



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

Happy Farm to School Month!

Farm to School Month is a chance to celebrate food education, school gardens, and lunch trays filled with healthy, local ingredients. The National Farm to School Network has [free poster graphics](#) for schools to print and display. The [Indiana Grown for Schools Network](#) is your local connection supporting Hoosier schools. Check out which Indiana schools and childcare facilities participate in [Farm to School on this interactive map](#).

Important Updates

USDA Food and Nutrition Administration Turnip the Beet Award

Nine Indiana Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors have been recognized with a USDA Food and Nutrition Administration 2025 Turnip the Beet (TUB) Award. Congratulations to the following awardees for their outstanding efforts!

Gold

- Monroe County Community Schools Corporation

Silver

- Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation
- Danville Community School Corporation
- Indianapolis Public Schools
- Warrick County School Corporation

Bronze

- Fort Wayne Community Schools
- Merrillville Community School Corporation
- MSD of Decatur Township Schools
- Valparaiso Community Schools

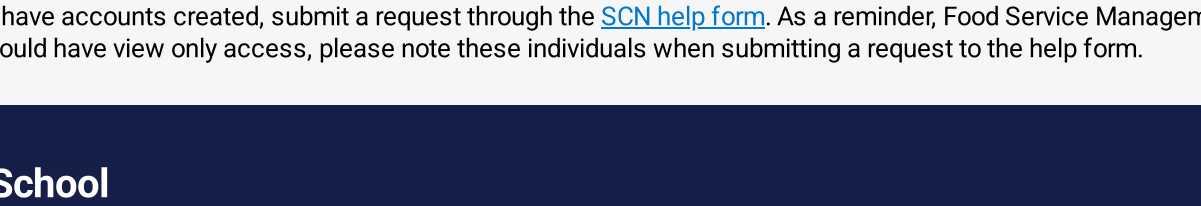
These awards support USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins' priorities to strengthen connections between America's farmers and nutrition programs, energize federal nutrition efforts, and promote healthy choices for children. They also advance the new Harvest to Hallways initiative, expanding access to nutritious meals and showcasing innovative practices.

IDOE thanks all the sponsors for their dedication—especially in ensuring children receive healthy meals during the summer! For a complete listing of TUB Awardees visit [Turnip the Beet webpage](#).

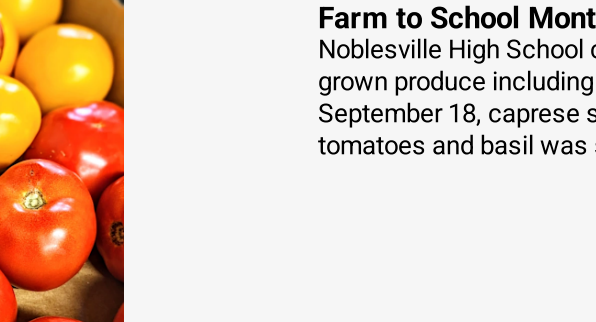
Viewing Users in PrimeroEdge

PrimeroEdge account holders can view which staff in their school corporation have PrimeroEdge accounts. Instructions to see the list of users are below.

- Log into PrimeroEdge
- On the home screen, click on the gear icon in the top right of the screen

