



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

- ASSP operations must be open, educational or enrichment programs in structured and supervised environments.
 - 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).
- The [ASSP meal pattern](#) must be followed for all snacks served.
 - Students must take both offered items.
- [Smart Snacks and ASSP](#) are separate. 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.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will host an ASSP refresher training on Tuesday, January 27, at 2:30 p.m. Register [here](#).

Important Updates

Non-congregate Meals for Ramadan

USDA has approved non-congregate meals to be served during Ramadan, which occurs from Tuesday, February 17, through Friday, March 19. The waiver allows program operators to request approval to serve meals in a non-congregate setting to participants fasting to observe Ramadan. Contact your assigned field specialist for more information.

On-Site Review Reminder

[On-site reviews](#) are required for all sponsors with more than one site. On-site reviews must be conducted by February 1, annually. Because February 1, falls on a weekend this year, all on-site reviews will be conducted by Friday, January 30. Remember that monitors must remain on site for an entire meal serving period, so no more than one lunch and one breakfast observation can be conducted by the same monitor in a single day.

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.

Indiana Food Day 2026 Kick-off Webinar

Trying to figure out how to celebrate Indiana Food Day? The Farm to School team will have a kick-off webinar on [Tuesday, February 3, at 2 p.m. ET](#), to help you begin your planning. The webinar will highlight the various ways sites have celebrated in the past. Want to highlight your school's Food Day events? Email F2S@doe.in.gov to be included in the webinar.

Indiana Grown for Schools Map Update

The time has come to update the [Indiana Farm to School and Early Childcare Education \(ECE\) Map](#)! This year, the Northeast Indiana Local Food Network and the Northwest Indiana Food Council are sponsoring a giveaway of four \$50 gift cards to those who participate. Winners will be selected at random. In order to be entered into the drawing, schools and childcare facilities must complete one of the following by Wednesday, February 18:

- [Add a new Farm to School/ECE Program](#) to the map;
- update existing information by [submitting a new survey](#); or
- contact the Farm to School team to confirm that your program information does not need to be updated on the [current map](#). Submit the confirmation to F2S@doe.in.gov.

Thank you for your help in ensuring the map is up-to-date and informative!

Note: Only schools actively participating in at least one Farm to School activity will be entered into the giveaway drawing.

USDA Foods

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

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

Direct Delivery “Order By” Reminder

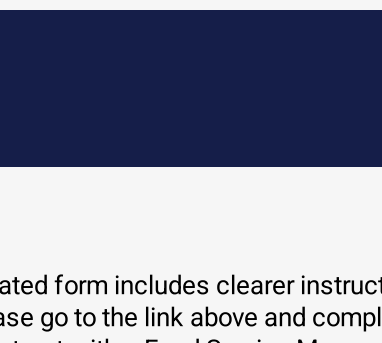
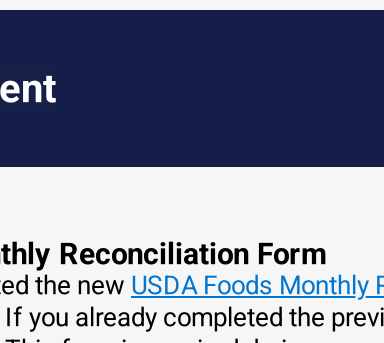
As a reminder, schools must place USDA Foods Direct Delivery (Brown Box) orders in CNPweb by 10 a.m. ET the Monday of the week prior to the delivery period that your school would like to receive the delivery. Orders placed after 10 a.m. ET will not be accepted.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2025-2026

100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)
100309 Canned Carrots (Entire School Year)
111900 Turkey Breast Deli (January-June 2026)

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Use your USDA Foods [apple slices](#) for [apple and beet baked oatmeal](#) or your [frozen blueberries](#) for [5-minute black bean tacos with wild blue berry sauce](#) recipes. These recipes 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

- January Coffee Break Webinar Series
 - Thursday, January 15: Point of Sale Best Practices
 - Thursday, January 22: Pre-Kindergarten Meal Service Best Practices
 - Thursday, January 29: Alternate Breakfast Serving Methods Best Practices
- Smart Swaps with American Dairy Association Indiana, Wednesday, January 21, at 2:30 p.m. ET
- After School Snacks Refresher, Tuesday, January 27, at 2:30 p.m. ET
- Food Distribution Program PrimoEdge Training, Wednesday, January 28 at 10 a.m. ET
- Food Distribution Program PrimoEdge Training, Wednesday, January 28 at 1 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.

Reminders

Changes are Coming for the Food Distribution Program (FDP)

School Food Authorities (SFAs) will soon receive login information for PrimoEdge, 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 (SFSF), and/or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

FDP will be moving to PrimoEdge 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 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 PrimoEdge program; this does not replace the in-depth training.

- 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](#)

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.

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:

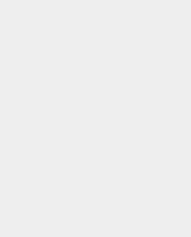
- Tested Nationwide: Earlier this year, a wide range of recipes were put to the test in schools of all sizes—urban and rural, large and small.
- Kid-Approved: 25 student favorites rose to the top, and you get free access to them all!
- Fully Compliant: Every recipe underwent full nutritional analysis 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) Awards

ISNA values the opportunity to honor its members who have gone "above and beyond" in different aspects of their career. Nominations for the Superstar Service, Director of the Year, and Assistant Director/Supervisor of the Year Awards are being accepted until Tuesday, March 3. Award winners will be recognized at the ISNA Annual Conference next November. Visit the [ISNA Awards website](#) for more information.

Upcoming Dates



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 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 PrimoEdge webinar (repeat session)
Wednesday, January 28, at 1 p.m. ET	Food Distribution Program PrimoEdge webinar (repeat session)
Thursday, January 29	Final November Claim Date
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](#)