# Nutrition News

Happy Helpings

Georgia's Summer Food Service Program

*February 1, 2023*

## We Heard You!

*Results from Annual Sponsor Survey*

Thank you to the sponsors who participated in the Annual End-of-the-Season Survey. Your feedback is important and helped us plan for summer 2023.

Here are the results and actions from the Fy22 survey:

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### Annual Sponsor Survey Feedback

*Applications*

| You Said: | We Heard You! |
|---|---|
| You recommended that we provide new and experienced sponsors with additional support during the application process. | • The Application team will conduct bi-weekly calls to proactively address any concerns or issues during the application process. |
| You are concerned that sponsors are limited to a maximum of 100 meals per site. | • Sponsors may request the option to offer more than the maximum meal count of 100 meals, but reasonable/supportive justification and DECAL approval is required. |

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### Application Tips

- Register for training and submit your application early. This allows more time for clarifying questions. Once your application is approved, you can add additional sites or make updates.
- Submit online application and supporting documentation at one time in its entirety,
- Complete forms accurately and in their entirety. Often, forms must be requested several times due to these errors.
- Please ensure forms that are uploaded in GA ATLAS are labeled with the correct name.

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# Annual Sponsor Survey Feedback
## *Compliance & Training*

| You Said: | We Heard You! |
|---|---|
| You told us the that getting support and/or customer staff in a timely manner caused barriers to Compliance last summer. | • The Nutrition team is committed to acknowledging your call or email within 48 business hours. |
| You told us you preferred virtual training for Experienced Sponsors. | • Virtual training is available for experienced sponsors on February 16. |
| You told us you preferred face-to-face instruction on New Policies /Memos & Program Updates; Financial Recordkeeping Requirements; Recordkeeping Requirements & Forms and Waivers & Claims. | • New Policies / Memos & Program Updates – discussed during live F2F training or live webinar and Memo Monday<br>• Financial Recordkeeping Requirements – discussed during Budget Readiness Training webinar.<br>• Recordkeeping Requirements & Forms – discussed during live F2F training or live webinar.<br>• Waivers & Claims - discussed during live F2F training (or live webinar. |

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# Annual Sponsor Survey Feedback
## *Promotional Items*

| You Said: | We Heard You! |
|---|---|
| You told us the preferred top 3 promotional items for kids are small balls, back packs and beach balls. | • The Nutrition team will have Happy Helpings branded balls and back packs available for order once your application has been approved. |
| You told us the preferred top 3 promotional items for site supervisors are aprons, banners and Happy Helpings branded t-shirts. | • The Nutrition team will have Happy Helpings branded aprons, banners and t-shirts available for order once your application has been approved. |

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# Annual Sponsor Survey Feedback
## *Nutrition Education Resources*

| You Said: | We Heard You! |
|---|---|
| You told us that menu templates and recipe ideas would help you have a more successful Happy Helpings program. | • The Nutrition team will notify sponsors through email, newsletters and the DECAL Website about the availability of a month-long cycle menu that will align with the summer season when there is an agricultural abundance. The recipes will come from USDA's recipe library including the Child Nutrition Recipe Box.<br>• We will also provide physical activity tips and nutrition education resources to engage participants at your site. Some of the giveaways will be physical activity supplies. |

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## Annual Sponsor Survey Feedback
*Expanding Meal Sites*

| You Said: | We Heard You! |
|---|---|
| You are concerned that there are a lack of eligible sites & places kids congregate. | • The Nutrition team will refer organizations that are interested in serving as meal sites to sponsors by email. |
| You need more lead time to visit underserved/unserved counties to establish viable Happy Helpings sites in those areas. | • The Nutrition team is hosting today's kick-off call and identifying unserved counties, so sponsors can begin planning for summer FY23. These underserved/unserved counties will also be communicated to sponsors via the monthly newsletter. |

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# Expanding Meal Service to Unserved Areas of Need

There are 73 Georgia counties where children did not have access to a Happy Helpings' meal site during FY22. If you are able, please consider expanding your meal service this summer to include any of the counties listed below.

