



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## School Nutrition Programs

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This weekly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to providing education, training, and technical assistance opportunities to school nutrition professionals, helping to ensure seamless operations for those participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Child Nutrition Programs. If you are the food service contact for your school or facility, please be certain that everyone on your team has access to this important information.

### Tip of the Week

#### Water Availability

[USDA Policy Memo SP 49-2016](#) states that potable water must be available to students during the meal periods. The water must be free of charge and students must be allowed to access water or have an adult provide them with water. The use of a water fountain is acceptable, as long as the fountain is within the meal service/cafeteria area **and** students can access it. Please notify all adults in the meal service area providing oversight of students of this USDA program requirement.

The [2024 final rule](#) clarifies that schools are required to offer **plain** potable water during the meal service. Schools may choose to offer water with fruits, vegetables, and herbs added, in **addition** to the required plain water.

Please remember that bottled water is not an allowable expenditure of food service funds to meet this requirement and providing water for sale also does not meet the requirement. Additionally, the availability of water cannot act to meet special dietary needs for beverage substitution without a medical note from a prescriptive authority.

Additional questions about this requirement can be directed to your assigned field specialist.

### Important Updates

#### CNPweb Downtime

CNPweb will be inaccessible from close of business on Thursday, August 21 through Monday, August 25. Access will be restored on Tuesday, August 26. Schools are encouraged to complete the renewal application prior to this downtime.

### USDA Foods

#### Frozen Strawberry Cups Cancelled in 2026

Frozen strawberry cups 100256 have been cancelled from January to April 2026 per USDA due to vendor constraints. The strawberry cups scheduled for September to December 2025 will not be affected at this time. Please plan your menu and substitutions accordingly.

#### Food Distribution Program Year at a Glance Calendar

Our [Year At-A-Glance Calendar](#) offers school year reminders on one page, making it easy to map out events and schedules.

#### Updated Processing Companies and Manufacturers Broker's List

Do you need to contact your processing company brokers? Here's the link to the [Processing Brokers and Manufacturers List](#). This list contains Broker contact information and the corresponding companies they represent.

#### 2025-2026 State Assigned Warehouse Direct Delivery (Brown Box) Regions

There are three state assigned warehouses that will deliver direct delivered USDA Foods to schools. They are Dilgard Frozen Foods, Stanz Foodservice, and Wabash Foods. Dilgard Frozen Foods is changing its name to VanEerden Foodservice. They will cover regions 2 and 4 which are the northeast and central southeast areas. Stanz Foodservice has changed its name to Raydia Group and will cover regions 1 and 3. These are the north west and central west regions. Finally, Wabash Foodservice will cover the southern portion of the state. Here is the [State Assigned Warehouse Delivery Map](#) and the [List of State Assigned Warehouses and Associated Regions](#). Both provide delivery area information. Direct delivered USDA Foods deliveries begin in late September or early October.

#### Direct Delivered (Brown Box) USDA Foods

IDOE will notify schools via this newsletter when the Food Distribution Program (FDP) opens in CNPweb.

#### USDA Foods Carryover and Newly Deposited/Loaded Pounds Available at the Processing Companies

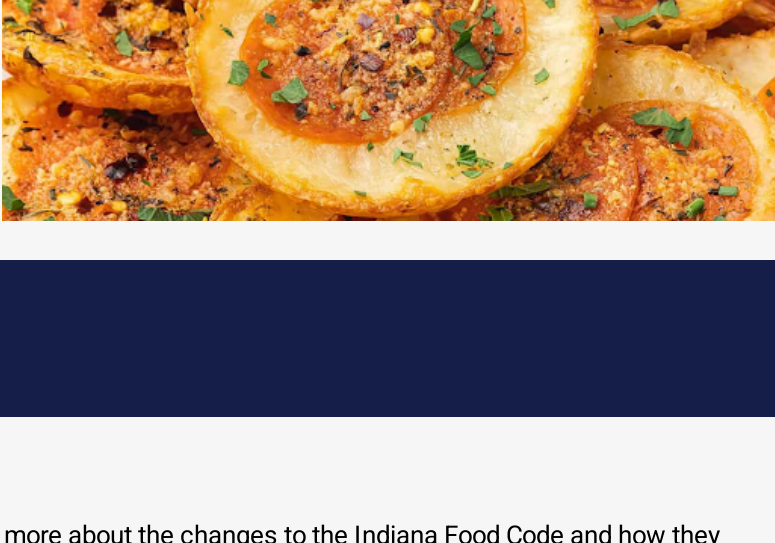
Carryover pounds from school year 2024-2025 must be used first. Processor pounds deposited/loaded for school year 2025-2026 are available to begin drawing down. Schools should review, manage and maintain pound balances in the commodity tracking websites [K12 Foodservice](#) and [ProcessorLink](#).

#### Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Funds

DoD allocations and sites have been entered into the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System ([FFAVORS](#)). Schools must complete the e-Authentication process by creating a [FFAVORS](#) account if not previously done. Following this action, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will create a profile in order for the school to begin placing produce orders. As a reminder, schools must enter their Department of Defense (DoD) Program receipts into the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System ([FFAVORS](#)), within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

#### USDA Foods Recipes

Use your USDA Foods [frozen mozzarella cheese](#) for this [mozzarella pizza chips](#) recipe. This recipe may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



### Training and Webinar Opportunities

#### Indiana Food Code Update Webinar

Join us for a webinar with the Indiana Department of Health to learn more about the changes to the Indiana Food Code and how they affect your operation. Each session will be the same content and presenters. Kitchen and site managers are also encouraged to attend.

- Tuesday, August 26, at 2 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).
- Thursday, August 28, (repeat session) at 10 a.m. ET Register [here](#).

### Reminders

#### After School Snack Program (ASSP) Reminders

- For PY 2026 renewal in CNPweb, all sponsors operating ASSP in one or more sites must take the Moodle ASSP training and upload the certificate within the CNPweb checklist. Check out the [CNPweb Instructions](#) for more information.
- The program must be an open, educational or enrichment program in a structured and supervised environment.
  - Students participating in team sports, clubs, or activities that require try outs or elections can only receive an after school snack if they are picking it up in a drop-in program that is open to all students to attend (like homework help or tutoring).
- Operators of the ASSP must [conduct a program review](#) at each site once within the first four weeks of operation.
- The [ASSP meal pattern](#) must be followed for all snacks served.
  - Students must take both offered items.
- [Smart Snacks and ASSP](#) are not the same. Not all items that are Smart Snack compliant will meet the ASSP meal pattern and not all items that can be served on ASSP are Smart Snack compliant.

Reach out to your field specialist with any ASSP questions.

#### Reimbursement Rates Now Posted

The [2025-2026 Reimbursement Rates](#) have been updated for the School Nutrition Program. You can also find these rates and more information listed on the [Federal Register](#).

Payments for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP) increased due to a 3.85 percent increase in the national average payment rates for schools and residential child care institutions for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This data can be found in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the Food Away From Home series.

The IDOE is still waiting for the effective rate for USDA Foods value per lunch. That will be updated once it is released.

#### SP 18-2025 Guidance on Fees for Electronic Payment Services in the School Meal Programs

This memorandum rescinds SP 04-2025, *Fees for Electronic Payment Services in the School Meal Programs*, which was issued on November 1, 2024.

Many School Food Authorities (SFAs) provide electronic payment options for families to add money to student school meal accounts. Electronic payments generally have processing fees. Families that choose to use electronic payment services may be charged a fee, but only if SFAs also offer a free and accessible method for all families to add money to student meal accounts.

Important Notes:

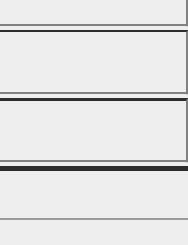
- SFAs must notify families of available payment options and any associated fees.
- SFAs must provide a method of making deposits to student meal accounts to meet the needs of families who do not have access to a computer, do not have a bank account, or prefer to make their payment by other means.
  - Common methods include accepting cash or checks at school or by mail.

For more information and best practices, read the entire memo [here](#).

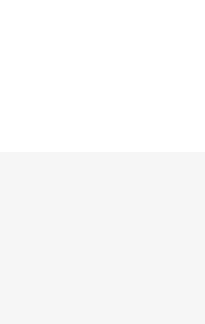
#### Professional Standards Trainings and Tracker Tool Update

Registered users of USDA's [Professional Standards Trainings and Tracker Tool](#) (PSTTT) can now find links to training and easily log the training hours once completed, all within one location—the modernized PSTTT. A new guest access feature will allow the same capabilities that the Professional Standards Training Database had with a new look. Both registered and guest users will be able to access Professional Standards training from the PSTTT. Users may search for training and view details such as title, length, format, provider, and cost. Links to the training will allow users to navigate to the website where the training is hosted. Check out Team Nutrition's Professional Standards Resources site, which include links to the PSTTT and recorded webinars on how to use the PSTTT [here](#). Contact [cnptab@usda.gov](mailto:cnptab@usda.gov) for assistance using the PSTTT.

## Upcoming Dates



Thursday, August 21 through Monday, August 25	<a href="#">CNPweb</a> will be offline
Tuesday, August 26, at 2 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Indiana Food Code Changes webinar</a>
Thursday, August 28, at 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Indiana Food Code Changes webinar</a> (repeat)



## Additional Resources

School Nutrition Programs Calendar  
[IDOE's Nutrition Webpage](#)  
[CNPweb](#)

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