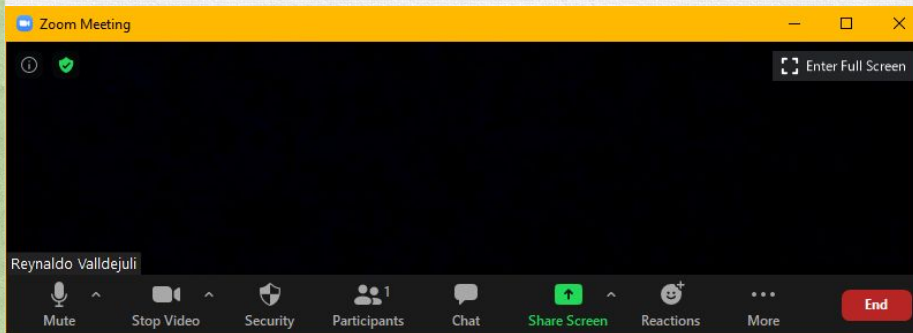


Zoom Meeting Preparation

- Please make sure your phone or computer is muted to minimize background noise.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Mute.”
- Please make sure you have turned off your camera to save bandwidth and prevent any connectivity issues.
 - To do this, hover over the bottom left-hand side of your screen and click “Stop Video.”
- Please submit questions during the presentation in the “Chat” function located on the bottom of your screen.



If you require an interpreter or have other accessibility needs for future LDOE meetings, please contact LDOEcommunications@la.gov.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Nutrition Support Monthly
Call
August 2, 2022**

Agenda

- Online Application
- Reimbursement Rates for SY 22-23
- Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) and Local Level Funding
- Possible COVID Specific Instance Waivers
- Additional SY 22-23 Flexibilities
- Transitional Standards on Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium
- eScholar Updates and CEP Manager
- Training Updates
- Other Program Reminders





Online Application for SY 2022-2023



Online Application

- The School Food Service Online application is now open and accessible through the CNP website (<http://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov>) .
- Deadline for submission is **Friday, August 19, 2022.**
- The following seven (7) forms must be completed for participation in SY 22-23:
 - Waivers
 - Policy Checklist
 - Schedule A
 - Collection Procedures
 - Collection Officials
 - Labor Expenses
 - Income and Expenses

[Memo SFS-22-x157](#)

Online Application Updates

Please note:

- On the Income and Expense form, a line item has been added to record the income from the SCA funds
- If the labor income does not import in Labor Expenses, please make adjustments on the Income and Expense form



Reimbursement Rates for SY 22-23



NSLP Rates

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES

Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof

Effective for the School Year Beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ^{1,3}		LESS THAN 60%	LESS THAN 60% + 8 cents ²	60% OR MORE	60% or MORE + 8 cents ²	MAXIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM RATE + 8 cents ²
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.77	0.85	0.79	0.87	0.85	0.93
	REDUCED	3.93	4.01	3.95	4.03	4.10	4.18
	FREE	4.33	4.41	4.35	4.43	4.50	4.58
ALASKA	PAID	1.01	1.09	1.03	1.11	1.11	1.19
	REDUCED	6.37	6.45	6.39	6.47	6.62	6.70
	FREE	6.77	6.85	6.79	6.87	7.02	7.10
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.84	0.92	0.86	0.94	0.92	1.00
	REDUCED	4.60	4.68	4.62	4.70	4.79	4.87
	FREE	5.00	5.08	5.02	5.10	5.19	5.27

SBP Rates

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM³		NON-SEVERE NEED	SEVERE NEED
<i>Temporary Additional Breakfast Reimbursement</i>			
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.50	0.50
	REDUCED PRICE	1.96	2.37
	FREE	2.26	2.67
ALASKA	PAID	0.69	0.69
	REDUCED PRICE	3.23	3.91
	FREE	3.53	4.21
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.55	0.55
	REDUCED PRICE	2.31	2.79
	FREE	2.61	3.09

