



School Nutrition Programs

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This weekly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to providing education, training, and technical assistance opportunities to school nutrition professionals...

Tip of the Week

Field Trip Meals

With warmer weather and end of the year celebrations approaching, take a moment to ensure you are planning and claiming field trip meals correctly.

Meal Pattern: Meals sent on field trips must meet the meal pattern requirements. Each component, including milk, must be provided in the daily minimum serving size.

Meal Counting and Claiming: Meals must be counted at the point of service. Students can go through the line before the regular meal service time to pick up their meal and be counted.

- Field trip staff who count meals should be trained on correct meal count procedures, including federal civil rights requirements.
If not operating Offer versus Serve (OVS), all components must be taken before the meal is counted for reimbursement.

Multi-day Field Trips: While schools may transport and serve meals on the first day, alternative meal service plans need to be arranged for consecutive days.

For more information, view the Field Trip Meals Fact Sheet here, and contact your assigned field specialist with any questions.

Important Updates

2026 National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) Scrapbook

Two weeks ago, schools all across the country celebrated NSBW, and Indiana really dove into this year's Quest for School Breakfast. From pop-up coffee carts, to special unicorn parfaits, Indiana schools went all out to make this celebration extra fun for their students.

Farm to School

Food Day Registration Now Open

We are excited to announce that we will be celebrating tomatoes for Indiana Food Day 2026! 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.

Composting and Compost Education in Schools

Interested in learning more about compost and how your schools might take steps towards teaching kids about a circular food system? Join us for our upcoming webinar, Composting and Compost Education in Schools, on Thursday, April 9, from 4 to 5 p.m. ET.

USDA Foods

The End of the School Year is Near

The end of the school year is just around the corner. Now is the time to review your school's USDA Foods inventory and place orders to have them delivered to your school.

- Check direct delivered inventory at the state assigned warehouse listed in CNPweb, the processing companies for bulk pounds by accessing the commodity tracking websites, K12 Foodservice and Processorlink and utilizing Department of Defense (DoD) funds available in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS).
Direct delivered and Department of Defense Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program (DoD Fresh) funds remaining after Tuesday, June 30, will not roll over to school year 2026-2027.
Processor pounds remaining after Tuesday, June 30, carryover to school year 2026-2027.
Allocations for direct delivered USDA Foods end Thursday, April 30. Direct Delivered USDA Foods deliveries to schools end on or before Tuesday, June 30.

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.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2025-2026

- 100124 Turkey Chilled - Bulk (March 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

Looking for recipes to use your USDA Foods? Check out these resources:

- Recipes for Healthy Kids
Recipes for Schools - Child Nutrition Recipe Box
Team Nutrition Recipes

Procurement

Procurement Information

Do you have questions about procurement click here or contact the SCN Procurement mailbox for assistance.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) In-Person Training Sessions Starting Soon

Spring is the training and preparation season for all school food authorities planning to operate the SFSP this summer. Participating in one of the IDOE trainings is an annual federal requirement for all SFSP sponsors.

Webinars

More live webinars are coming soon! Check back here to learn more about and register for upcoming webinars.

If there is a specific topic you would like to be covered, let us know by filling out this form!

Reminders

Annual Procurement Training Requirement

Per 7 CFR 210.21(b), School Food Authority (SFA) directors, management, and staff directly involved with procurement are required to take annual procurement training and retain records for completion.

2025-2026 School Year Food Service Provider Survey

Some food dyes and additives have been linked to potential health concerns in children, such as behavioral issues, hyperactivity, and inattention. As Indiana continues to prioritize the health and safety of all Hoosier students, IDOE is seeking feedback from school food service directors...

We Need Your Feedback Regarding USDA Foods Recipes!

IDOE is requesting feedback from School Food Authorities (SFAs) regarding recipes. We are asking school food professionals to complete this short survey. The survey closes on Friday, March 27.

Updates from Our Partners

School Nutrition Association (SNA) School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Test Format Update

The SNS test has moved fully online. The online exam format has many benefits for exam candidates, including more flexible exam scheduling, potential for shorter travel times, and reduced time frame to obtain exam results.

No Kid Hungry Grant Inquiries

No Kid Hungry is accepting grant inquiries for schools to support breakfast programs. At this time, No Kid Hungry is prioritizing grants to help schools expand and strengthen access for the School Breakfast Program and Summer Feeding Rural Non-Congregate programs.

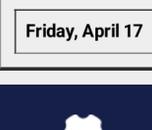
2026 America's Healthiest Schools Application is Open

Alliance for a Healthier Generation is now accepting applications for America's Healthiest Schools. This award celebrates schools that go above and beyond to implement practices that support the overall well-being of their students and communities.

Upcoming Dates



Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Rows include: Friday, March 27 - USDA Recipes Survey Closes; Wednesday, April 1 - Final Due Date for January 2026 Claims; Friday, April 3 - 2025-2027 Food Service Provider Survey Due; Thursday, April 9 - Composting & Compost Education in Schools; Friday, April 17 - FFVP Applications for SY 26-27 Due



Additional Resources

- School Nutrition Programs Calendar
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage
CNPweb