



INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT of  
EDUCATION

Mike Braun, Governor  
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

### After School Snack Program (ASSP) Reminders

- For program year (PY) 2027 renewal, all sponsors operating ASSP must complete the [Nutrition Hub ASSP training](#) and upload the certificate within the CNPweb checklist.
- ASSP sites must operate 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).
- Sponsors 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 and 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.

## Important Updates

### Direct Certification (DC) Troubleshooting

Some sponsors have been reporting lower than average DC matches for this time of year. There are two troubleshooting tips that sponsors are recommended to implement:

- For the data manager at the school, those who report enrollment data in IDOE's Data Exchange (DEX), ensure that the 2027 Student School Association (SSA) record has been submitted.
- For the DC processor, upload the most current enrollment file directly into DC to manually match records. For instructions, click [here](#).
  - Please note, each site's enrollment will have to be uploaded separately. Sponsors can only upload enrollment files within the sites listed in CNPweb. So, if there are two school buildings that share a cafeteria and they are set up as only one site in CNPweb, upload both school's enrollment files under the one site listed in CNPweb.
  - If "no matches found" pops up after the upload, double check that the report was filled out correctly. The most common issue is the District Use Only column. This should be the student's individual STN or other unique identifier – any blanks or repeated numbers will cause an error and the report will not run.

Submit any DC questions in the [CNPWeb Help Form](#).

### Indirect Cost

The indirect cost de minimis rate (15%) option, for non-public sponsors who do not report their financial information to IDOE's Office of School Finance, has returned. Public schools may only charge indirect costs to the Nonprofit School Food Service Account with an approved indirect cost rate. The 2026 approved indirect cost rates can be found [here](#). The 2027 approved indirect cost rates can be found [here](#).

Non-public sponsors may calculate and charge indirect costs for school year (SY) 2025-2026 using the 15% de minimis indirect cost rate. Sponsors must submit the indirect cost calculation and proof of transfer in the expense lines of the Annual Financial Report (AFR). The indirect cost calculation is as follows:

*Indirect Cost = Total Allowable Direct Expenses - (Food Cost + Equipment more than 5K) x Indirect Cost Rate*

Indirect costs must be charged within 90 days of Tuesday, June 30, for SY 2025-2026. Indirect costs may not be charged retroactively for a previous school year.

Indirect costs are reported on the AFR as follows:

- If indirect costs were calculated and charged on or before Tuesday, June 30, the indirect costs charged should be reported on the 2026 AFR.
- If indirect costs were calculated and charged after Tuesday, June 30, but before Monday, September 28, the indirect costs charged should be reported on the 2027 AFR.

For questions regarding indirect costs, please contact [SCNFinance@doe.in.gov](mailto:SCNFinance@doe.in.gov), including your sponsor number in the subject line.

### Order Team Nutrition Materials

Team Nutrition encourages schools, summer meal sites, and child care organizations to [place print material orders](#) by Friday, August 14. Some of the materials will be retired after Monday, August 17. Ordering now helps prepare for fall activities. For all bulk orders, please email Team Nutrition at [TeamNutrition@USDA.gov](mailto:TeamNutrition@USDA.gov).

### Turnip the Beet Awards – Nominations Open for Summer 2026!

Indiana Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors are invited to participate in USDA's Turnip the Beet award program for summer 2026.

Turnip the Beet awards recognize outstanding summer program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious. These awards are aligned with USDA's priorities to create new opportunities to connect America's farmers to nutrition assistance programs, infuse the federal nutrition programs with new energy and vision, and strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families. This is an excellent way to recognize staff and acknowledge the hard work that contributes to the success of the program.

To participate, sponsors must submit the [PY 2026 Nomination Form](#) and include a one-month SFSP or SSO menu that meets all USDA program regulations. Completed nomination packets should be emailed to Tina Skinner at [tskinner@doe.in.gov](mailto:tskinner@doe.in.gov) by Friday, September 4. For additional tips for completing the nomination packet, click [here](#).

## Farm to School

### Upcoming Events and Webinars

IDOE, in partnership with the Indiana Grown for Schools Network, hosts events and shares webinars that support school nutrition programs. Stay up to date on the upcoming events page [here](#).

### Allowable Costs

Food service funds may be used to support farm to school projects, including growing school gardens, incorporating nutrition education activities, and investing in other farm to school efforts. Check out the new [Allowable Costs for Schools Fact Sheet](#) to determine whether specific expenses qualify.

### Culinary Skills for Farm to School Training

Gain hands-on culinary skills to incorporate more local foods into school meals. This training will cover farm to school basics, using fresh and local herbs, making common vegetable substitutions, and practicing several kid-friendly recipes. Sessions will be held in the afternoons in Logansport on Tuesday, September 22, and Wednesday, September 23, and in Daviess County on Thursday, September 24, and Friday, September 25. Space is limited, and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees from the summer 2024 training will be placed on a waitlist to allow new participants priority. Click [here](#) to register.