Snack Rates

AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS		
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.09
	REDUCED PRICE	0.54
	FREE	1.08
ALASKA	PAID	0.16
	REDUCED PRICE	0.87
	FREE	1.75
GUAM, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO and VIRGIN ISLANDS	PAID	0.11
	REDUCED PRICE	0.63
	FREE	1.26



Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) and Local Level Funding



Summer 2022 P-EBT

- All students in K-12 schools are eligible if they receive free or reduced-priced meals and were in school in May 2022.
- Eligible children will receive a total payment of \$391 to cover June and July. Payments will be issued in two installments.
 - First payment: \$195
 - Second payment: \$196
- Benefits will be issued beginning in late summer and into the autumn months and will be issued on the same card that was received for the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school year.

Summer 2022 P-EBT Benefits

Eligibility Requirements

- Students attended school at least 1 day in May 2022.
- Students whose school they attended in May, participated in CEP in SY 21-22 or qualified for free/reduced price meals under the NSLP/SBP. This includes:
 - Students who received P-EBT benefits during May 2021 including those who graduated.
 - Students who were eligible for free or reduced price school meals under the NSLP or SBP in SY 21-22 or attended a CEP school in May.
- Children who are determined newly eligible for free or reduced priced meals, including those who submitted free/reduced price lunch applications by COB Friday, July 29, 2022.

Meals Applications and P-EBT

The school meal application is used to determine eligibility for free or reduced priced meals and, by extension, P-EBT eligibility.

SFAs must make applications available as needed to certify children for free and reduced-priced meals and may be used to qualify newly eligible children for summer 2022 P-EBT benefits

Please be aware that the deadline for families to apply for free and reduced priced meals to qualify for Summer 2022 P-EBT is July 29, 2022.

Summer Data File Submission



The Summer Data File submissions must be submitted via the [P-EBT Admin Portal](#). You must have a school system MyLA.GOV account to access the portal.

Submission Deadline

All summer data should be submitted by **Aug. 31, 2022**, but preferably data will be submitted prior to the deadline so that file errors can be identified and corrected. Any submission beyond Aug. 31st should be only for students who submitted late free/reduced lunch applications which took additional time to approve.

Summer Data File Submission

The Summer Data File can be downloaded from the [P-EBT Toolbox](#). All fields are the same except:

- Student must have attended school at least 1 day in May 2022
- The student must either qualify for free/reduced lunch or attended a CEP school in May 2022.
- No Tier determination
- Method of Instruction should always be “Summer”
- Month Enrolled (Benefit Month) should be “June 2022” or “July 22”

U	V	W	X
State Site Code	Site Name	Method of Instruction	Month Enrolled (Benefit Month)
		Summer	Jun-22
		Summer	Jul-22

P-EBT Fund Expungement

All federal benefits issued (including P-EBT) by DCFS have a 9-month time limit for use. The timer is reset to 9 months each time a purchase is made.

Families were sent letters to inform recipients that they have benefits that will soon expire. If they make a purchase, the timer will be reset. If they don't, any remaining benefits will be lost.

However, the card and the case are still active and any future benefits will be added to their card with the same 9-month time limit.

LDOE is continuing to receive inquiries regarding fund expungement.

P-EBT Communications

DCFS has updated the P-EBT FAQs to better answer the questions they are receiving from parents: <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/pebt-louisiana-faqs>

In addition, new step-by-step videos for the P-EBT Parent Portal have been released at <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/pebt-parent-portal-video>





Support

Support Toolboxes

- [Data Manager Toolbox](#)

Helpful Links

- [PEBT website](#)
- [Parent Portal](#) / [LA CAFÉ login](#)

Contacts

- Support Response: DCFS.PEBTSupport@la.gov
- DCFS Helpdesk for Parents: 1-888-524-3578 or 1-888-LAHELPU
- EBT Card Center Helpdesk: 1-888-997-1117

We will continue to hold office hours each Tuesday at 10 am at <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98060200750>



Coming Soon: FY 2022 P-EBT Local Level Funding

In addition to benefits awarded directly to families, USDA has made funding available to all operators of the National School Lunch (NSLP) and National School Breakfast (SBP) responsible for activities related to the FY 2022 State Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT).

