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**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

Health Department Notification

To assist sponsors with the required annual program operations notification to local health departments, IDOE provides a [template notification letter](#) that schools can utilize. To use the template, make a copy in Google or download the document in a preferred format.

Important Updates

Adult Meal Pricing Guidance for School Year (SY) 2026-2027

Adult meal pricing for SY 2026-2027 must be set using the most current federal reimbursement rates. Prices must cover the full cost of producing adult meals, including USDA entitlement and bonus donated foods. If SY 2025-2026 reimbursement rates are used, documentation of school board or school administration approval is required. If adult meal prices are not approved before the release of SY 2026-2027 reimbursement rates, SY 2026-2027 rates must be used.

Minimum price calculations for breakfast and lunch vary for pricing and non-pricing School Food Authorities (SFAs) and must meet federal requirements. For more information, adult meal pricing guidance can be found [here](#).

PY 2026 AFR Walkthrough Webinars:

- Tuesday, July 21, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET - Register [Here](#)
- Monday, July 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET - Register [Here](#)
- Tuesday, August 4, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET - Register [Here](#)

AFR Help Sessions:

- Thursday, July 23, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. ET - Register [Here](#)
- Tuesday, July 28, from 10 to 10:30 a.m. ET - Register [Here](#)
- Thursday, July 30, from 1 to 1:30 p.m. ET - Register [Here](#)
- Monday, August 3, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. ET - Register [Here](#)
- Wednesday, August 5 from 9:30 to 10 a.m. ET - Register [Here](#)

Nutrition Hub Reminder

IDOE has transitioned from Moodle to the Nutrition Hub on the LearningLab platform. Click [here](#) to view the user guide outlining the setup process.

Access to the Nutrition Hub requires a two-step process.

Step 1: Create a [LearningLab](#) account.

Step 2: Submit the [Nutrition Hub access request form](#). The same email address must be used for both steps to ensure setup.

Access requests may take up to 48 business hours to process. For questions, email SCNtrainings@doe.in.gov.

Now Hiring: School Nutrition Programs Training Specialist

IDOE is seeking a candidate with strong school nutrition program experience to lead training and support efforts statewide. This role develops virtual and in-person trainings, creates resources for sponsors, manages learning platforms, and collaborates with partners to strengthen program implementation and compliance.

Please contact Jennifer Ress-Henry at jress@doe.in.gov with any questions. Click [here](#) to view the full job posting.

USDA Foods

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

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](#).

Track DoD Fresh Spending

Monitor your DoD Fresh balance throughout the year to avoid unused funds.

USDA Foods Reminders

- Check your [PrimeroEdge 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.

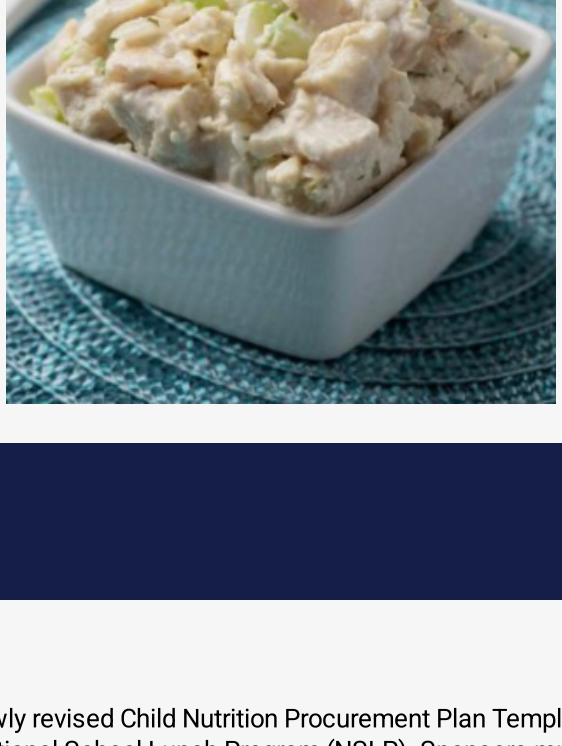
USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2026-2027

- 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 [diced chicken](#) in this [chicken salad](#) 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

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](#).

