



School Nutrition Programs

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

The CNPweb Help Form Has Moved

The CNPweb Help Form has moved from Google Forms to Jira. The new help form can be accessed [here](#). The link for the Google Form will direct users to the new system for the next few weeks and then the form will be closed. If you have the old form link saved to your bookmarks, please update it today!

Important Updates

CNPweb Program Year (PY) 2026 is Open

PY 2026 is now open. Each sponsor must complete the program renewal application. Sponsors that will submit a July reimbursement claim must be in approved status by Tuesday, September 30, and should submit their application at the earliest convenience. Instructions for submitting the application can be found [here](#).

Required Moodle training for renewal:

- Ethics - to be completed by a school corporation employee
- Civil Rights - to be completed by a school corporation employee
- New! After School Snack Program (ASSP)- all sponsors operating ASSP in one or more site must take this training and upload the certificate within the checklist. Check out the [CNPweb Instructions](#) for more information.

When completing the renewal applications, sponsors operating the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) option should see CEP within the drop-down options under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast sections. If this option is missing, contact us in the [CNPweb Help Form](#). Once the sponsor and site applications are completed and the required checklist items are handled, CEP sponsors will need to reach out in the [CNPweb Help Form](#) to let us know that they are ready for approval. Submit any questions or issues with CNPweb renewal [here](#).

Direct Certification (DC) Not Available

The School Nutrition Team is waiting on DC updates to be posted into our system by the developer. In the meantime, remember to reach out to your Student Information System (SIS) or Point of Sale (POS) companies to let them know about the download file format change. Send along the template spreadsheet [here](#). Submit DC questions through our updated [CNPweb Help Form](#).

Equipment Grant Update

Thank you to everyone who applied for IDOE's 2024 Equipment Grant. Applications have been reviewed and, unfortunately, funding was not available for every project requesting support. School Food Authorities (SFAs) will be notified whether they have been awarded a grant by Friday, July 11. For those who were not awarded the grant, additional opportunities may be available through [No Kid Hungry \(NKH\)](#) and [American Dairy Association](#). Contact SCNfinance@doe.in.gov with any questions about the equipment grant.

DEX Reporting – Waiting to Send Data Until First Day of School Not Required

It is no longer necessary to wait until the first day of the school calendar to begin sending enrollment (SSA) records to Data Exchange (DEX). IDOE will begin showing data that has been provided to DEX on Tuesday, July 15, and will begin running validations against the data.

- Allowing this data to be provided will alert school staff if there are any concerns with a student being reported in 4th grade. They will have time to determine if the student qualifies for a GCE grade level reason. They will have time to determine if the student must be in 3rd grade, contact parents, make updates to their schedules, etc. The earlier they have this information the better for school staff, parents, and students.
- Allowing this data to be provided will also assist with the new IEP/ILP system which is set to go live on Friday, July 18. PowerSchool Special Programs (PSSP) will begin 'pulling' enrollment data from DEX which in turn will allow school staff to have access to student files within the special program's software.

Farm to School

Local Foods Farmer Highlight Resource

Did you know there is a template to highlight the farmer that you purchase from or the local item purchased? Simply visit the Indiana Grown for Schools website and download the template [here](#). Plug in the information you want to highlight, add their photo, and display the flyer on the cafeteria line so students can learn where the food is coming from! Need help filling it out or making any other farm to school marketing material? Please reach out to f2s@doe.in.gov.