FY 22 P-EBT are all P-EBT activities that:

- Occurred between October 2021 – September 2022 in conjunction to P-EBT benefits issued for school year 2021-2022 and summer 2022.

LDOE will award a specified dollar amount to all eligible entities based on the number of P-EBT eligible children (same process utilized for FY 21 P-EBT Local Level Funding)

*Eligible program operators will not be required to submit an application to receive the funds

More information to come in the next few months.



Possible COVID Specific Instance Waivers



Possible COVID Specific Instance Waivers

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Parent/Guardian Pick-Up
- Meal Service Times
- Offer versus Serve

These waivers are NOT Nationwide Waivers.

Possible COVID Specific Instance Waivers

These waivers are only to be granted for COVID instances when congregate feeding is limited.

These waivers are intended to be a “safety net” if COVID cases spike over the summer months.

Only approved for short durations of time

Approval will be based on specific criteria related to COVID instances

Possible COVID Waivers: NSLP/SBP

Non-Congregate Meal Service

- Waives the requirement that meals must be served in a congregate setting

Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up

- Waives the requirement that meals may only be served directly to children

Meal Service Times

- Waives the requirements that set meal time parameters for school lunch and breakfast

Offer versus Serve

- Waives the requirement to serve school lunches to high school students using offer versus serve

Effective until June 30, 2023 but only in instances when congregate service is limited because of COVID

Possible COVID Waivers: FFVP

Parent Guardian Pick Up

- Allows SFAs to provide FFVP foods to parents or guardians of children whose elementary school is closed and who are learning virtually

Alternate Site

- Allows the SA to approve SFAs participating in FFVP to provide FFVP foods at sites that are not FFVP elementary schools when FFVP elementary schools are closed

Effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Only to be implemented when congregate meal service is limited because of COVID

Possible COVID Waivers: Unanticipated School Closures

Non-Congregate Meal Service

- Waives the requirement that meals must be served in a congregate setting

Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up

- Waives the requirement that meals may only be served directly to children

Meal Service Times

- Waives the requirements that set meal time parameters

Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures

- Waives the requirement that limits the operation of SFSP during an unanticipated school closure to non-school sites

Effective October 1, 2022- April 30, 2023

Possible COVID Waivers: CACFP

Non-Congregate Meal Service

- Waives the requirement that meals must be served in a congregate setting

Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up

- Waives the requirement that meals may only be served directly to eligible participants

Meal Service Times

- Waives the requirements that set meal time parameters

Onsite Monitoring Requirements

- Waives the on-site monitoring requirements and allows for monitoring through off-site means

Effective July 1, 2022- June 20, 2023



Additional SY 2022-2023 Flexibilities



School Year Administration

Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment

- Provides a new triennial assessment deadline of June 30, 2023, instead of June 30, 2022

Food Service Management Company Contract Duration

- Permits SFAs and SFSP Sponsors to extend existing FSMC contracts that would not otherwise be eligible for extension through June 30, 2023

Administrative Review Onsite Requirements

- Excludes the onsite monitoring requirements and allows for off-site monitoring processes

Effective through June 30, 2023 and should be used only for the extent and duration needed

Additional Flexibilities

Paid Lunch Equity

- Waives the Paid Lunch Equity requirements for SY 2022-2023
- Pertains to the school lunch prices for SY 2022-2023

Carryover Eligibility (NSLP/SBP)

- **Allows schools that operated SSO in ST 2021-2022 to use the most recent free or reduced priced determinations since SY 2019-2020 during the 30-day carryover period of SY 2022-2023.**
- **Effective for the carryover period of SY 2022-2023**