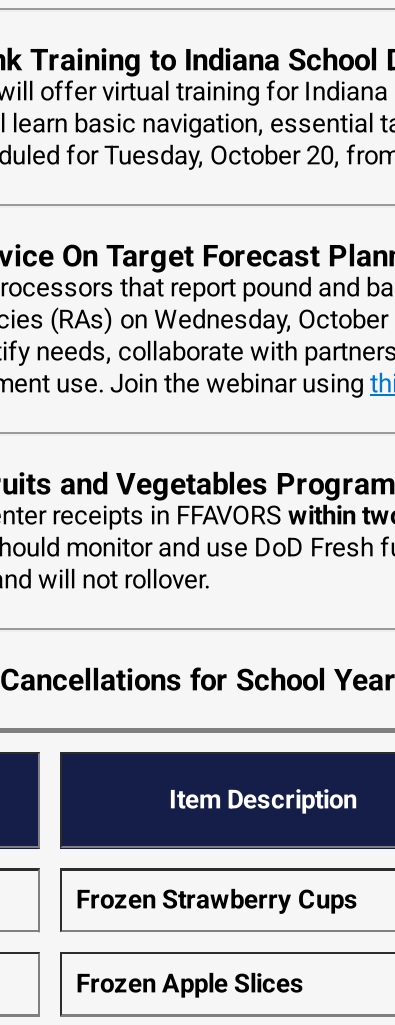


- Click on Sites and Users in the left hand menu
- Click on Users



If a user no longer needs access to PrimeroEdge, please update their account access via the [SCN help form](#). Likewise, when new users need to have accounts created, submit a request through the [SCN help form](#). As a reminder, Food Service Management Company employees should have view only access, please note these individuals when submitting a request to the help form.

Farm to School



Farm to School Month Highlights

Noblesville High School celebrated Indiana Food day with campus grown produce including tomatoes, basil, and lettuce! On Friday, September 18, caprese salad using the local, campus grown tomatoes and basil was served on school campus.

USDA Foods

USDA Foods Direct Ship (Brown Box) Allocations Have Begun

School Food Authorities (SFAs) may begin placing Direct Ship USDA Foods orders in CNPweb. Before ordering, please ensure the USDA Foods items appear under your SFA's Inventory tab. A minimum order of 10 cases per delivery site is required to avoid under-minimum case fees. For detailed Direct Ship ordering instructions, please visit IDOE's [State Assigned Warehouse and Ordering Information webpage](#).

ProcessorLink Training to Indiana School Districts

[ProcessorLink](#) will offer virtual training for Indiana SFAs to familiarize Indiana school districts with key features and workflows. Recipient Agencies (RAs) on Wednesday, October 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET. [K12Foodservice.com](#) now offers a commodity planner that helps RAs identify needs, collaborate with partners, and track progress. The K12 On Target Planner provides real-time updates to improve entitlement use. Join the webinar using [this Microsoft Teams link](#).

K12 Foodservice On Target Forecast Planner Virtual Training

For SFAs with processors that report pound and balance information through K12 Foodservice, IDOE is hosting a virtual training for Recipient Agencies (RAs) on Wednesday, October 21, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET. [K12Foodservice.com](#) now offers a commodity planner that helps RAs identify needs, collaborate with partners, and track progress. The K12 On Target Planner provides real-time updates to improve entitlement use. Join the webinar using [this Google Meet link](#).

DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program: Enter Receipts

Schools must enter receipts in 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. Funds must be used in full by June 30, 2027 and will not rollover.

USDA Foods Cancellations for School Year (SY) 2026-2027

Material Code	Item Description	Order Cancellation Date
1100256	Frozen Strawberry Cups	January-March 2027
100258	Frozen Apple Slices	Entire School Year - All Warehouses
110721	Sweet Potato Fries	Entire School Year - All Warehouses
110921	Frozen Chicken Fillet, Unbreaded	Entire School Year - All Warehouses
100309	Canned Carrots	Entire School Year - Gordon Food Service (GFS) Brighton and Clay only
100313	Canned Corn	Through December 2026 - All Warehouses
110846	Whole Strawberries (Frozen)	Entire School Year - All Warehouses
110860	Strawberry Slices (Frozen)	Entire School Year - All Warehouses
1111881	Pulled Chicken (Frozen)	Entire School Year - All Warehouses

Did You Know?

USDA Foods operates on a yearly cycle that includes forecasting, ordering, delivery, and utilization. Understanding each step helps you plan menus, manage inventory, and maximize entitlement.

