



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

Breakfast Notification

Sponsors who operate the School Breakfast Program are required to provide notification of breakfast service to students and families multiple times throughout the year. Promotion should include the location and times of breakfast and can be done via social media posts, newsletter articles, TV screens around the school, school announcements, etc. Sponsors must save proof of the notification for Administrative Review purposes. Find breakfast promotional graphics in the [Marketing Resources for Sponsors](#) folder under General Promotions.

Important Updates

November Claim Deadline is Thursday, January 29

Please note the final due date for November claims and upward revisions is Thursday, January 29.

Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act Signed by President Trump

On January 15, 2026, USDA released policy memo [SP 01-2026](#) Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 – Implementation Requirements for the National School Lunch Program regarding the implementation of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025. This law, effective immediately, amends the requirements for the milk component of meals served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Schools are now permitted to serve expanded milk options, including whole milk, 2% reduced fat milk, 1% reduced fat milk, fat-free milk, lactose-free milk, and nondairy beverages that are nutritionally equivalent to fluid milk and meet the USDA nutritional standards for fluid milk substitutes. Fluid milk may be unflavored or flavored and nonorganic or organic. Note that while the requirement to restrict calories from saturated fats to <10% of total calories weekly is still in effect, milk is now exempt from this rule and does not count towards the weekly saturated fat total.

See [SP 01-2026](#) for more information on the implementation of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025, and be sure to check back for any additional updates following the recent release of the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Questions about the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act can be sent to your assigned field specialist.

Farm to School

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 [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

100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)

100309 Canned Carrots (Entire School Year)

111900 Turkey Breast Deli (January-June 2026)

100124 Turkey Chilled - Bulk (March 2026)

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Use your USDA Foods [frozen blueberries](#) for Mother Theodore Catholic Academies' [Wild Blueberry Dip](#) 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](#) Katie page.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

Upcoming Webinars

- January Coffee Break Webinar Series
 - Thursday, January 22: Pre-Kindergarten Meal Service Best Practices
 - Thursday, January 29: Alternate Breakfast Serving Methods Best Practices
- After School Snacks Refresher, Tuesday, January 27, at 2:30 p.m. ET
- Food Distribution Program PrimeroEdge Training
 - Wednesday, January 28, at 10 a.m. ET
 - Wednesday, January 28, at 1 p.m. ET
- Food Day 2026 Kickoff, Tuesday, February 3, at 2 p.m. ET
- Component Crediting Series, Wednesdays at 10 a.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.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Rural Non-Congregate Training

Join IDOE for the SFSP/SSO Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Info Series: *Serving Up Sun Meals* – a total of four distinct 45-minute virtual info sessions providing valuable insights about Rural Non-Congregate (RNC) meal service.

The sessions will explore different topics and feature direct input from multiple food service directors. All sponsors eligible for RNC option, with or without prior operating experience, are encouraged to join. Attendees must register for all four sessions separately. Please note, completion of the RNC information sessions does not guarantee a sponsor's approval to operate non-congregate service.

- Wednesday, February 11, Session 1 at 2 p.m. ET – [RNC Meal Service 101](#)
- Wednesday, February 25, Session 2 at 2 p.m. ET – [Building a Successful Operation](#)
- Wednesday, March 4, Session 3 at 2 p.m. ET – [RNC Meal Service: Home Delivery Option](#)
- Wednesday, March 11, Session 4 at 2 p.m. ET – [Best Practices & Outreach Strategies](#)

These sessions are for informational purposes and do not replace the required annual state agency or local sponsor training requirement.

Reminders

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.

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 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.

- 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

Healthy Schools Resource Hub Now Available

The Indiana Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (IDOH, DNPA) is excited to share some exciting news! In 2023, the division received a five-year cooperative agreement awarded from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect and improve the health and well-being of school-age children and adolescents. Through this funding, the Indiana School Health Coalition was formed after merging with the former Healthy Schools Action Team.

Throughout 2025, the division and coalition collaborated to create the [Healthy Schools Resource Hub](#). This hub houses a range of resources and information, and is a one-stop shop for all your school health resources!

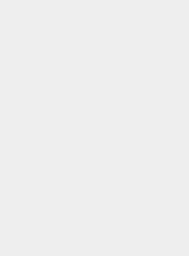
Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) Regional Workshop Opportunities

ISNA invites school nutrition program managers to the spring 2026 workshop. The workshop will focus on building supportive work environments and strengthening team performance through practical strategies for communication, collaboration, and conflict management, using the Institute of Child Nutrition's Strategies for Leading Effective Teams. These three-hour sessions will be led by Indiana school nutrition leaders during the first week of March at locations across the state, allowing participants to attend whichever location is best for them and their travel. The fee to attend is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members.

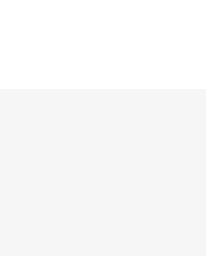
- Central: Tuesday, March 3, at North West Hendricks
- Northwest: Tuesday, March 3, at Merrillville
- Southeast: Tuesday, March 3, at Seymour
- Northeast: Wednesday, March 4, at Southwest Allen Schools
- Southwest: Thursday, March 5, at North Daviess

Learn more and register [here](#).

Upcoming Dates



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	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
Friday, February 6	School Nutrition Employee of the Year Nominations close



Additional Resources

School Nutrition Programs Calendar
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage
CNPweb