Severe Need Reimbursement Rates for the SBP and the Two Cent Differential Reimbursement for the NSLP in SY 2022-2023 and SY 2023-2024 ([Memo SFS-22-x144](#))

Nationwide Waiver Updates for SY 2022-2023

- Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in SY 2022-2023 – This waiver applies to the NSLP, SBP, and SSO and is available for any state where there is a supply chain disruption due to COVID-19. [Memo SFS-22-x152](#)

-



Transitional Standards on Milk, Whole Grains and Sodium Final Rule



Transitional Standards

- On February 7, 2022, USDA published the Transitional Standards Final Rule.
- This rule provides certainty for the next two school years, while USDA work collaboratively on permanent standards.
- These standards went into effect on July 1, 2022 (this includes SSO operating in July 2022)
- See [Memo SFS-22-90](#) and [Memo SFS-22-91](#) for more information on the Transitional Rule.
- The [slides](#) and [video](#) from the Transitional Standard Training are posted on [LA Fit Kids](#)

Key Provisions: Flavored Milk

- Allows SFAs to offer flavored, low-fat (1 percent) milk at lunch and breakfast and as a beverage for sale a la carte
- Requires that unflavored milk (fat-free or low-fat) be available at each school meal service.
- Extends the transitional milk requirements to the Special Milk Program for Children and to the Child and Adult Care Food Program for children ages six and older and adult participants.
- This rule also clarifies that lactose free and reduced-lactose fluid milk meet the Special Milk Program for Children and the Child and Adult Care Food Program requirements for fluid milk to provide consistency across all Child Nutrition Programs.

Key Provisions: Whole Grains

- Requires that at least 80 percent of the weekly grains in the NSLP and SBP be whole grain rich
- The remaining 20 percent weekly grains offered must be enriched

*Whole grain-rich products are those grain products with at least 50 percent whole grains and the remaining grains, if any, are enriched.

Key Provisions: Sodium

- Retains Sodium Target 1 for NSLP and SBP through SY 2022-2023.
- Retains Sodium Target 1 for SBP in SY 2023-2024
- Institutes a Sodium Interim Target 1A for NSLP for SY 2023-2024

National School Lunch Program: Sodium Timeline & Limits

Age/Grade Group	Target 1: Effective July 1, 2022 (mg)	Interim Target 1A: Effective July 1, 2023 (mg)
K-5	≤ 1,230	≤ 1,110
6-8	≤ 1,360	≤ 1,225
9-12	≤ 1,420	≤ 1,280

School Breakfast Program: Sodium Limits

Age/Grade Group	Target 1 (mg)
K-5	≤ 540
6-8	≤ 600
9-12	≤ 640



Medicaid Demonstration Project 2022-23



Direct Certification with Medicaid

In December 14, the USDA announced that Louisiana is one of eight states selected to participate in the expansion of a demonstration project to evaluate the impact of using Medicaid eligibility data to directly certify students for free and reduced-price school meals, beginning in **school year 2022-2023**.

Under the demonstrations, State agencies match school enrollment data with Medicaid eligibility data to identify children who receive Medicaid, or live with a child who receives Medicaid, and whose family income, before expenses and deductions, does not exceed:

- 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for free school meal eligibility; or
- 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for reduced price meal eligibility

Louisiana Medicaid Matching Process

The Matching Process for Medicaid-Free and Medicaid Reduced will be the same as used currently for SNAP and TANF

See eScholar conducted [DirectMatch training for End Users](#) for an overview of the DirectMatch system

Medicaid Free and Medicaid reduced will be two separate matching choices. Two files will be available for download, one for Medicaid-free and one for Medicaid-reduced

2022-2023 eScholar Enhancements

DM-Index and 3.0 file formats will be available

- Medicaid Free - file format available in August 2022
- Medicaid Reduced - file format available in August 2022

The file formats will be similar to SNAP and TANF.

