

**CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Interim Commissioner of Education

DATE: March 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Update on Child Nutrition Programs

Executive Summary

Purpose

This presentation will provide an update on the Child Nutrition Programs administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). The discussion will include an overview of the federal and state programs, initiatives and special provisions being implemented by the CSDE. An emphasis will be placed on progress and successes of the implementation of the Child Nutrition Programs in Connecticut since the authorization of the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010 and additional changes to these requirements.

Background Information

Formerly called the Child Nutrition Reauthorization, Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010. This Act provided for the continued administration of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs in schools, residential child care institutions, child day care centers and homes, and various locations throughout the summer. The USDA Child Nutrition Programs include: National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, After-School Snack Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Food Distribution Program, Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option, Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and the After-school At-risk Meals Program.

Since its initial authorization, a number of changes have occurred with regard to regulatory requirements; state and local program implementation; and eligibility determination. The USDA has identified three areas of focus for Child Nutrition Programs: 1) ensure program integrity and compliance; 2) provide excellent customer service to participants; and 3) encourage self-sufficiency among participants.

On-site administrative reviews of programs are conducted on a rotating basis to not only monitor program compliance and customer service to our students and families, but also to ensure high quality, safe, nutritious and appealing meals and snacks. The CSDE utilizes critical partnerships with federal and state agencies, community-based organizations, food and nutrition associations and the school food industry to guarantee optimal program implementation.

Follow-up Activities

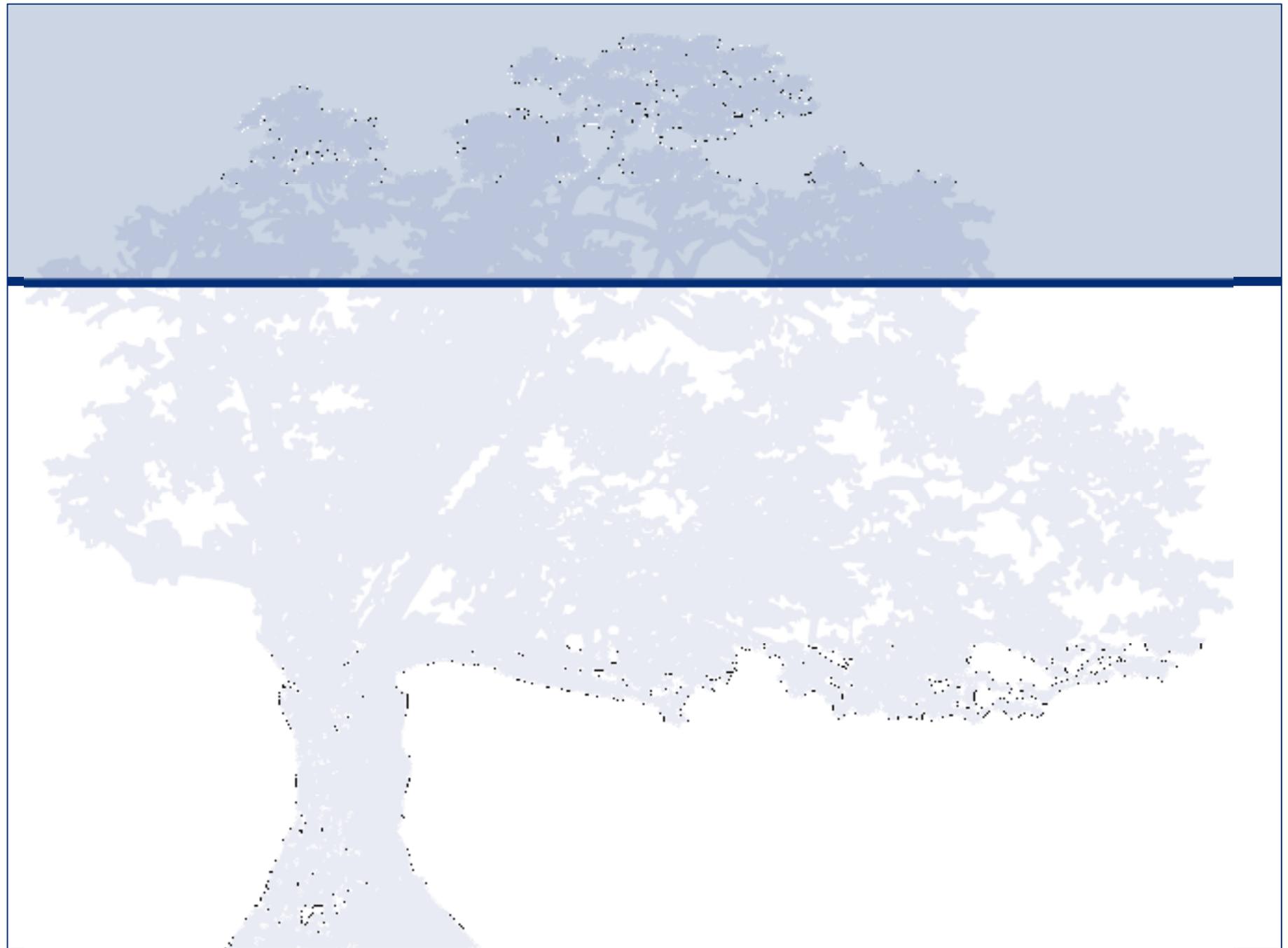
Research has proven the connection between health and student success. Therefore, the CSDE will provide ongoing support to local programs to ensure that eligible students and families continue to have access to program benefits. The CSDE will continue to update the State Board of Education of that progress in alignment with Goal 1 of the Board's Comprehensive Plan - ensuring the non-academic needs of students are met so that they are healthy, happy and ready to learn.