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 SY 2026-2027. For more information about the Nutrition Hub, view this [guidance](#).

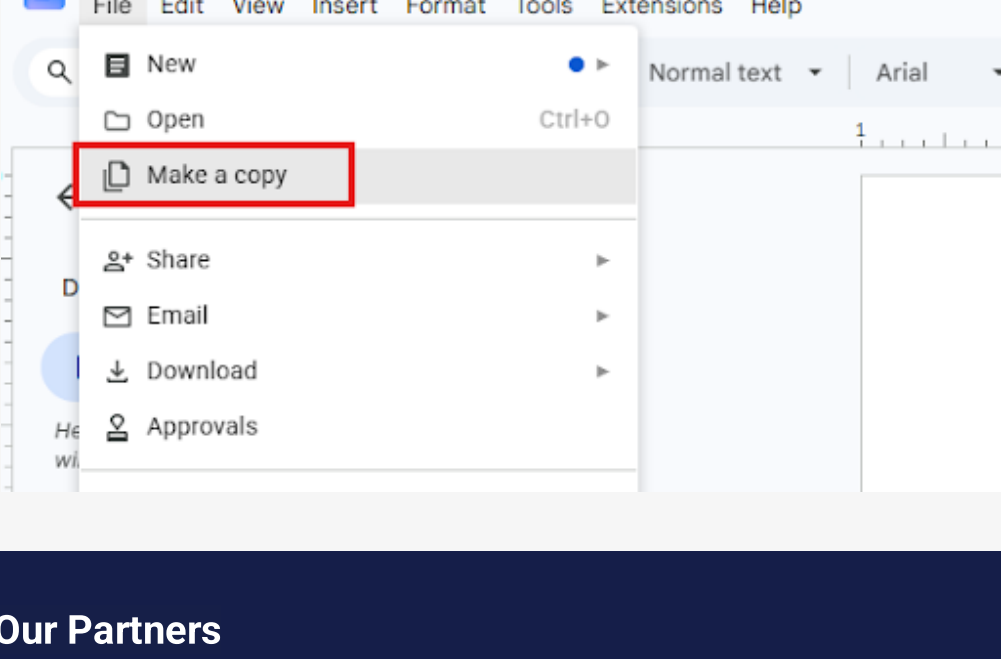
Smart Snacks Fundraiser Exemption Update

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 school year (SY) 2026-2027. Each event may last only one day, cannot occur during meal service, and must be documented. Sponsors 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

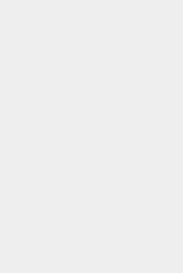
IDOE has many templates and resources available for use. To access and edit these templates, users can either make a copy of the document to their personal drives or download the document in their preferred format. Please see the image below for guidance on how to make a copy of a document.



Updates from Our Partners

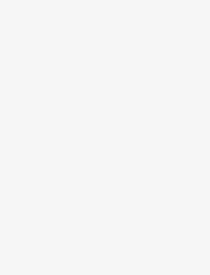
Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Accelerator: Back-to-School Edition

The start of a new school year is one of the most demanding times in school nutrition and an important opportunity to invest in professional growth. ICN Accelerator: Back-to-School Edition is a free, full-day virtual summit designed to support school nutrition professionals during the critical period before and after students return, when practical guidance has the greatest impact on operations. Two sessions are available: Thursday, July 23, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET or Tuesday, August 25, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to register.



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
Monday, August 31	Final Due Date for June Claim
Friday, September 4	PY 2026 Annual Financial Report Due



Additional Resources

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

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