- Forecasting (Now)**
 - SFAs estimate what foods they need for the upcoming school year so the state can plan USDA Foods requests.
- Annual Survey / Pre-Ordering (February - March)**
 - SFAs submit their USDA Foods requests (preferences, quantities) through the state's ordering system.
- USDA Procurement and Production (Spring - Summer)**
 - USDA purchases the products based on states' requests; processors plan production.
- Deliveries to State Warehouses / Processors (On-going during school year)**
 - Foods begin arriving at the state warehouse early October and at the processors by August. The state distributes products to SFAs based on their requests.
- Utilization and Inventory Management (On-going during school year)**
 - SFAs use the products in menus, monitor inventory, and provide feedback to improve forecasting for the next cycle.

USDA Foods Recipe Resources

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

Important Procurement Thresholds

- Formal Procurement** – Annual spend with a vendor is above \$150,000.
- Simplified Acquisitions (Small Purchases)** – Annual spend with a vendor is between your micro purchase threshold of either \$15,000 or \$50,000 annually and up to \$150,000.
- Micro Purchases** – Annual spend with an individual vendor up to \$15,000 or \$50,000 if your school follows self-certification procedures.
- Equipment** – Any item on an individual basis that costs more than \$10,000, has a useful life of longer than one year, and is non-expendable personal property.

Ensure all procurement actions align with your school's Child Nutrition Procurement Plan, and follow rules for full and open competition, maintain documentation, and conflict-of-interest rules.

For more details on procurement topics, see the [Procurement Information Sheet](#). Questions about procurement? Visit IDOE's [Procurement webpage](#) or contact the [SCN Procurement mailbox](#) for assistance.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

Financial Management: A Course for School Nutrition Directors

This fall, in partnership with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), IDOE will offer two in-person sessions of Financial Management, a full-day course designed for school nutrition directors and business managers. This training provides practical tools, hands-on activities, and guidance to strengthen financial practices and support informed decision making within school nutrition programs.

Training dates and locations:

- Tuesday, October 27, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET at Kokomo Schools, Kokomo, IN
- Tuesday, November 17, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET at Bedford North Lawrence Schools, Bedford, IN

To register, please complete the [Financial Management registration Jotform](#).

Culinary Skills for A+ School Meals: Fall 2026 Virtual Training Series

Join for free, interactive sessions featuring live chef demonstrations, practical recipes, efficient techniques, and nutritional insights. Each class earns one training hour and includes exciting giveaways!

Enhance your culinary skills and learn tips and tricks from school nutrition pros. Classes are held Thursdays, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET. For more details, visit [Culinary Skills for A+ School Meals flyer](#) to register.

- Thursday, October 15: Slice, Dice & Serve: Vegetable Cutting Skills for School Meals
- Thursday, October 22: Mastering Fruit Prep: Cutting Techniques for K12 Foodservice
- Thursday, October 29: Making the Most of USDA Foods in School Kitchens
- Thursday, November 5: Stirring Up Success: Soups Kids Will Love

Questions? Contact [Cathy Powers](#) for additional information.

Upcoming Webinars

Check out the [upcoming webinar list](#), as new events are added regularly. Please use the Microsoft Teams event links below to find more details and to register.

- [Verification in Action](#) - Thursday, October 15, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET.
- [YSR - Verification Summary Report](#) - Thursday, November 19, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET.
- [YSR - Verification Summary Report \(Repeat\)](#) - Thursday, December 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET.

Farm to School

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

- [Farm to School Office Hours](#) - Wednesday, November 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. ET

Food Distribution Program (FDP)

Below is a list of upcoming training opportunities on FDP. Please use the links below to register.