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## Areas of Need: 73 Counties

- Bacon
- Baldwin
- Banks
- Ben Hill
- Berrien
- Bleckley
- Brantley
- Camden
- Charlton
- Chattahoochee
- Clinch
- Cook
- Crawford
- Dade
- Dawson
- Dodge
- Dooly
- Emanuel
- Evans
- Forsyth
- Gilmer
- Gordon
- Greene
- Habersham
- Hall
- Hancock
- Haralson
- Harris
- Heard
- Irwin
- Jeff Davis
- Jenkins
- Johnson
- Jones
- Laurens
- Long
- Lumpkin
- Marion
- Meriwether
- Miller
- Montgomery
- Murray
- Oconee
- Oglethorpe
- Peach
- Pickens
- Pierce
- Pike
- Pulaski
- Putman
- Quitman
- Schley
- Screven
- Stewart
- Talbot
- Taliaferro
- Taylor
- Telfair
- Towns
- Treutlen
- Troup
- Turner
- Twiggs
- Ware
- Warren
- Wayne
- Webster
- Wheeler
- White
- Wilcox
- Wilkes
- Wilkinson
- Worth

Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning
BRIGHT FROM THE START

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# Summer 2023 Will Be Here Soon
*Start Planning Now*

Providing summer meals is a year-round effort. At any point throughout the year, there are things you can do to prepare for next summer!

Here's a guide for 2023:

### February
- Sign up for mandatory sponsor training classes.
- Determine which sites are returning, explore new site options, and meet with community partners.
- Plan site staff training, meal production and delivery, and programs and activities.
- Begin exploring the potential for serving mobile meals.
- Continue developing a marketing and outreach campaign.

## New Organizations Interested in Happy Helpings

*All Participants Required to Complete a Viability Screening Assessment*

A complete and accurate viability screening packet must be submitted at least seven business days prior to the last new sponsor training to allow time for review of the submitted information.

Organizations that meet all viability requirements will be registered to attend one of the required two-day trainings for new sponsors scheduled in February, March, or April 2023.

***Note**: School Food Authorities (SFAs) and government entities are exempt from the Viability, Capability, and Accountability (VCA) Checklist requirement. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Kicklighter, Marketing and Outreach Manager, at 678-841-3170.

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## Procuring Sponsoring Organizations, Food Service Management Companies and Third Parties

*Health Certification and Inspection are Required*

As a reminder, sponsoring organizations participating in the Happy Helping program should ask the following questions: Where is your food prepared, cooked, or otherwise manipulated? Is the establishment required to have a Food Service Permit? Knowing where the food or meals are being sourced from will answer who is responsible for holding the Food Service Permit. If sponsoring organizations participating in Happy Helpings opt to:

- Contract with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC)/Third Party, furnish a copy of the Food Service Permit from the food service management company/third party location.
- Prepare food at the Sponsor's Central Kitchen/Location, supply a copy of the Food Service Permit in the name of the sponsoring organization for the central kitchen/location where the food is being manipulated.
- Procure food or meals at a Third-Party Central Kitchen/Location Item, then a copy of the Food Service Permit from the third-party location is required.
- Prepare meals at Happy Helpings site where participants are served, furnish a copy Food Service Permit in the name of the sponsoring organization.

For complete details on the category of your establishment refer to **The Food Service Permit Inquiry Form**. Most importantly, Happy Helpings participants must be protected from food-borne illnesses. A Food Service Management Company or Food Vendor must have state or local health certification for the facilities used to prepare meals and food items. Become familiar with the local regulatory authority food manual of the Happy Helpings servicing area, **Georgia Rules and Regulations Food Service** , and DECAL's policy memorandum, ***Requirements for Obtaining a Food Service Permit (v.6), December 2, 2022.***

For questions regarding procurement, please contact Tempest Harris, Procurement Compliance Specialist at **tempest.harris@decal.ga.gov**.

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## Guidance on Collecting Race and Ethnicity Data

On May 17, 2021, USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued the Policy Memorandum, **Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data by Visual Observation and Identification in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program – Policy Rescission**, which advised that visual observation and identification by CACFP institutions and facilities and SFSP sponsors is no longer an allowable practice for CACFP

and SFSP program operators to use during the collection of race or ethnicity data. **The requirement to end the practice of visual identification was effective May 17, 2021.**

By **January 1, 2023**, program operators were to have alternative means to capture the data or they may be issued a finding of non-compliance on their next review. Nutrition Services has issued the following guidance to aid Program operators in the development of alternate means to capture this data. The below is applicable to both CACFP institutions and SFSP sponsors:

- A new DECAL Memorandum, **Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program**, provides guidance to CACFP institutions and SFSP sponsors on allowable methods to collect race and ethnicity data, required documentation, and best practices.
- **The CACFP/SFSP Racial and Ethnic Data Individual Collection Form for Families** has been developed to assist CACFP and SFSP programs in the gathering of race and ethnicity data from parents and/or guardians.
- **The Combined Racial/Ethnic Data Collection Form for Institutions and Sponsors** is a revised version of and a replacement for the Racial and Ethnic Data Collection form. The Combined Racial/Ethnic Data Collection Form for Institutions and Sponsors is now a DECAL required form that CACFP institutions/facilities and SFSP sponsors must use to document the collected racial and ethnic information received. The prior Racial and Ethnic Data Collection Form should no longer be used.
- **The Income Eligibility Statement's** Part V regarding Ethnic and Racial Identities that may be completed by parents and/or guardians has been revised so as CACFP and SFSP facilities may use the Income Eligibility Statement as a form of race and ethnic data collection.

Nutrition Services encourages all CACFP and SFSP institutions and sponsors to begin the actual process of collecting racial and ethnic participant information as soon as possible. For questions regarding the new memorandum on race and ethnicity data collection, please contact Robyn Parham, Policy Administrator, at **Robyn.Parham@decal.ga.gov**.

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## Happy Helping Waivers available during Unanticipated School Closures

On May 18, 2022, DECAL received approval from the USDA for the following statewide waivers which are available during unanticipated school closures. These waivers are in effect October 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023. The waiver approval letter can be found **here**.

*Please note: For the purposes of these waivers, unanticipated school closures only occur when instruction is not provided to children. If a school plans to offer virtual learning or a mix of in-person classes and virtual learning, then the school would be considered open and not in an "unanticipated school closure" status.*

- **Waiver 16: Non-Congregate Meal Service during Unanticipated School Closures** waives the requirements that meals must be served in a congregate setting and be consumed by participants on site.
- **Waiver 17: Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up during Unanticipated School Closures** waives the requirement that meals be served directly to eligible participants.
- **Waiver 18: Meal Service Times for Unanticipated School Closures** waives meal service time requirements.
- **Waiver 19: Service of Meals at School Sites during Unanticipated School Closures** waives the requirement that State agencies are to only approve meal service operations at non-school sites.

***These waivers are only applicable when the congregate meal service is limited by the COVID-19 pandemic.*** Therefore, the following criteria is required for these waivers to be approved and used by Happy Helpings sponsors during unanticipated school closures. Waiver requests must be based on at least 1 of the following criteria:

**Criteria 1:**

The site must be located in a county that is designated as High, Substantial, or Moderate regarding COVID-19 community transmissions as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) websites:

- CDC, **listed here** – Under the "Data Type" pull down menu (located mid-page), the user would select "Community Transmission" to access a county's designation; and/or
- DPH, **listed here** - The user would select the most recent County Indicator Report and click "Community Transmission" in the top right corner of the page to access a county's designation.

**Criteria 2:**
Sponsors can provide official documentation affirming a meal service has been impacted as a result of COVID-19 transmission. The documentation must be issued by the following:

- A public state, local, or county official
- A school superintendent or principal
- An SFSP Sponsor reporting a documented case of COVD-19 at an SFSP Site. Documentation to support the documented case of COVID-19 could be a letter or email that was sent to parents, staff, or site location such as an apartment complex advising of the documented case.

These waivers will be effective for **30 days** upon approval, with the option to re-apply for an additional 30 days, if the criteria are met using the most current data from the CDC, GA DPH, or with new documentation affirming that meal services have been impacted.

**Happy Helpings sponsors interested in applying for these waivers during unanticipated school closures must submit waiver requests via the Waiver Module within GA ATLAS.**

*Documentation to support the criteria chosen must be uploaded with the waiver request in GA Atlas. Additionally, waiver requests for sponsored sites will be reviewed and approved upon the site's approval to operate the Program.

**More Information on Requesting a Waiver:** For information on requesting a waiver, please access the following resources:

- **USDA Waiver User Guide** - Provides step by step instructions on how to submit a waiver request in GA Atlas (applies to both CACFP and SFSP).
- **Important Reminders when using USDA Approved Waivers** - Discusses key recordkeeping requirements.
- **USDA Waiver Addendum** - Required when using the Parent Pick-up waiver or when conducting home delivery under the Non-Congregate waiver.

For general questions on requesting a USDA approved waiver, please contact **Tammie.Baldwin@decal.ga.gov**.

For specific policy questions pertaining to waivers, please contact **Robyn.Parham@decal.ga.gov**.

