



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

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](#).

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](#).

PY 2027 CNPweb Application Renewal Office Hours

Each Tuesday in August, IDOE will host office hours to support sponsors with completing their PY 2027 CNPweb applications. Join for a brief walk-through of the process and get live help with sponsor and site applications, checklist items, and troubleshooting. This open Q&A session is designed to support a smooth and accurate renewal process.

CNPweb Application Renewal Office Hours:

- Tuesday, August 4, from 2 to 2:45 p.m. ET - Register [here](#)
- 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](#)

Farm to School

Food Day Registration

Registration is now open for Indiana Food Day! Food Day offers a great opportunity for schools or districts to celebrate this year's local food: tomatoes. For celebration ideas, watch the recording of the kick-off webinar and explore the Food Day 101 Toolkit on the website. The registration link, promotional posters, a swag ordering portal, and additional toolkits with resources for schools can be found [here](#)! Posters are going fast, so register today!

Apple Crunch Registration is Here!

The Indiana Apple Crunch is a fun way to celebrate National Farm to School Month. Each October, Indiana schools, businesses, youth organizations, and groups purchase local apples, educate participants about apples, and CRUNCH together. Hosts of Crunch sites organize the Big Crunch along with other apple-themed activities. Pick a day in October, plan where apples will be purchased, and start thinking about how to create a CRUNCHTASTIC event! Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

Cucumber Craze Feedback

Did you participate in Cucumber Crunch? Let us know what you thought, share photos, and add what theme you want to celebrate next year, [here](#).

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 school year (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 [PrimerioEdge 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 [canned](#) or [frozen](#) carrots in this [cafeteria carrot soufflé](#) or [cheesy carrot casserole](#) 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 a part of the Free & Reduced Summer Series. Click the links below for more details and to register.

- [Eligibility Disclosure](#) - Thursday, July 30, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [PY 2026 AFR Walkthrough](#) - Tuesday, August 4, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET

AFR Help Sessions:

- 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](#)

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

Reminders

Meal Benefit Approval by Medicaid Participation

Sponsors are reminded that participation in Medicaid is not an automatic qualifier for school meal benefits. Approved students can be found in the Direct Certification (DC) system as qualifying for benefits by Medicaid free (source code M) or reduced (source code R). Because Medicaid is not an automatic qualifier for school meal benefits, Medicaid case numbers should not be accepted at face value nor included in the wording in the case number section of any meal benefit application (paper or online). Review the Medicaid Fact Sheet as well as the Medicaid FAQ for Parents on the [DC webpage](#).

Direct Certification (DC) Lists are Now Available!

DC lists are now available for July. Due to nightly data updates from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), clicking Download New Matches on the Review New Matches page will generate multiple spreadsheets. To view one complete list, select Download New Matches, then navigate to Search Approved Students. Click Download Year to Date Matches, enter 7/1/2026 in the From Download Date field and the current date in the To Download Date field. Issues or questions can be submitted through the [CNPweb Help Form](#). Find resources for conducting Direct Certification [here](#).

PY 2027 Reimbursement Rates

On Thursday, July 16, USDA released the PY 2027 Reimbursement Rates. Reimbursement rates can be found on the [Federal Register](#). The reimbursement rate chart has been updated and posted to [IDOE's financial management webpage](#).

Adult Meal Pricing Guidance for SY 2026-2027

Breakfast and lunch served to adults under the School Nutrition Programs must be priced so that the adult payment is sufficient to cover the overall cost of the meal, including the value of any USDA entitlement and bonus donated foods used to prepare the meal. School Food Authorities (SFA) are allowed to use the previous school year's reimbursement rates to set adult meal pricing for the following year if pricing was approved by the school board (or equivalent) prior to the newest reimbursement rates being released*. If adult pricing was not approved until after the PY 2027 reimbursement rates* were released, then the newer rates should be used when determining the adult meal price.

Review updated guidance, frequently asked questions, and pricing formulas on the [Determining Meal Prices for Adults](#) fact sheet.

**The PY 2027 reimbursement rates were released on Thursday, July 16. If adult meal prices using last year's reimbursement rates were not board (or administrator) approved before Thursday, July 17, the local adult meal price must meet adult meal pricing requirements using the [PY 2027 reimbursement rates](#).*

Updates from Our Partners

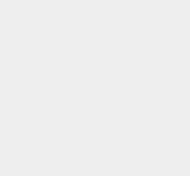
Procuring with Efficiency: Writing Specifications That Work

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is hosting a webinar on creating clear, effective product specifications to support compliant and efficient school meal procurement. The session will cover key elements of strong specifications, how to incorporate nutrition, packaging and delivery requirements, and common mistakes to avoid when writing bids and request for proposals (RFPs). Practical tools and resources will also be highlighted. The webinar will be held Thursday, July 30, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The registration can be found [here](#).

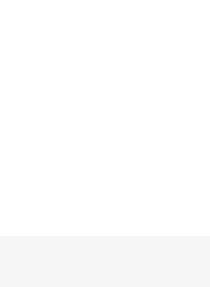
Local Beef in School Meals Webinar

The USDA Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) Food Safety Branch and the Community Foods Systems Division, together with the ICN, will host a webinar spotlighting strategies for incorporating local beef into school meals, along with key food safety and regulatory requirements. The session will also include a live panel and Q&A featuring experts who will share practical tools and resources to support safe, efficient local beef initiatives. The webinar will be held Monday, August 3, from 12 to 1 p.m. ET. The registration can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Dates



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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