Prepared by:

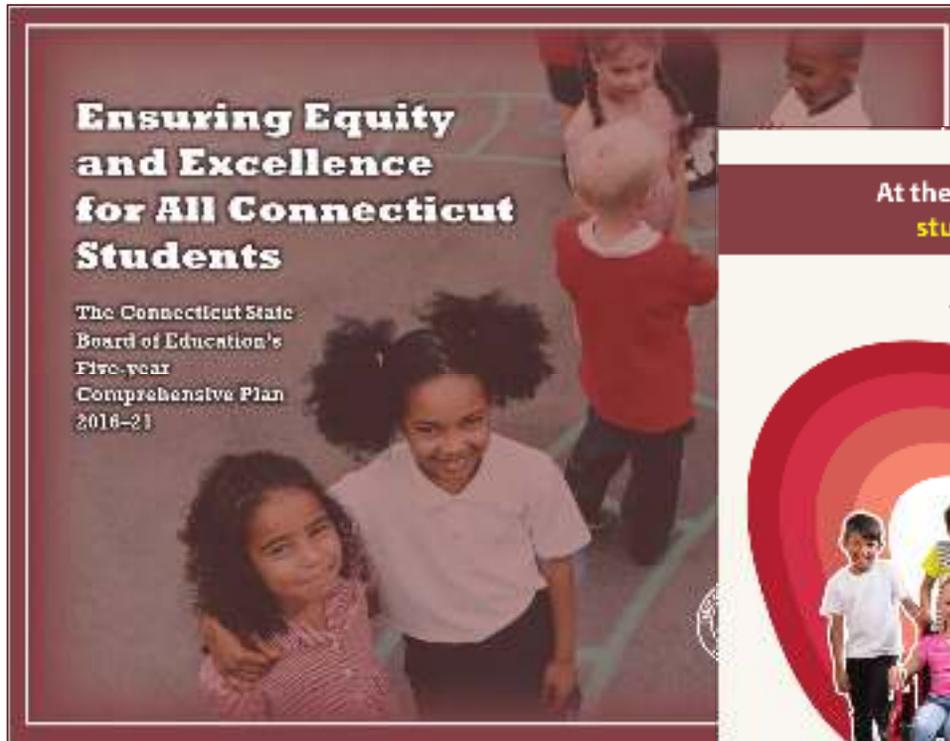
John Frassinelli, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and
Adult Education

Approved by:

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer



Alignment with the Five-year Comprehensive Plan



At the Connecticut State Department of Education, **students are at the core** of everything we do.



OUR PROMISE TO OUR STUDENTS

- Ensuring their non-academic needs are met so they are healthy, happy, and ready to learn. (Mental health, nutrition, after school programs)
- Supporting their school and district in staying on target with learning goals. (Education Cost Sharing - ECS, Alliance Districts, Commissioner's Network, School Choice)
- Giving them access to great teachers and school leaders.
- Making sure they learn what they need to know to succeed in college, career, and life.



[The Connecticut State Board of Education's Five-year Comprehensive Plan 2016-21](#)

Child Nutrition Programs

<u>PROGRAMS</u>	<u>SPONSORS</u>	<u>SCHOOLS/SITE LOCATIONS</u>	<u>MEALS</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
School Lunch	188	1,037	45,846,037	\$102,789,909
School Breakfast	170	890	17,975,873	\$32,354,272
Afterschool Snack	37	236	1,504,929	\$1,303,130
Summer Meals	61	641	1,653,995	\$5,229,134
Special Milk	43	56	488,780	\$104,766
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable	17	90	n/a	\$2,580,245
Food Distribution	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$15,403,423
Child & Adult Care	136	1,176	10,047,298	\$18,145,431
TOTALS:			77,516,912	\$177,910,310

School Lunch Circa 1970





Connecticut Child Nutrition Initiatives

School Breakfast Program

- Connecticut Breakfast Expansion Team
- Breakfast Service Options
 - Traditional Cafeteria
 - Grab n Go/Kiosk
 - In Classroom
 - 2nd Chance Breakfast
- National Rankings
- State School Breakfast Grant



Connecticut Child Nutrition Initiatives

Summer Meal and Benefit Programs

- 2nd nationally in the number of summer meal sites that serve two meals each day – breakfast and lunch
- CT serves 1 in 4 children that rely on free and reduced-price lunches during the school year (1 in 6 nationally)
- Average Daily Participation: 37,039
- Summer learning and enrichment opportunities to reduce summer learning loss
- Summer EBT



Connecticut Child Nutrition Initiatives

Farm to School Program

- Students learn about local farms in their community
- Increases the availability of fresh fruits, vegetables and local milk
- Keeps federal dollars for meal reimbursement in CT and local communities



Connecticut Child Nutrition Initiatives

Direct Certification

- Students directly certified for free school meals based on enrollment in federal and state assistance programs
- Partnership with DSS and DCF
- SNAP, TFA, Children in Foster Care
- Connecticut Recognition
 - USDA Match-to-Meal State Best Practices
 - USDA Excellence in Technology Award
- Medicaid Demonstration Project 2017-18



Connecticut Child Nutrition Initiatives

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

- Alternative approach to determine eligibility
- Eliminates household income applications
- Requires 40 percent of students to be eligible for free meals for program participation
- Requires all children to be served breakfast and lunch at no cost
- 2018: 28 LEAs and 241 Schools (pre Medicaid Pilot)
- 2019: 37 LEAs and 308 Schools