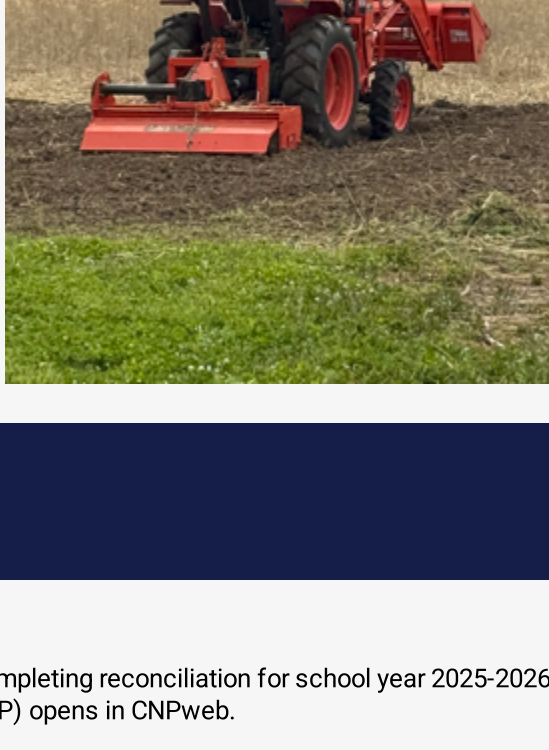
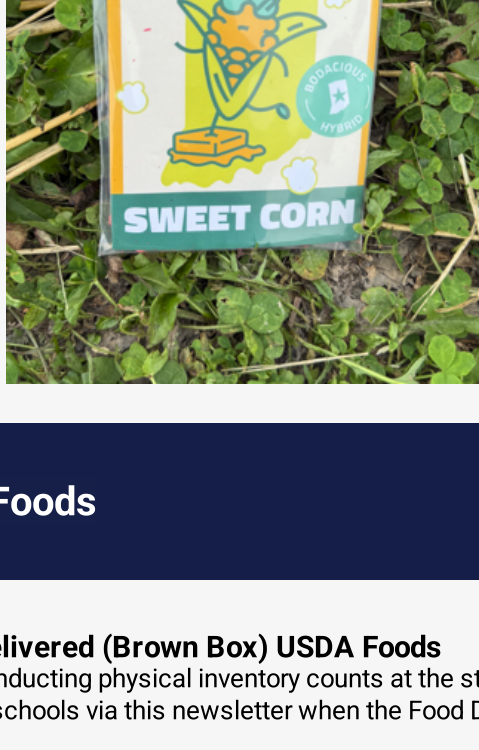
Farm to Cafeteria Conference

The National Farm to School Network will host the 10th [National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#) from Tuesday, December 2, through Friday, December 5. This conference is the premier event for anyone passionate about bringing local food to institutional settings and driving positive change in the food system. Whether you're a food service professional, farmer, educator, policymaker, entrepreneur, or student, this conference offers invaluable opportunities to network, learn, and share knowledge with others who are shaping the future of food access and sustainability. Find more information including registration [here](#). The early bird discount on registration ends Saturday, August 23.

Apple Crunch and Food Day Recipe Collection Request

One of the resources developed for Food Day and Apple Crunch will contain a compilation of recipes. If you have a recipe using apples or a corn-based product that you love, send it to f2s@doe.in.gov so it can be included in the toolkits. Don't forget registration for both events is open now! Sign up for [Apple Crunch](#) and [Food Day](#) today to receive resources while supplies last.

Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson (pictured) kicked off their second year of growing Indiana Food Day item of the year by planting sweet corn on their school farm.



USDA Foods

Direct Delivered (Brown Box) USDA Foods

IDOE is conducting physical inventory counts at the state warehouses and completing reconciliation for school year 2025-2026. 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

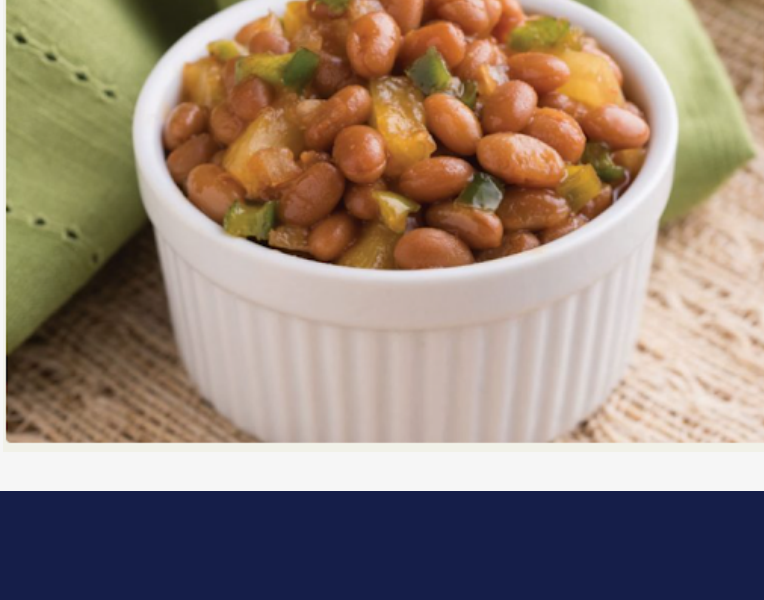
Carryover pounds from school year 2024-2025 and processor pounds deposited/loaded for school year 2025-2026 should be available to begin drawing down as we approach Thursday, July 31. Schools should review, manage and maintain pound balances in the commodity tracking websites [K12 Foodservice](#) and [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 a school representative, if this is not previously done. Then Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will create a profile in order for the school to begin to 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 [canned vegetarian beans](#) for this [baked beans](#) recipe. This recipe may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Training and Webinar Opportunities

