiver. **#8

**What about SSPD?**

As far as we can tell, most flexibility for the SSPD will continue until June 30, 2023. Remember, Waiver #85 mandates that schools serve a meal to students on days 90 days or longer. **#8

**Audits**

Thanks to Waivers #4B-6, site monitoring and Administrative Reviews will continue to be completed virtually. Am you scheduled for an Administrative Review during SY 21-22? If yes, you definitely want to join the IR Boot Camp. Click here to learn more.

**Hungry for More?**

Register for the first two communities of practice calls on May 4th and June 1st.

**LunchAssist**

LunchAssist is the newest community of school nutrition professionals. We are committed to providing access to hundreds of school nutrition resources and over 12 hours of fun and empowering professional development specifically designed for the school year. Ask what all the buzz is all about by visiting [www.lunchassist.org](http://www.lunchassist.org).
CDE town hall highlight reel + summer waiver cheat sheet

exclusively for members of LunchAssist PRO
policy updates | california

**SB 364: The School Meals for All Act of 2021**

- make school meals free for all students in every CA school
- provide $0.25/meal for California-grown food
- establish grants for up to $30,000/school site for training and equipment on freshly-prepared food
- provide low-income families with EBT during school breaks
policy updates | california

SB 364: The School Meals for All Act of 2021... passed policy committees:

- sen. education committee
- sen. health and human services committee

...with unanimous, bipartisan support! 🎉
policy updates | california

support from 177 organizations:
policy updates | california

food service director champions

“My colleagues in School Nutrition and I have seen firsthand the students that go hungry when they do not have money to pay for school meals. Free school meals for all should not end when the waivers expire.”

**Stephanie Bruce**, Palm Springs Unified School District

“We need to provide funding to ensure every student has their needs met so that they are prepared to learn. The time for Universal Meals is now.”

**Jennifer LeBarre**, San Francisco Unified School District
policy updates | california

4 ways to support CA school meals for all:

1. Sign on to the budget letter
2. Send in your own letter to senate appropriations
3. Share a quote with us about your support for school meals for all
4. Amplify the calls to action on social media
CDC update
resources · events · grants
**SY 21-22 AR Boot Camp**

**Camp Schedule**

Camp officially starts in Spring 2021, but enrollment is on a rolling basis, which means you can join anytime! If you are joining us later in the year, just be sure to start from the beginning and watch the recordings of the live events, so you don’t miss a beat!

**Welcome to Camp! Camp Begins 5/5/21!**

- **Live Kick-Off Event**

**Session 1:** Get a Jump Start! Available 5/5 on LunchAssist PRO
- **Introduction to the AR Boot Camp**
- **Survival Tips**
- **Administrative Review 101**
- **Professional Standards & Summer Outreach**
- **Local School Wellness Policy & Trasional Assessment**
- **Resource Management 101**

**Session 2:** Preparing for the Review! Available 6/4 on LunchAssist PRO
- Off-Site Assessment (OAT)
  - Overview of each section of the OAT
  - The LunchAssist OAT Answer Key
  - Preparing Menu Documentation
  - Planning for the Meal Observation
  - Ace your Entrance Visit

**Session 3:** Wrapping Up & Next Steps! Available 6/1 on LunchAssist PRO
- Filling Corrective Actions
- Staying “Audit Ready” in non-review years

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**Dates**

**SY 21-22 AR Boot Camp Dates & Session Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Self-Guided</td>
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**Who Is This For?**

This Boot Camp is for YOU!
- New Nutrition Directors
- Experienced Directors
- Districts or Charters
- Directors in every state
- Others who function as the School Nutrition Director

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**What’s Included?**

- Self-Guided Modules
- Off-Site Assessment Checklist
- Monthly Gatherings + Private Facebook Group
- Policy Templates, Tutorials, Checklists
- Live Kick-Off Event
- 1:1 Coaching (Optional)

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**What is the Investment?**

- Early Bird | $750* if registered by June 30, 2021
- Standard | $1,500* from July 1, 2021

*Are you already a LunchAssist PRO Member? Existing PRO members receive a $250 discount.

For more information and to join, visit www.lunchassist.org/ARBootCamp
Welcome back, Mickinzie Lopez

This Boot Camp will prepare you for all elements of the SNP Administrative Review: physical, mental, and emotional. To succeed, you need to commit to watching each module and attending each monthly gathering, or watching the recording if you cannot attend. If you can make that commitment to us, then we commit to providing you with the tools you need to perform at the highest level.

Below are some quick links that will be helpful throughout the Boot Camp:

- AR Boot Camp Welcome Packet
- Team Registration Link for Monthly Gatherings
- SY 21-22 AR Boot Camp Private Facebook Group
- Q&A Forum

Important Dates:
- 5/3/21 - Kick-Off Event
- 5/11 - Session 1 Available
- 6/2/21 - Monthly Gathering
- 8/4/21 - Monthly Gathering
- 9/1/21 - Session 2 Available
- 9/11/21 - Monthly Gathering
- 10/9/21 - Monthly Gathering
- 11/12/21 - Session 3 Available
- 12/2/21 - Monthly Gathering
- 1/3/22 - Monthly Gathering
- 3/3/22 - Monthly Gathering
- 4/9/22 - Monthly Gathering
How to Complete the Triennial Assessment

Wellness Policy   Apr 22, 2021

It's time to tackle the Triennial Assessment (aka the LSWP's naughty cousin). Due June 30, 2021, this federal requirement applies to all schools or districts operating the National School Lunch Program (including SSO) and/or School Breakfast Program.