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# Training Dates

**Happy Helpings GA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Training** ***New Dates!***
Do you plan to serve summer meals during the FY 2022-2023 program year? If so, please plan to participate in **one (1)** of the upcoming *SFSP Orientation and Program Training* sessions. Registration is now open.

**Happy Helpings Experienced Sponsor Training** (1 Day)
- February 16, 2023 (Virtual)
- February 23, 2023 (DECAL: Atlanta)
- April 13, 2023 (Hilton Garden Inn: Albany)

**Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training** (2 Days)

- March 22-23, 2023 (Hilton Garden Inn: Albany)
- April 26-27, 2023 (Atlanta Metro State College)

**March 20, 2023 – Memo Monday!**
**10:00 am until 12:00 pm**

Regulations are constantly changing and interpreting all the policies and memorandums can be a challenge. Therefore, Nutrition Services will discuss the following policy memo(s) during our March Memo Monday.

- ***Ensuring Sponsors Implement Adequate Oversight and Internal Controls of SFSP Operations* dated December 9, 2022**
- Happy Helpings Most Common Findings at the Sponsor and Site Level
- Happy Helpings Best Practices
- [**Register Now**]

**March 22, 2023 – Menu Planning in CACFP and Happy Helpings**
**10:00 am until 12:00 pm**

Are you ready to retire your routine recipes? Join this webinar to learn tips, tools, and tangible resources for planning creative meals for your monthly menus.

- ***Participants can earn two [2] state-approved hours for attending this training in its entirety.***
- [**Register Now**]

# Get Informed: Training Resources

**In Case You Missed It: Webinar Recordings Now Available!**

If you missed a webinar, please visit the**Training and Technical Assistance** webpage for previously recorded webinars. This month's training highlight is the **Happy Helpings Budget & Procurement Readiness** webinar. It discussed relevant procurement practices when procuring food & non-food items, how to develop formal solicitations, how to incorporate local sourcing practices into meal service, the purpose of the budget package, the purpose of all the budget line items in GA ATLAS, and how to prepare & develop a complete GA ATLAS budget package.

**Streamlining Program Requirements and Improving Integrity in the SFSP Webinar Recording**

The recording of the September 21, 2022, Streamlining Program Requirements, and Improving Integrity in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Final Rule webinar is now available for all Child Nutrition Program operators and State agency staff. The PowerPoint **slide deck** from the webinar is also available.

**Understand Food Labels Infographic**

The **National CACFP Sponsor Association** has developed this free printable infographic to provide useful insights on how to read nutrition labels.

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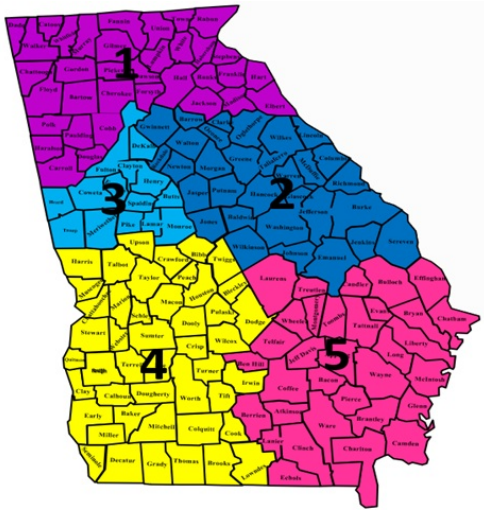
# Training & Technical Assistance




The goal of the Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Unit is to improve performance and better equip new and participating institutions and sponsors by providing practical, user-friendly resources and guidance materials that strengthen internal controls and result in successful, sustainable Program administration and operation. We want to ensure that we continue to meet this goal during any transitions and/or position changes.

Therefore, sponsors that reside in**region 2** listed in the map above, please contact our Nutrition TA mailbox at **NutritionTA@decal.ga.gov**

with any needed technical assistance.

You may also visit our **Training and Technical Assistance** webpage for Program resources and recorded webinars.

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## Apply for a No Kid Hungry Grant Today

A key part of No Kid Hungry's strategy is building partnerships and supporting child nutrition efforts through grantmaking. Their grants provide schools and community-based organizations with the financial support they need to ensure kids have access to the nutritious food needed to live, learn and play.

Please complete the following form **here**, where the No Kid Hungry team will reach out if grant funding is available for your program.