## USDA Foods

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

Schools must enter receipts in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) **within two calendar days** of delivery to avoid account suspension and ensure that vendors are paid. Schools should monitor and use DoD Fresh funds in FFAVORS to prevent sweeping or loss of funds.

### USDA Foods Reminders

- Select your distributors in [K12 Foodservice](#) and/or [ProcessorLink](#) to deliver processed end products to your SFA.
- Verify processor pounds have been loaded.
  - 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

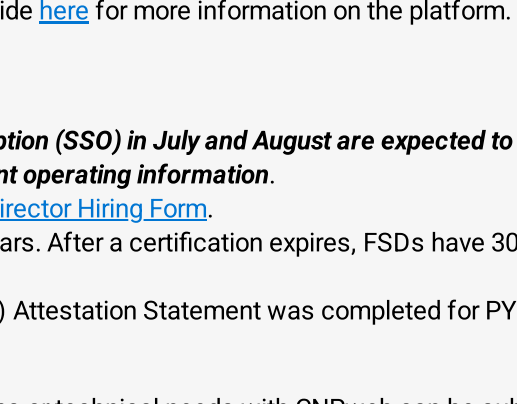
### Did You Know?

USDA Foods can be swept and redistributed. To ensure full use of entitlement dollars and prevent waste, IDOE reviews USDA Foods inventories at state-assigned warehouses and processing facilities. Unused products may be swept and redistributed to other schools to optimize resource efficiency.

### USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Utilize your USDA Turkey, Deli Breast, Smoked, Sliced in this turkey breast slider 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

Check out the upcoming webinar list [here](#), as new events are added regularly. Several new webinars are scheduled for this summer as well as AFR help sessions and office hours for the CNPweb application renewal process. Click the links below for more details and to register.

- [PY 2026 AFR Walkthrough \(Repeat\)](#) - Tuesday, August 11, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET
- [Free & Reduced Processing \(Repeat\)](#) - Thursday, August 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [PY 2026 AFR Walkthrough \(Repeat\)](#) - Tuesday, August 18, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET
- [Direct Certification \(DC\) Overview \(Repeat\)](#) - Thursday, August 20, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [PY 2026 AFR Walkthrough \(Repeat\)](#) - Tuesday, August 25, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET

AFR Help Sessions:

- Thursday, August 13, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. ET- Register [here](#).
- Thursday, August 20, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. ET - Register [here](#).
- Thursday, August 27, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. ET- Register [here](#).

CNPweb Application Renewal Office Hours:

- Tuesday, August 11, from 2 to 2:45 p.m. ET- Register [here](#).
- Tuesday, August 18, from 2 to 2:45 p.m. ET- Register [here](#).
- Tuesday, August 25, from 2 to 2:45 p.m. ET- Register [here](#).

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

## Reminders

### 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](mailto: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](#).

### Offer Versus Serve (OVS) Notification for Households

Helping parents understand how meals are served at school is vital to program success. Schools that implement OVS at breakfast or lunch must notify households so families understand how students can create a reimbursable meal. Notification may be provided through various avenues such as letters, emails, social media, or website postings. The OVS notification resources are available [here](#).

## Updates From Our Partners

### "Level Up with Dairy" Mobile Yogurt Parfait Bar Grant – Apply Now!

American Dairy Association Indiana (ADAI) knows the power of meeting students where they're at, not just with trending food and beverage options, but with meal service that reaches students as it relates to their location. The "Level Up with Dairy" Grant gives schools the chance to win a Mobile Yogurt Parfait Bar Kit that doubles as a versatile mobile meal cart, helping boost participation by making meals more nutrient-dense and more accessible. When the cart isn't serving yogurt parfaits, it can be used for Second Chance Breakfast or other on-the-go dairy offerings. Schools across Indiana are encouraged to apply [here](#). For questions, contact Sheri Shipp, Youth Wellness Manager, at [shipp@winnersdrinkmilk.com](mailto:shipp@winnersdrinkmilk.com).

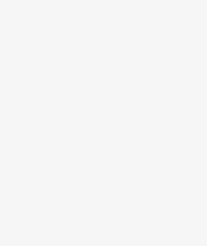
### More Milk Choices for Growing Kids

The "Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs" final rule, effective Monday, June 8, now gives schools the flexibility to offer whole and reduced-fat (2%) milk alongside low-fat and fat-free options. This added choice supports student preferences while meeting federal guidelines. Research shows whole and reduced-fat milk are not linked to higher obesity risk in children and provide important dietary fat that supports growth, energy, brain development, and absorption of fat-soluble vitamins. ADAI is asking schools to share which milk varieties your school plans to serve this year by completing this short [survey](#). Survey participants will be entered to win an Amazon gift card.

## Upcoming Dates



|                       |                                                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, August 31     | <a href="#">SNP Applications Due to Pending Approval</a> |
| Monday, August 31     | <a href="#">Final Due Date for June Claim</a>            |
| Friday, September 4   | <a href="#">PY 2026 Annual Financial Report Due</a>      |
| Tuesday, September 29 | <a href="#">Final Due Date for July Claim</a>            |



## Additional Resources

School Nutrition Programs Calendar  
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage  
CNPweb