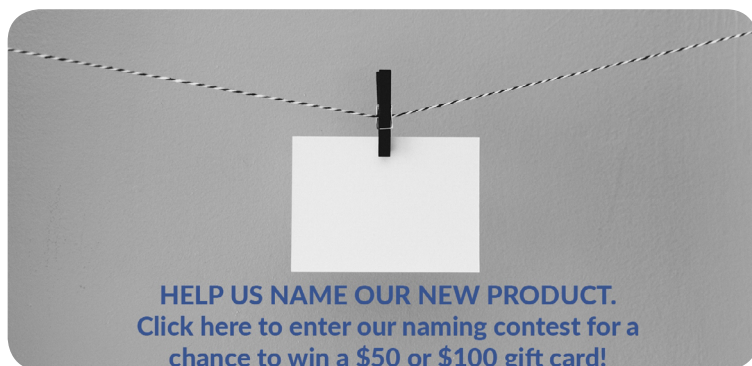


FRESH BITES NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Featured

Help name our best tool yet! Enter our naming contest today!



NutriStudents K-12 is excited to launch our most highly developed and functioning tool yet. This new tool allows Foodservice Directors and Managers to:

- seamlessly track menu cycles, daily/weekly meal counts and current inventory
- build monthly menu calendars
- submit complete weekly distributor orders with the click of a button!

There's only one thing standing in the way of the tool's launch – a name!

Enter your ideas for this tool's new name. If one of your submissions is chosen as a finalist, you will win a \$50 Amazon gift card. If it's chosen as our tool's name, you will win a \$100 Amazon gift card!

[Click here to submit your entries today!](#) Multiple entries encouraged!

Deadline to enter: Midnight (CT) on Sunday, September 30, 2018

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Next month...

USDA Administrative Review this year? **KEEP CALM and CALL US!**

NutriStudents K-12 can help take the stress out of your USDA Administrative Review with one-on-one support, training tools and videos, and our Administrative Review packet/checklists. We'll have more information soon on our blog and in our October newsletter. Until then, contact Rebecca at Rebecca@NutriStudentsK-12.com or 651.333.4295 for help.

Spice up your cafeteria during NSLW18, October 15-19



An annual affair, National School Lunch Week (#NSLW18) is a great opportunity to brag about the quality and benefits of your foodservice program to students, staff, parents and even your community, with the goal of raising participation. The School Nutrition Association has [many resources](#) to help you, including artwork; ideas for contests, promotions and social media posts; and tips for involving parents, elected officials and local media in your lunch service that week.

[SNA's toolkit](#) offers ideas such as:

- Have celebrity guests -- pro athletes, elected officials, TV personalities, team mascots -- serve lunch and have photos taken with students
- Invite parents to join students for lunch on Wednesday, October 17, designated School Lunch Day
- Host a local farmer (with livestock) for classroom activities on farm-to-school
- Have students create special artwork to dress up the cafeteria for the week

And here's one of our own ideas: Make your students feel extra special by staging a formal affair with white linens, mood lighting and music, decorations, and servers in black and white formal wear. This could even be on Wednesday, School Lunch Day, when parents are invited to join their children.

If you observe #NSLW18 in any way, make sure to share photos and videos on your social media channels.

To take full advantage of #NSLW18, start planning now!

Featured Testimonial

"NutriStudents K-12 simplifies everything for us and tells us everything we need. When we had (an executive) chef, we worked a lot harder. It's a lot easier now because we know exactly what to be putting into our recipes. We don't have to worry about serving sizes or nutritional analysis."

Julie Waugerman
Foodservice Staff
Hope for Hyndman Charter School
Hyndman, Pennsylvania

[READ CASE STUDY](#)

Farm-to-School Month builds local ties to school meals

October is Farm-to-School Month in the United States. It's a month when schools enjoy the bounty from their school gardens or farm-fresh produce from nearby producers and ranchers. According to the School Nutrition Association's *School Nutrition Operations Report: The State of School Nutrition 2018*, nearly 60% of the 1,550 respondents reported serving local produce in their cafeterias.

Farm-to-school foods ensure the freshest foods in school meals and help support local economies at the same time. Money spent in your community, stays in your community. And while most of us think of crop agriculture when we hear farm-to-school, it can also encompass the likes of local fisheries, beef ranchers, chicken farms and food processors.

There are many organizations and government agencies putting their muscle behind the farm-to-school movement, including the National Farm to School Network, an information advocacy and networking hub for communities working to bring local food sources, and food and agriculture education into education settings. USDA's Farm-to-School Program also supports and encourages the procurement of local foods. The agency has a vision for locally sourced foods to be the norm, not the exception, in school foodservice programs. Even the Department of Defense supports farm-to-school through its Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which enables schools nationally to allocate a portion of their USDA Foods entitlement money towards fresh fruits and vegetables. Most states also encourage farm-to-school by providing suggested activities for students, school resources, and guidance on procuring locally produced foods. Check with your state's agency governing school nutrition programs to see what may be available to support your efforts.

Farm-to-School Month is a perfect opportunity to teach students about the origins of their food and the benefits of locally produced and processed foods and ingredients. But that doesn't mean it's limited to October -- farm-to-school is a year-round initiative.

Farm to School Month Resources

[How to Start a School Garden from the Washington Post](#)

[USDA Farm-to-School \(Community Food Systems\)](#)

[National Farm-to-School Month fact sheet](#)

[National Farm-to-School Network](#)

[USDA Farm-to-School Planning Kit](#)

[USDA Webinar: Planning for Farm-to-School Success; Tying It All Together and Digging In](#)

You can find more tools like these in the "resources" section of the NutriStudents K-12 client portal.



Partner Profile: Cash-Wa Distributing

Available Grants



Whole Kids Foundation is accepting applications for its school Garden Grants and Bee Grants through October 15.



Action for Healthy Kids invites schools in select counties in Michigan and Alabama to submit applications for its Game On grants, which fund physical activity and nutrition initiatives. Schools across the country can benefit from AFHK's FREE Game On program offering online tips, resources and activities to support a healthier school environmental and shape your school wellness policy.

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is now accepting applications for its SNA Conference Scholarship, which provides \$1,500 to help cover the costs to attend SNA's School Nutrition Industry Conference and Legislative Action Conference. Click here to apply!



Among the over 1,500 broadline foodservice distributors in the nation, Cash-Wa Distributing is the 18th largest, with more than 6,500 customers including retail discounters, grocery stores, fast food restaurants, convenience stores, health care facilities, white-linen restaurants and K-12 schools. A member of the UniPro Foodservice Network and its Multi-Unit Group of distributors, Cash-Wa covers the central-states region, including Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado.

Cash-Wa stocks a variety of CN Labeled Products, fresh produce, dairy programs, center of the plate, canned fruits & vegetables, items for a la carte and vending that meet schools' wellness guidelines, equipment and small wares, and much more.

Learn more at <http://web.cashwa.com/>

[Naming contest...](#)
[continued from page 1](#)

Winning name chosen by crowdsourcing voting

The five finalists will be announced on social media (Facebook & Twitter) on Friday, October 5 at 2 pm CT. Immediately following, you can vote for your favorite on the contest web page. Voting will close Friday, October 12 at 2 pm CT.

Get In Touch!
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