LDOE has been in contact with the food service software vendors to ensure a smooth transition with adding these two files for SY 2022-2023.

Please refer to the Medicaid Demonstration Project training [slides](#) and [video](#)

Reduced Priced Children Determined Through Medicaid

Due to differences in household definition and income assessments between programs, some children directly certified for reduced-price meals through Medicaid may have been eligible for free meals if the household applied.

The USDA requires that these households receive notice of the income level used and be offered the opportunity to apply if their income, based on National School Lunch Program (NSLP) eligibility policies, is within the limit for free meals (using the NSLP's current income eligibility guidelines).

Direct Certification using Handwritten Case Numbers

Under the Medicaid demonstration, children are not considered to be categorically eligible and may be directly certified only via an automated data matching process with the Medicaid eligibility records.

Therefore, households are not allowed to handwrite their Medicaid case number on the application or provide “proof” of Medicaid in order for their child to be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Negative Impact and Medicaid Determination

Students already certified for free or reduced-price meals based on an application or direct certification with another program cannot be negatively impacted by the match with Medicaid data.

If a local educational agency (LEA) has determined that a child is directly certified as reduced-price eligible through Medicaid, and the child is determined to be directly certified through SNAP, TANF or FDPIR or identified as homeless, a runaway, enrolled in a federally funded Head Start Program, or is a foster child; the LEA's determination supersedes the Medicaid reduced-price status.



eScholar Updates and CEP Manager



eScholar Direct Match

The June data files are the first files of the 2022-2023 School Year.

The [June SNAP and TANF files](#) are now available

For assistance, please email Jayanthi.Sothirajah@la.gov

eScholar CEP Manager

Now that the Population Data submissions have closed, the CEP Elections are now open

All SFAs should submit the CEP elections for SY 2022-2023 by September 30, 2022.

CEP Training: [Louisiana Fit Kids - Training Slides](#)

- [Feb 22 slide deck](#) [Feb 22 recording](#)
- [March 29 slide deck](#) [March 29 recording](#)



Training Updates



Upcoming Virtual Trainings

Registration is open for the and [August](#) trainings (register at [Louisiana Fit Kids](#))

Next Monthly Call: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 1 p.m.

- Thursday, August 11: HACCP and Wellness Policies at 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 16: Procurement Plan and Code of Conduct at 1 p.m.
- Thursday, August 18: Accommodating Children with Disabilities in CNPs at 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 23: School Breakfast Meal Pattern and OVS at 1 p.m.
- Thursday, August 25: School Lunch Meal Pattern and OVS at 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 30: CEP- Submitting Elections at 1 p.m.

Agenda and Zoom registration link are posted on [Louisiana Fit Kids](#). Training slides and recorded videos (when available) are also posted to [Louisiana Fit Kids](#)

NEW: Office Hours

- Starting in August, DNS will host monthly office hours
- Wednesday following the monthly call



Save the Date

- In-person Obesity Conference as part of the Understanding Childhood Obesity Series
- Thursday, September 29th
- PBRC (Baton Rouge)

- In-person State Update planned for Wednesday, September 28





Other Program Reminders



Reminder: Procurement

The Governor's proclamation which included the suspension of Louisiana Public Bid Law and allowed emergency procurement of goods and services necessary to respond to the COVID-19 emergency expired on **Wednesday, March 16, 2022**.

Please ensure that all state procurement laws and regulations are followed

However, please be reminded that an exception still exists in state law for procurement of local agricultural products and in support of Farm to School initiatives.

[Memo SFS-22-x103](#)

FSMC Contracts

The deadline for Charter Schools to submit their Food Service Management Company Contract or Agreement Amendment was June 1, 2022.

Contracts and contract amendment will be approved as of the date they are approved by the State Agency.

All FSMC contracts for the 2021-22 School Year end on June 30, 2022.

If your SFA is operating the Summer Food Service Program during the month of July 2022, meals may not be claimed for the days you do not have an approved FSMC contract.