Free and Reduced Training Series

Free and reduced meal benefits processors must be trained annually. The following training series will meet the requirements. For details on each webinar and to register, visit [here](#).

- Direct Certification (DC) Basics on Thursday, July 10, at 10 a.m. ET and Thursday, July 31, at 3 p.m. (Repeat session)
- Free and Reduced Application Processing on Thursday, July 10, at 1 p.m. ET and Tuesday, July 29, at 10 a.m. ET (Repeat session)
- New day and time!** Processing Possible Matches on Thursday, July 17, at 10 a.m. ET
 - Due to a schedule conflict, this session was changed.
- Eligibility Disclosure on Tuesday, July 22, at 2 p.m. ET
- Verification for Cause on Thursday, July 24, at 10 a.m. ET

Please note: Artificial Intelligence (AI) notetakers must be disabled when attending an online training webinar or meeting hosted by IDOE's School and Community Nutrition team. For more information, view our AI policy [here](#).

Reminders

Direct Certification (DC) File Updates

The DC Matches download file format has changed for the upcoming school year. You can see a template spreadsheet [here](#) and share with your Student Information System (SIS) or Point of Sale (POS) companies as needed. Updates include adding a school number column as well as shifting and renaming some of the existing data for consistency across reports. Please make sure you familiarize yourself and your online system support with these changes.

The [DC Possible Matches](#) file has also been updated. This spreadsheet does not necessarily need to be sent to your SIS or POS support since the file isn't typically uploaded anywhere other than CNPweb.

Notification that DC is available for PY 2026 will be sent via this newsletter.

Required Afterschool Snack Program (ASSP) Training

With changes to the meal pattern in school year 2025-2026, sponsors that operate the ASSP will be required to complete online training prior to approval to operate the program. The ASSP training is available in [Moodle](#) and all operators are encouraged to complete the training as soon as possible. Instructions for using Moodle can be found [here](#). Questions can be sent to SCNtrainings@doe.in.gov. Please download the training certificate for program year 2026 renewal as it will be part of the required packet forms to upload as proof of training.

New Memos from USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

USDA FNS has provided new memoranda intended to empower states and schools to implement fresh ideas that support healthy choices and healthy outcomes for our nation's schoolchildren:

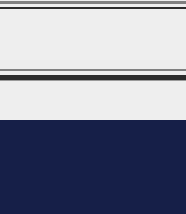
[SP 15-2025: Enhancing Child Nutrition Program Meal Standards](#), encourages state-level meal standards that put states in the driver's seat as innovative collaborators and policy incubators, ensuring that meals are tailored to meet the nutritional needs and preferences of their students.

[SP 14-2025: Offer versus Serve Flexibilities for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#), encourages schools to use Offer versus Serve (OVS), giving students more control over their meal choices while boosting participation and limiting food waste.

[SP 13-2025: Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs](#), provides notice to CNP operators regarding the 2025 Act including detailed information about crediting vegetables at breakfast, prohibition on the use of chicken and seafood from China, and compliance with Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirements.

[SP 11-2025: Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods](#), reminds schools, sponsors, and institutions participating in any Child Nutrition Program (CNP) of the many ways they can purchase local foods to serve in program meals. Sourcing and serving locally grown foods, and other farm to school activities, can infuse new energy and vision into CNP operations, support community health, create new opportunities for American farmers, invest federal dollars in local economies, and strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices.

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, July 10	Direct Certification Basics Webinar and Free and Reduced Application Processing Webinar
Tuesday, July 15 through Friday, July 18	ISNL Online Option
Wednesday, July 30	Final date to submit May claim for reimbursement.

Additional Resources

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