



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

Verification Summary Report (VSR)
All sponsors must complete the VSR, even if they are not required to conduct verification, such as schools operating Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at all sites and Residential Childcare Institutions (RCCI) without day students. Sponsors with missing reports were emailed a reminder on Friday, January 2. Once the October claim for reimbursement has been submitted and approved, the VSR will be open under the Reports tab in CNPweb. The VSR is due on Thursday, January 15. For more information, visit the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) [Verification & Direct Verification webpage](#) or attend the final [VSR training session Thursday, January 8, at 2 p.m.](#)

Important Updates

Nominations for the School Food Service Employee of the Year Due Friday, February 6
Help IDOE recognize school food service employees who contribute significantly to the health and learning capabilities of students by nominating them for IDOE's 2026 School Food Service Employee of the Year Award. This award was created in 1998 to recognize the outstanding achievements of school food service employees who excel in the areas of customer service, professionalism, and teamwork. All school food service personnel except Food Service Directors are eligible to be nominated. Submit your [nomination](#) by Friday, February 6. Contact [Suzette Hartmann](#) with any questions.

Changes are Coming for the Food Distribution Program (FDP)
School Food Authorities (SFAs) will soon receive login information for PrimeroEdge, a new system that will replace CNPweb for FDP. SFAs will continue to use their CNPweb single-user login to access the School Nutrition Program (SNP), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and/or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

FDP will be moving to PrimeroEdge in phases, starting with the catalog (formerly, the annual pre-order forecast survey). Join IDOE's FDP team for a walk-through of the new system. Questions regarding Department of Defense (DoD) allocation commitments will also be addressed in the training session.

All FDP operators should register for and attend at least one of the offered training sessions listed below. There will also be an opportunity to attend an open office hours session to ask questions about the new PrimeroEdge program; this does not replace the in-depth training.

- [Tuesday, January 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m.ET](#)
- Rescheduled from Wednesday, January 7: [Wednesday, January 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m. ET](#)
- Rescheduled from Wednesday, January 7: [Wednesday, January 28, 1 to 2:30 p.m.ET](#)
- [Q&A Office Hours, Thursday, January 29, 1 to 2p.m.ET](#)

Farm to School

Indiana Food Day 2026 Announcement
We are excited to announce we will be celebrating tomatoes for Indiana Food Day 2026! Indiana Food Day is a year-long celebration of a single agriculture crop grown in our state. We pick the item; you pick how and when you celebrate. Indiana Grown for Schools will release toolkits helping operators learn how to grow, purchase locally, and teach about tomatoes. Food Day is a great opportunity to collaborate across departments to help your students get a well-rounded education in all things tomatoes. Be on the lookout for the Food Day Kick-off webinar registration soon!

USDA Foods

DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program
As a reminder, schools must enter their DoD Program receipts into the [FFAVORS](#) within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

Direct Delivery “Order By” Reminder
As a reminder, schools must place USDA Foods Direct Delivery (Brown Box) orders in CNPweb by 10 a.m. ET the Monday of the week prior to the delivery period that your school would like to receive the delivery. Orders placed after 10 a.m. ET will not be accepted.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2025-2026
100309 Canned Carrots (Entire School Year)
100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)
111900 Turkey Breast Deli (January-June 2026)

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas
Use your USDA Foods [turkey roast](#), [roast](#), [raw](#), [frozen](#), [diced chicken](#), [frozen](#) or [canned](#) corn, [frozen](#) or [canned](#) green beans, and/or [mixed vegetables](#) for this [chicken or turkey vegetable soup](#) recipe. This recipe may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Procurement

Updated Monthly Reconciliation Form
IDOE has updated the new [USDA Foods Monthly Reconciliation Report Form](#). The updated form includes clearer instructions and a signature page. If you already completed the previous form without the signature, please go to the link above and complete the signature page. This form is required during a procurement review for schools that contract with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) and is a valuable tool for recording USDA Foods activities and transactions. This form can be found on both the [Procurement](#) webpage, under forms, templates and examples, and the [Forms and Checklists](#) webpage.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

- Upcoming Webinars**
- Verification Summary Report (VSR) Repeat Session, January 8, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET
 - January Coffee Break Webinar Series
 - January 15, 2026: Point of Sale Best Practices
 - January 22, 2026: Pre-Kindergarten Meal Service Best Practices
 - January 29, 2026: Alternate Breakfast Serving Methods Best Practices
 - Smart Swaps with American Dairy Association Indiana, January 21, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. ET
 - After School Snacks Refresher, Tuesday, January 27, at 2:30 p.m. ET

Read more about these topics and register [here](#).

Please note: Artificial Intelligence (AI) notetakers must be disabled when attending an online training webinar or meeting hosted by IDOE's School and Community Nutrition team.

Updates from Our Partners

Smart Swaps from the American Dairy Association
Dairy adds essential nutrition for sustained energy and focus, and with the USDA's updated nutrition standards, there is now an opportunity to incorporate more dairy in school breakfast. New guidelines can feel overwhelming, which is where Smart Swaps comes in! This initiative was designed to make compliance simple, kid-friendly, and turnkey. Here's how:

- Tested Nationwide: Earlier this year, a wide range of recipes were put to the test in schools of all sizes—urban and rural, large and small.
- Kid-Approved: 25 student favorites rose to the top, and you get free access to them all!
- Fully Compliant: Every recipe underwent full nutritional analysis and USDA approval.
- Ready-to-Use: School nutrition teams can download the standardized recipes and sample menus directly from the website, along with educational videos!

Don't miss the Smart Swaps webinar on January 21, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. ET for a glimpse into the resources and tools that are available for implementing Smart Swaps right away. Leave feeling confident about meeting upcoming breakfast guidelines—without starting from scratch. Register [here](#).

Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) and IDOE Certificate Courses for Directors
As you begin planning your professional development for the new year, don't forget to secure a spot in the ISNA/IDOE School Nutrition Certificate Courses! These courses are a great way to strengthen your skills, earn certificate credit, and bring fresh ideas to your district. Registration is open now—reserve your seat and start the year with valuable learning that supports both you, your program, and your students. Learn more about the certificate program [here](#) and view a calendar of upcoming courses [here](#).

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, January 8, at 2 p.m. ET	VSR How-to Webinar (repeat session)
Tuesday, January 13, at 10 a.m. ET	Food Distribution Program PrimeroEdge webinar
Thursday, January 15, at 9:30 a.m. ET	Coffee Break Webinar: Point of Sale Best Practices
Thursday, January 15	Verification Summary Report Due Date
Wednesday, January 21, at 2 p.m. ET	American Dairy Association Indiana presents: Smart Swaps
Thursday, January 22, at 9:30 a.m. ET	Coffee Break Webinar: Pre-K Meals Best Practices
Tuesday, January 27, at 2:30 p.m. ET	After School Snack Program Refresher webinar
Wednesday, January 28, at 10 a.m. ET	Food Distribution Program PrimeroEdge webinar (repeat session)
Wednesday, January 28, at 1 p.m. ET	Food Distribution Program PrimeroEdge webinar (repeat session)
Thursday, January 29, at 9:30 a.m. ET	Coffee Break Webinar: Alternate Breakfast Models Best Practices
Friday, January 30	Last day to conduct on-site self monitoring visits

Additional Resources

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