[Memo SFS-22-94](#)

USDA Civil Rights Updates

- On May 5, 2022, the USDA FNS Civil Rights Division, issued a memorandum on *Bostock v. Clayton County* and its application to USDA FNS Programs.
- Clarifies that the prohibition of discrimination based on sex includes gender identity and sexual orientation.
- The changes impact the USDA Nondiscrimination Statement (NDS) and the And Justice for All (AJFA) posters.

See Memos [SFS-22-x129](#), [SFS-22-x130](#), [SFS-22-x131](#), and [SFS-22-x132](#) for more information

As a reminder, CNPs prohibit the separation by gender in the meal service. See [Memo SFS-15-77](#) for more information

NDS and AJFA Updated Guidance

Nondiscrimination Statement

- All documents, pamphlets, websites, etc. should be updated with the 2022 NDS as follows
 - Websites must be updated within 90 days of the date of this memorandum.
 - Documents, pamphlets, brochures, etc., using 2015 NDS language must be updated when current supply on hand is exhausted or by September 30, 2023.
 - All new printing must use the 2022 NDS.

And Justice for All Posters

- Until the new posters are received
 - AJFA posters currently posted must not be removed until replaced with the new poster.
 - The 2019 AJFA poster(s) language should be updated on websites, training presentations and any pending printing of brochures, pamphlets and materials and replaced with the appropriate 2022 version.

Coming Soon: Additional Supply Chain Assistance Funds

Additional Supply Chain Assistance Funds announced by USDA

Funds will be distributed by state agencies to schools across the country, so they can purchase domestically grown foods for their meal programs.

This assistance builds on the \$1 billion in supply chain assistance funds USDA previously allocated in December 2021, which states can use this school year and next school year to provide schools with funding for commodity purchases, according to the release.

More information coming soon.

Coming Soon: Equipment Grant

- USDA announced FY 2022 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant
- Louisiana awarded \$521,423 to be awarded to SFAs
- Louisiana will competitively award subgrants SFAs to purchase equipment needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the School Breakfast Program

- More information coming soon

Updated Free/Reduced Forms

Free and reduced forms for SY 2022-23 are now posted to the CNP website

No major changes to the free and reduced forms for SY 2022-23

Updates include:

- Change in School Year
- Updated non-discrimination statement
- New Eligibility Determination letter for Medicaid

No Universal Free Meals in SY 2022-2023

The federal government allowed schools to offer free meals to all students during the pandemic, but Congress did not extend this benefit for next school year.

Families that are eligible for free or reduced-price meals must apply to receive them, and all other students must pay full price for their meals (unless a CEP school)

The school year begins on July 1. Schools can begin to accept application for free and reduced-price meals for SY 2022-2023 now.

Schools are encourage to provide frequent, easy to understand messages to families to encourage the completion of meal applications.

School Nutrition Program Spotlight



Meet Catherine Young

The Zachary Community School District Child Nutrition Program and Louisiana Fit Kids celebrates Ms. Catherine Young as this month's School Nutrition Program Manager Spotlight! Ms. Young's career includes twenty-four years of food service experience including two years as the Manager at Zachary High School. Her hard work and dedication shines through every day. She is passionate about the well-being of children and always puts her best foot forward. We express gratitude and thanks for Catherine Young's tireless efforts and commitment to Louisiana kids!

Manager for Zachary High School



louisianafitkids.com





School Nutrition Program Spotlight

Summer Meal Program Super Star Managers



- Help us spotlight the amazing people who help make summer meals in Louisiana happen!
- Do you have a manager you'd like to spotlight this summer? Let's celebrate him/her!
- Send Cathy Carmichael an email at catherine.carmichael@pbrc.edu or call 225-763-2799



louisianafitkids.com



Questions

Contact the
LDOE Division of Nutrition Support at
childnutritionprograms@la.gov or
225-342-9661