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## Nutrition Ed Nook

### *Cruciferous Vegetables*

Cruciferous vegetables are the February Harvest of the Month (**English** and **Spanish**) spotlight. These vegetables come in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. Cruciferous vegetables are rich in vitamins and minerals such as folate, vitamins A, C, E and K, and fiber. Cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage also contain antioxidants that help reduce the risk of developing many cancers.

**Cabbage** varieties include green cabbage, red cabbage, savoy cabbage, napa cabbage, and Bok choy. In Georgia, cabbage is in season May through September. Try making a rainbow coleslaw using a mix of green and red cabbage, or boil or steam cabbages to use in stews, soups, and casseroles.

**Broccoli** is one of the best vegetable sources of vitamins A and C that builds healthy skin and fights against infection. It also provides other important nutrients like potassium. In Georgia, broccoli is in season in May and June and again from October through December. Add broccoli into main dishes such as a salad, pasta, or stir-fry. You can also enjoy them raw as a snack with a low-fat dip.

**Cauliflower** can be purchased in white (which is most common), green, orange, and purple. In Georgia, cauliflower is in season October through December. Enjoy it raw, on its own, or with a low-fat dip. You can also steam or roast cauliflower as a side dish and season with spices for more flavor. It is also delicious grated or mashed!

**Fun fact:** The cruciferous vegetables family include collard greens, mustard greens and turnip greens which are the January Harvest of the Month spotlight.

### Integration:

- **Rainbow Coleslaw**
- **Strawberry Spring Rolls**
- **Broccoli Cheddar Soup**
- **Beef and Broccoli**
- **Baked Cauliflower Tots**
- **Roasted Cauliflower Steaks**
- **Fresh Veggie Pizza**

## Education:

- ***Watch*** the ***Harvest with Holly*** video that explores the Harvest of the Month spotlight, how these items grow, where they grow in Georgia, and how they get from the farms to school meals all across the state of Georgia.
- ***Compare & Contrast*** the similarities and differences between cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower with program participants, including look, taste, smell, and touch.
- ***Talk*** with families about how participants can help with meal preparation such as rinsing broccoli or cauliflower florets to be cooked in a dish. **Bonus:** Send recipes home with families for them to incorporate cruciferous vegetables into their meals!

## Conversation:

- Have the participants you serve eaten cabbage, broccoli and/or cauliflower before?
- Which of the three, cabbage, broccoli, or cauliflower, is their favorite to eat?
- What other cruciferous vegetables (Bok choy, Brussels sprouts, arugula, kale, etc.) do participants like to eat?

Share your Harvest of the Month stories and menu integration of cruciferous vegetables with Nutrition Education Specialist, Morgan Chapman, MPH, MCH at **morgan.chapman@decal.ga.gov**.

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# Physical Activity Corner:

## *Heart Health - Love, Hugs, and Kisses*

Love is in the air! The American Heart Association (AHA) observes February as American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States.

One person dies every 34 seconds in the United States from cardiovascular disease (CVD). This is a startling statistic that DECAL's physical activity program seeks to combat through preventative measures within child nutrition programs.

Did you know that physical activity is a lifestyle change you can make to decrease your risk of CVD? According to 2018 data, approximately 1 in 4 U.S. adults reported achieving adequate aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities to meet the physical activity guidelines. Being physically active is one of the best ways to keep our heart, body, and brain healthy.

One of the many activities to keep the heart healthy and strong is cardiovascular exercise which improves the pumping and circulation of the blood and helps reduce the chances of developing blockages or clots in the arteries. Activities such as walking, running, dancing, swimming, yoga, and gardening are a few examples of fun and enjoyable activities that promotes heart health. Take extra care of your heart and help your loved ones, or those who already suffer from heart diseases.

## Integration:

- **American Heart Month 2023**
- **National Wear Red Day**
- **American Heart Association: Physical Activity 2023**
- **Celebrate Heart Health Month (February)**

## Education:

- **Read** out loud, **"In My Heart: A Book Of Feelings," by Jo Witek.**
- ***Watch*** the video on **I Heart Exercise S E16.**
- **Talk** with families about ways to keep your heart healthy and strong daily.**Bonus:** Share #HeartWalk, #OurHearts #MoveToTheBeat, #LoveFitness pictures and events

that are happening in your communities.

**Conversation:**

- What physical activity promotes heart health?
- How can you keep your heart strong and healthy?
- Why is fitness important for your heart health?
- Why is it important to keep our children active and heart healthy?

