



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

Annual Required Training Update

The virtual training platform has moved from Moodle to the Nutrition Hub. All required courses (including Ethics, Civil Rights, and the After School Snack Program) are available in the Nutrition Hub, and users will access these required courses through the Nutrition Hub for school year (SY) 2026-2027. For more information about the Nutrition Hub, view this [guidance](#).

Important Updates

CNPweb Program Year (PY) 2027 is Open

School Nutrition Program (SNP) sponsors may now complete their PY 2027 sponsor and site applications, as well as complete any flagged item on the checklist tab. Be sure to carefully review each application to make sure it is current and accurate for the new school year.

New this year:

- All sponsors must submit their SNP applications to Pending Approval by Monday, August 31.
- The procurement plan template has been updated, so all SNP sponsors must download, complete, and upload the final signed document onto the checklist tab.
- The virtual training platform has moved from Moodle to the Nutrition Hub. Users are encouraged to access online training through the Nutrition Hub going forward. View the Nutrition Hub User Guide [here](#) for more information on the platform.

Reminders:

- Sponsors that have been approved to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in July and August are expected to complete their applications as soon as possible, so the system has the most current operating information.***
- New Food Service Directors (FSDs) are required to complete the [New Director Hiring Form](#).
- Food Safety Certification is required for all FSDs and is active for five years. After a certification expires, FSDs have 30 days to obtain an updated Food Safety Certification.
- On the checklist tab, only enter the date that the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Attestation Statement was completed for PY 2027 or the PLE Tool was submitted and approved by SCNFinance@doe.in.gov.

Instructions for submitting the renewal application can be found [here](#). Questions or technical needs with CNPweb can be submitted through the [CNPweb Help Form](#).

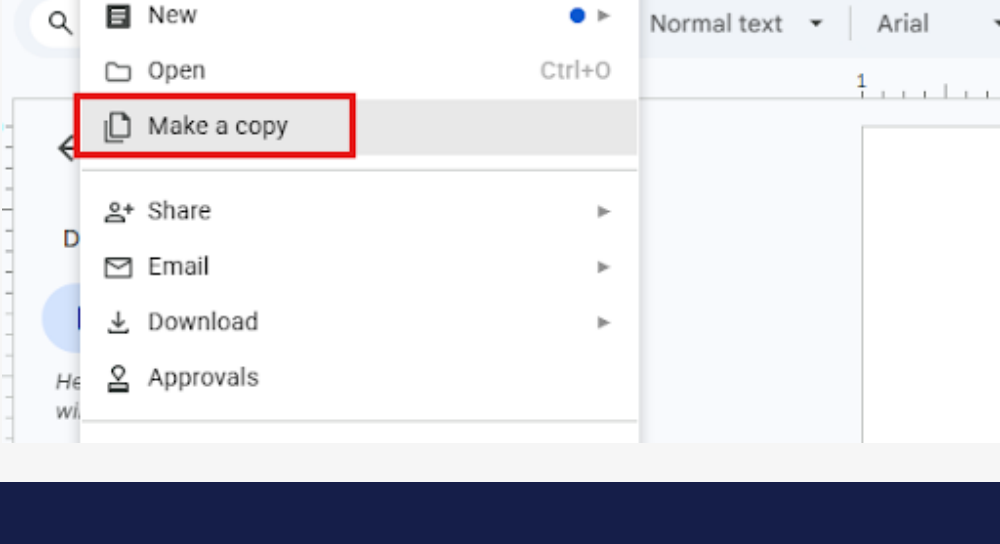
Smart Snacks Fundraiser Exemption Update

Per federal guidelines, schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) may hold up to six exempt fundraisers per school, per school year that do not meet Smart Snack nutrition standards, beginning with SY 2026-2027. Each event may last only one day, cannot occur during meal service, and must be documented. Schools must also designate a responsible party to track exempt fundraisers for monitoring.

Additional details are available in the [Smart Snacks in Schools Fundraiser Exemptions policy](#), and an optional [fundraiser tracking tool](#) is available to support documentation efforts.

Using IDOE Templates and Resources

IDOE has many templates and resources available for use. To access and edit these templates, users can either make a copy of the document to their personal drives or download the document in their preferred format. Please see the image below for guidance on how to make a copy of a document.



USDA Foods

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

School Food Authorities (SFAs) may now see Planned Assistance Level (PAL) posted in their FFAVORS account. Once PAL appears, SFAs can begin placing orders for SY 2026-2027. PAL information will continue to be updated, with all amounts posted by Saturday, August 1. If your SFA does not see PAL posted by that date, please contact the [FDP Mailbox](#).

USDA Foods Reminders

- Check your [PrimerEdge Catalog](#) to verify which USDA foods your SFA requested.
- Select your distributors in [K12 Foodservice](#) and/or [ProcessorLink](#) to deliver processed end products to your SFA.
- Verify processor pounds have been loaded by Saturday, August 1.
- Use carryover pounds first.
- Incorporate USDA foods into your school menu as much and as often as possible.

