



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

Schedule Disruption Meal Service
During unanticipated **late start** days, such as delays due to inclement weather, schools are not obligated to serve breakfast, including schools approved to use Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) claiming. However, schools are encouraged to provide a reimbursable grab and go breakfast if a late start would delay normal lunch meal service times.

E-learning days are considered school days so meal service is allowable through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Meals per USDA can only be served on-site and **cannot** be served grab and go or through delivery to households or at bus stops.

Unanticipated closure due to weather-related conditions may, in certain situations, allow for meals to be distributed in a non-congregate setting. However, advance approval is required. Please reach out to your designated field specialist with any questions.

Important Updates

Turnip the Beet Award
USDA Food and Nutrition Service is excited to share that the *Turnip the Beet* summer nutrition award is open for 2025 summer operations. To apply for the award, sponsors must self-nominate their organization by completing the [Nomination Form](#) and submitting the form, plus one month of menus that were served in summer 2025. Nomination forms and menus should be sent to [Tina Skinner](#) by **Wednesday, December 31**. This award is open to both Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option program operators.

Happy Retirement, Marcia Yurczyk!
Congratulations to Marcia on her recent retirement! Marcia served as the leader of the School and Summer Monitoring team for the state for 16 years. Her last day with the Office of School and Community Nutrition was Tuesday, December 2. Melissa Corum has been promoted to the role of Division Director for the monitoring team.

Farm to School

Indiana Grown for Schools Seeks Regional Farm to School Action Team Leads
The Indiana Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (IDOH, DNPA) is acting as project coordinator in the search for Regional Farm to School Action Team Leads. These teams, divided into Northern, Central, and Southern regions, will play a critical role in advancing farm to school efforts across the state. Each Regional Action Team Lead will serve as a fiscal agent and coordination hub for their designated region. Selected organizations will receive funding to support administrative costs and implementation activities that strengthen local food systems and school-community partnerships. Letters of interest are due by 11:59 p.m. ET Friday, December 19. Learn more [here](#). Questions about the opportunity can be directed to [Brianna Goode](#) with IDOH.

Indiana Grown for Schools Office Hours
The Indiana Farm to School team hosts open office hours each month. These office hours are designed to support schools, producers, and community partners interested in strengthening local food pathways. The sessions are informal drop-ins designed to be a space to bring questions about farm to school programming or share challenges, ideas and success stories with the state farm to school team. Office hours will be held on Wednesday, December 17, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET and January 21, 2026, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. Interested participants can use [this meeting link](#) to join at the appropriate time.

Indiana Food Day Video Highlight: Popcorn!
In celebration of Indiana Food Day this year, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) created an educational video to highlight how popcorn gets from the field to bowl, featuring Carroll County's Poppin' Cobs farm. Check out the video [here](#) to show your students all the fun and work involved in producing popcorn!

USDA Foods

Local Department of Defense (DOD) in FFAVORS
Please see the following [article](#) to learn about the amount of local, Midwest food that was distributed via the DOD Fresh program during Farm to School Month! Indiana made some impressive progress from last year. As you are planning your DOD allotment for the 2026-2027 school year, keep in mind there continues to be extensive work to increase the local, Indiana options on the FFAVORS portal.

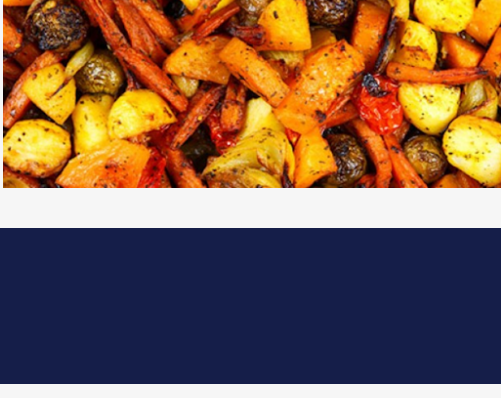
DOD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program
As a reminder, schools must enter their DOD Program receipts into the [FFAVORS](#) within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

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.

Food Distribution Program Moving to PrimeroEdge
Early next year, the Food Distribution Program (FDP) will move from the CNPweb system to a new system in PrimeroEdge. The tentative roll out date for the first phase will be in mid to late January 2026, beginning with the annual pre-order forecast survey. IDOE will provide more details and training information as we get closer to the roll out period.

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

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas
Use your USDA Foods recipe [frozen broccoli](#) or [frozen carrots](#) for this [oven-roasted vegetables](#) 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

In-Person Training: Meal Patterns & Offer vs. Serve (OVS)
IDOE is excited to offer in-person training for school nutrition professionals on breakfast and lunch meal patterns and OVS. This training is geared toward menu planners, but all are welcome.

All participants must register in advance.

- Thursday, December 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. ET at MSD of Martinsville (389 E. Jackson Street, Martinsville, IN 46151) [Register here](#).

Upcoming Webinars

- Verification Summary Report (VSR) Repeat Session, January 8, 2026, at 2 p.m.
- 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.

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

Wabash Foodservice Closure
IDOE received confirmation that Wabash Foodservice is closing and is no longer taking USDA Foods orders or making deliveries to schools in region 5 in the southern portion of the state. IDOE has expanded its relationship with VanEerden to include the impacted region. VanEerden will now be the distributor for regions 1-5. IDOE is updating the state assigned warehouse regions from Wabash to VanEerden.

IDOE is working with VanEerden to physically transfer the USDA Foods from Wabash Foodservice to them as quickly as possible. IDOE is also working with our IT vendor to make the appropriate updates in CNPweb. In the meantime, Wabash school sponsors in region 5 should not place any additional orders until further notice. USDA Foods allocations for all school sponsors in CNPweb will pause until all transfers are completed. Current VanEerden school sponsors that have USDA Foods products listed under the inventory tab may place orders for those items. Deliveries for all VanEerden school sponsors will resume by mid-January 2026. Additional information will be shared when additional orders and deliveries can resume.

Updated Micro-Purchase Threshold (MPT) and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds (SAT)
As of October 1, 2025, the MPT and SAT have been updated. The MPT is now \$15,000, and the SAT is \$350,000. These updates are the result of the final rule titled [Federal Acquisition Regulation: Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Thresholds](#).

Sponsors are still permitted to self-certify their MPT to \$50,000.

Per Indiana Code [5-22-8](#), the State SAT is \$150,000. The most restrictive (lowest) threshold must be used. Sponsors are required to use the State SAT of \$150,000, for Small Purchases instead of the Federal SAT of \$350,000.

For questions on MPT self-certification and SAT requirements, please reach out to scnprocurement@doe.in.gov.

Updates from Our Partners

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, December 11	Meal Pattern and OVS Training in Martinsville
Wednesday, December 17	Farm to School Office Hours
Friday, December 19	Smart Snacks Exempt Fundraiser Survey Closes
Friday, December 19	Farm to School Regional Lead Letters of Interest Due Send to: Brianna Goode
Wednesday, December 31	Turnip the Beet Award Self-nominations are Due Send to: Tina Skinner

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