In this post, we'll explain why the Triennial Assessment is actually pretty important, explain
Resources | Summer Staffing

**Tips for Staffing Summer Meals Programs**

No Kid Hungry gathered advice from summer nutrition heroes who have found innovative ways to ensure that their programs stay afloat in the summertime with passionate and dedicated staff. Below are some of their recommended strategies for staffing summer meals programs.

**Employ Teens**

Employing teens can benefit your summer meals program in so many ways, while also giving teenagers the opportunity for meaningful and paid summer work experience.

Benefits for the summer meals program:

- **Employing teens builds trust with kids in the community**: Employing teens as site staff not only makes sites more comfortable for children to attend, but also gives younger kids mentors to look up to. When Kids at their local (KCI) began employing teens at their summer meals sites, they found that kids kept coming back, and they saw a 30% increase in participation.

- **Teens put in hard work**: In Burke County, GA, about half of the summer nutrition staff are teens. Donna Martin, the school nutrition director, reports that the teens who work for the program are incredibly hard workers who are willing to take on any role. She finds that her employees who are athletes (many play on the football team) even enjoy lifting moving boxes from storage to production and loading and unloading.

- **Training and experience**: As great on resumes, help set up the program, do just about any job in the summer meals program, from meal prep, cooking, and loading buses, etc.

- **Staff to get the word out, including work-study coordinators, the football coach, and others**: To help students fill out the application and ask questions. Once Wicome session or two to help them fill out the paperwork and set up.

- **Increase in participation**: Mail and local news outlets.

- **Increase in participation**: Two to help students fill out the application and ask questions. Once Wicome session or two to help them fill out the paperwork and set up a bank account, if that’s available to your program. (Bonus: teens are getting and setting up their first bank accounts)

- **Increase in participation**: In advertisements:

  - **Locals**
  - **Students**
  - **Parents**
  - **Schools**
  - **Businesses**
  - **Nonprofits**
  - **Community organizations**

- **Increase in participation**: Allow for a week off for a summer vacation, be sure to mention it!

- **Increase in participation**: As the summer meals program is the best idea ever.

  - Donna Martin, Burke County (GA)
upcoming events

- **May** | No Kid Hungry California nominate a hunger hero
  - must nominate an individual (not a group)
  - must be school employee or community organization & agency staff/volunteer
  - must be a member within that community

- **May 17-19** | CAFF’s week of action
  - 3 day free event open to all

- **May 21** | USDA executive order
  - response to agricultural and food supply chains
  - submit public comments at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
upcoming events

- **chef ann foundation** | the state of school food post COVID
  - 6 question survey
  - May 15th deadline

- **health-e pro** | financial fitness training
  - Free training for school food professionals
  - Earn professional development credits

- **CICN** | culinary platform for school nutrition professionals
  - Updated webinar series
  - The mix up podcast series
upcoming events

- **USDA | seeding success 2021**
  - farm to school compost & till l planning for farm to school beyond the “now”
  - may 13th 2:30 pm CST

- **SNA & CDC Foundation | best practices for covid-19 prevention and reopening schools**
  - may 19th from 3-4:15 pm CST
  - SNA membership required

- **Lean & Green Kids | lesson 9**
  - celebrating mexican culture
  - “live. love. eat plants!” pinto bean cultural connection
  - may 15 | recorded session
national grant & policy resource

- **Sprouts Farmers Market** | neighborhood grant
  - $2,500-$10,000 award
  - for community-level organizations providing nutrition education and healthy food access programs to kids
  - **May 31** | applications due

- **NextGen** | California advocacy 101
  - 3 page PDF document
panel discussion
panelists

Donna S. Martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
Burke County Board of Education (GA)

Jennifer Lew-Vang, RD
Turlock Unified School District (CA)

Maureen Pisanick, RD, LD
Pisanick Partners, LLC (OH)
leadership
burke county schools

donna martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
burke county schools

donna martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
burke county schools

donna martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
leadership
turlock unified

jennifer lew-vang, RD
turlock unified

jennifer lew-vang, RD
communication
pisaniick partners

maureen pisanick, RD, LD
It's more than just free meals!

Districts should still be encouraging their families to complete the meal applications to ensure continued funding to support the entire district!

- Athletics: Discounted fees for pay to play
- School Funding: Increased funding to support students’ access to top-notch education
- Computer Network: Additional funding for internet access & wireless service
- College Applications: Discounts for fees associated with college application processes
- Standardized Tests: Discount fees for SAT, ACT & AP tests
- School Meals: Free or reduced price for nutritious & balanced school meals
pisanick partners

maureen pisanick, RD, LD
"communication"
Welcome to the School Nutrition Program

"Learning to eat right is just part of the education process"

The School Nutrition Program serves Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks and Supper in all five schools and satellites Breakfast and Lunch to Burke County Academy of Success, the Life Center and Early Head Start.

ALL BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

Burke County Public Schools participate county-wide in a program that is intended to encourage students to enjoy wholesome, nutritious meals at school while eliminating paperwork for parents. The program, called the Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP, is funded by the US Department of Agriculture as a means of ensuring students get the food they need to do their best at school. Studies show that when students are hungry, they are often distracted in the classroom, they are absent from school more often and score lower on standardized tests. This new Federally-funded program will allow all students attending Burke County Public Schools to receive breakfast and lunch at school at no cost to the student or their household, and no school meal application is required.

Welcome to the School Nutrition Program

Menu
Weekly Box Recipes
Enrichment Handouts
Preparing and Eating Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Allergies in Minutes
Burke County Free/Reduced Statistics
burke county schools

donna martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
burke county schools

donna martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
relationships
relationships
pisianick partners

maureen pisanick, RD, LD
teamwork
discussion