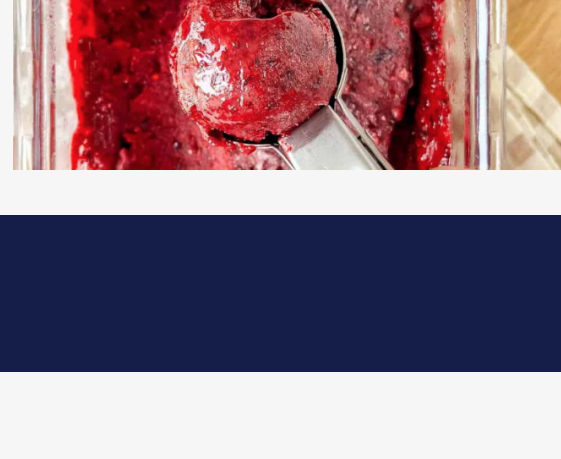
USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2026-2027

- 100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)
- 100258 Frozen Apple Slices
- 110721 Sweet Potato Fries
- 110921 Frozen Chicken Fillet, Unbreaded

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Utilize your USDA frozen [mixed berries](#) in this [berry sorbet](#) recipe. Recipes must meet USDA meal patterns and regulations. Looking for recipes to use your USDA Foods? Check out these resources:

- [Nutrition.gov](#)
- [Smart Swaps Recipes](#)
- [Wild Blueberry Recipes](#)
- [Recipes for Healthy Kids](#)
- [Recipes for Schools - Child Nutrition Recipe Box](#)
- [Team Nutrition Recipes](#)



Procurement

Procurement Information

The procurement section of our website has been updated to include the newly revised Child Nutrition Procurement Plan Template. The updated template is federally required for all sponsors participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Sponsors must download the new template and submit it as part of their annual application to ensure compliance with current procurement standards. The template can be found [here](#).

Questions about procurement? Click [here](#) or contact the [SCN Procurement mailbox](#) for assistance.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

Upcoming Webinars Scheduled

Check out the upcoming webinar list [here](#), as new events are added regularly. Three new webinars are scheduled for this summer as a part of the Free & Reduced Summer Series. Click the links below for more details and to register.

- [Free & Reduced Processing](#) - Thursday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET
- [Direct Certification \(DC\) Overview](#) - Thursday, July 23, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET
- [Eligibility Disclosure](#) - Thursday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET

If there is a specific topic you would like to see covered, let us know by filling out [this form](#)!

Reminders

Hello School Year 2027!

Wednesday, July 1, marked the start of another new school year! Sponsors are free to distribute and process Free and Reduced Applications, however it is highly recommended that Direct Certification (DC) is processed first. The DC system will open up soon—keep an eye out in the newsletter for this announcement. While DC is not available, sponsors can now go into CNPweb and update PY 2027 sponsor and site applications. For renewal instructions and other resources, visit the [CNPweb Resources webpage](#). For CNPweb questions, site update requests, or DC inquiries, please reach out through the [CNPweb Help Form](#).

Second Review of Applications Requirement

Federal regulation [7 CFR 245.11\(b\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) requires that state agencies conduct a second review of all local education authorities (LEAs) if it is determined during an administrative review that the LEA has 10% or more of the certification and benefit issuances in error. In addition to this requirement, state agencies must establish a secondary criterion for identifying LEAs at risk for certification and benefit issuance errors. Therefore, IDOE has established the following as secondary criterion:

- 8% or more of the certification and benefit issuance errors during an administrative review or follow-up review.
- Discretionary criteria as identified by the field specialist which may include significant or repeat findings with certification and benefit issuance errors.

Sponsors required to complete a second review of applications for school year SY 2026-2027 based on the USDA and State agency criterion listed above were notified on Friday, June 26. The reporting document and instructions were sent to the foodservice and free and reduced contacts. Please contact your field specialist with any questions.

SY 2026-2027 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

On Tuesday, April 14, USDA released [SP 06-2026 Paid Lunch Equity Guidance for School Year 2026-2027](#). For SY 2026-2027, the target weighted average price is \$4.16. SFAs with positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, are exempt from PLE pricing requirements found in [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#) for SY 2026-2027.

SFAs that qualify for this exemption must complete the [attestation statement](#) to confirm their exempt status. Exempt SFAs may still use the PLE tool to complete the steps necessary to determine their target paid lunch price for SY 2026-2027, consistent with program regulations in 7 CFR 210.14(e), and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly. The PLE tool can be found [here](#).

Additional guidance and resources are available on the financial management website. Email questions to SCNfiance@doe.in.gov, including your sponsor number and PLE Tool in the subject line.

Preparing for PrimerEdge

- Food Distribution Program (FDP):** All FDP accounts in CNPweb are now view-only.
- All Other CNPweb Accounts:** All other accounts remain fully operational and available for normal transactions.

If you do not have a PrimerEdge account or are not sure if you have an account or who has access to it, please complete the [School and Community Nutrition \(SCN\) Help Form](#). To verify you have a [PrimerEdge](#) account, please attempt to login if you have not already done so.

Updates from Our Partners

Foods for Hydration During the Hot Summer Months Ahead

The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030*, highlights hydration as an important part of overall health. Staying hydrated helps regulate body temperature, supports digestion, and keeps energy levels steady. While drinking water and small amounts of 100% juice can help us stay hydrated, many foods like fruits, vegetables, and dairy products also contribute to daily fluid intake. In fact, many fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables are made up of 80-90% water, making them a great addition to summer meals. Milk and yogurt are also excellent sources of water, along with providing protein, vitamins, and minerals. Eating a wide variety of hydrating foods makes it easy to stay hydrated all season long. Check out the tips below for creative ways to encourage hydration in your programs and at home!

- Add canned or fresh fruit to yogurt or oatmeal for extra water and fiber.
- Blend frozen fruit with milk or yogurt for a cool snack.
- Use canned vegetables in cold salads such as pasta salads.
- Flavor water by adding a few frozen berries or peaches.

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, July 15	Initial Due Date for June Claim
Thursday, July 30	Final Due Date for May Claim
Monday, August 31	SNP Applications Due to Pending Approval



Additional Resources

School Nutrition Programs Calendar
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage
CNPweb