- [The Future is in Forecasting](#) - Wednesday, November 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. ET.
- [Making the Most of Your USDA Foods](#) - Wednesday, December 9, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET.
- [PrimeroEdge Catalog Refresher Training](#) - Wednesday, January 13, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. ET.
- [FDP Office Hours for the Catalog](#) - Wednesday, February 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET.
- [FDP Office Hours for the Catalog](#) - Wednesday, March 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET.
- [End of Year Reminders](#) - Wednesday, April 7, from 10 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

Happy National School Lunch Week (NSLW)

Celebrate the importance of healthy school meals that help students learn and thrive. This year's theme, "Cafeteria Circus: Where Healthy Choices Take Center Stage," highlights the creativity and dedication behind every school meal. While NSLW is observed Monday, October 12 through Friday, October 16, schools may celebrate any week that works best. Find promotional materials, graphics, activity ideas, and more on the [School Nutrition Association webpage](#).

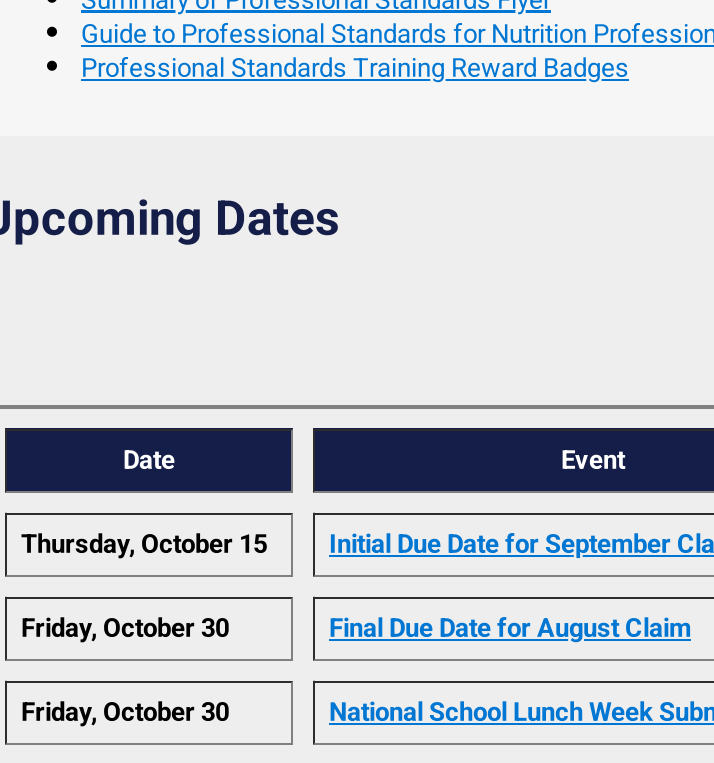
Want to share your school's celebrations? IDOE is compiling a scrapbook with school submissions. Please submit your photos with the school name and description to [Jennifer Ress-Henry](#) by Friday, October 30. Remember that photos of children's faces cannot be submitted without media release information on file.

Healthier School Meals Pledge Survey

This summer USDA announced an opportunity for States to pledge their commitment to serving healthier school meals to students across the nation. This directly aligns with Governor Braun's Make Indiana Healthy Again initiative, which focuses on improving access to fresh local food, removing harmful additives, and giving Hoosiers the tools they need to live healthier. Governor Braun urges all Indiana schools to implement one or more of the [recommended actions](#) in preparation for the new nutrition standards. The six actions included in the pledge are allowable under current federal regulations and align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030. Please complete [this short survey](#) to indicate which actions you have already implemented or are able to implement during the 2026-2027 school year.

Take Survey

Nutrition Nugget



Macronutrient Highlight: Carbohydrates

Whether they come from grains, fruits, or vegetables, carbohydrates are the body's main source of fuel and give our students energy they need to function during the school day.

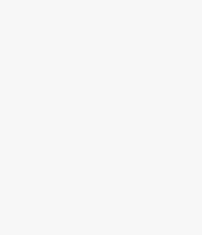
Image: stock.adobe.com

Updates from Our Partners

Professional Standards Revisions

To support school nutrition professionals, USDA has shared the following revised resources to include the most current policy guidance:

- [Summary of Professional Standards Flyer](#)
- [Guide to Professional Standards for Nutrition Professionals](#)
- [Professional Standards Training Reward Badges](#)



Additional Resources

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

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