Share your **#DECALPhysicalActivity, #MoveToTheBeat, #PumpItUp, #LoveFitness, #OurHearts, #HeartWalk** stories and pictures with Physical Activity Specialist, **Tina McLaren at tina.mclaren@decal.ga.gov**.

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## Be a Health Hero –
### *Health Empowers You*

HealthMPowers, a partner organization with the Georgia Department of Early Care & Learning, promotes healthy habits to build a better future for all children in Georgia.

To connect with their work, text 'HEALTHY' to 833-369-3547 to receive one text message per week on healthy tips, recipes, and activities for your whole family.

What are you waiting for? Sign-up now! Information is also available in **Spanish**.

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## DECAL's Nutrition Spotlight:
### *Meet Morgan Chapman, Nutrition Education Specialist*

Last July, Morgan Chapman officially joined the Nutrition Services Division team as a Nutrition Education Specialist. Prior to this position, Morgan served as the Nutrition Divisions' first Public Health Intern working under Diana Myers, Nutrition & Physical Activity Supervisor.

In her new role, Morgan assists in developing, planning, and monitoring of statewide nutrition programs that help promote and improve health and nutrition in early care and education settings, which support providers of the Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP) and Happy Helpings, Georgia's Summer Food Service Program.

Diana says, "Morgan has wowed us with her creative approach to resource development and social media marketing for Nutrition Education and has brought fresh, new ideas of ways to support our CACFP and Happy Helpings organizations through trainings, resources, and strategy through data collection."

In 2019, Morgan graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences (Biology). In May 2022, Morgan graduated from Georgia State University with a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and a Maternal and Child Health Graduate Certificate.

Morgan's passions include working with children and helping others. She enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

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# Eat Healthy and Live Active

## *Georgia Early Care and Education Harvest of the Month 22-23 Calendar*

Harvest of the Month (HOTM) is the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Program's farm to school initiative that highlights an item each month that can be sourced locally and served in Georgia's school meals.

DECAL's Harvest of the Month calendar aligns with the Georgia Department of Education's Harvest of the Month initiative and was created in partnership with Quality Care for Children, Georgia Organics, and the Farm to Early Care & Education (ECE) Coalition for ECE settings.

Visit the **Georgia Department of Education's HOTM webpage** and **Quality Care for Children's HOTM webpage**. Upon viewing, you can findtips and tricks for preparing produce items, curriculum connections, activity lists and book alignment for your early care classrooms.

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# Dates To Know

| DATE: | Events |
|---|---|
| February | • Harvest of the Month: Cruciferous Vegetables<br>• Start Planning for Summer 2023 |
| February 16 | • Happy Helpings Experienced Sponsor Training |
| February 23 | • Happy Helpings Experienced Sponsor Training |
| March 20 | • Memo Monday! |
| March 22 | • Menu Planning in CACFP and Happy Helpings Webinar |
| March 22-23 | • Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training |
| April 13 | • Happy Helpings Experienced Training |
| April 26-27 | • Happy Helpings New Sponsor Training |

## Happy Helpings Resources:

*The following documents were covered in previous newsletters:*

- **Updated HH Forms and Policies**
- **Reminder: PolicyStat is available on the Nutrition Services' Webpage**
- **Thank You Happy Helpings Sponsors**
- **After School Programs Required to Apply for License or Exemption to Participate in At-Risk**
- **Transitioning from Happy Helpings to CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals**
- **Check your Email Messages in GA ATLAS**

## How was my Customer Service?

*Provide feedback on your experience with the Nutrition Team*

Click on the icon at right to participate in the customer service survey. Responses are anonymous.

## NEW DECAL Download

*Inclusive Early Learning Week*

Every year in February, we celebrate Inclusive Early Learning Week here at DECAL. Research shows that, regardless of their abilities, children in high-quality child care programs are better prepared to enter school and more likely to develop healthy social and emotional skills. When child care providers offer inclusive child care, they're supporting not only children with disabilities, but also their parents who can work, go back to school, or just take a break.

Joining us this week to talk about the importance of inclusion in early child care and Inclusive

Early Learning Week is Inclusion and Behavior Support Specialist, Kelly Wilson and Leah Brockington, who is a Family Peer Ambassador and has a child with autism enrolled in an Inclusive early learning program. We are also joined by one of our 2022-2023 Early Childhood Educators of the Year, Tierra Faulcon.

Listen to the episode **here**.

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**Nutrition Division**
**Marketing & Outreach Team**

**Cindy Kicklighter**
**Carl Glover**

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