



## 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

#### Disclosure Access

USDA prohibits the disclosure of a student's free and reduced eligibility status to anyone who does not have a "need to know," in accordance with the confidentiality provisions of [7 CFR Part 245.6\(f\)](#). When eligibility information is requested for a purpose other than meal benefits, parental approval may be required before releasing the household's eligibility status. Please review IDOE's [Disclosure webpage](#) before granting permission to eligibility information. There are several points where overt identification of a child's status should be controlled, including Point of Sale software, Student Information Systems, and databases that are visible or shared with individuals not considered "need to know."

### Important Updates

#### Gluten-Free Resources

Food substitutions and/or other reasonable modifications to a student's meal may be necessary to meet the dietary needs of students who meet the USDA definition of a disability, which encompasses food allergies, intolerances such as a gluten intolerance, and other disorders including Celiac disease. Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder where exposure to even trace amounts of gluten can trigger an inflammatory response in the digestive system. This can cause nutrient malabsorption, fatigue, and weight loss among other symptoms. Celiac disease is different from a gluten intolerance, although both require avoiding gluten to prevent symptoms. Gluten-free diets can be challenging to navigate for both families and schools.

The [Gluten Intolerance Group](#) (GIG) is an organization that works to support schools and families with navigating gluten-free living. The organization has created toolkits for teachers and school staff, parents and families, school nurses, and teens who are preparing to go to college. Helpful information and resources are also available through the [National Celiac Association](#) and the [Celiac Disease Foundation](#). Additionally, IDOE offers supporting resources on the [Special Dietary Needs](#) page, including a sample gluten-free menu.

### 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.

#### 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:

- [Wild Blueberry Recipes](#)
- [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

#### Recordkeeping Reminders

School Nutrition Programs require that School Food Authorities keep important meal service documents on file for recordkeeping and auditing purposes, with requirements varying by document type. As the end of the school year approaches, this is a good time to review existing documentation, identify any needed updates, and remove documents that are outside the required auditing window. Join IDOE and Amy Christensen from the Indiana Archives and Records Administration as state level requirements for record keeping and procedures for destroying records once the required retention period has passed are reviewed. This webinar will take place **Thursday, May 14 from 2 to 3 p.m. ET**. Click [here](#) to register.

#### Spring Webinars

Check out our upcoming webinar list [here](#), as new events are added regularly. Three new webinars are scheduled for April. Click the links below for more details and to register.

- [Local Wellness Policies](#) - Thursday, April 16, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. ET
- [Preparation for the Annual Financial Report](#) - Tuesday, April 21, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. ET
- [Direct Certification for the Community Eligibility Provision Application](#) - Thursday, April 23, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET

If there is a specific topic you would like to see covered, let us know by filling out [this form!](#)

### Reminders

#### Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Application Open for 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 FFVP application is now open to all elementary schools interested in participating. Returning sites should have already received a link to their program spreadsheet. Priority for FFVP funding will be given to schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals; however, all elementary schools are encouraged to apply.

A complete application for *single site sponsors* (i.e. only one school is applying for FFVP under the sponsor) includes a [New Site Application](#) and signature sheets for the school's [Kitchen Manager, Principal](#), and [Executive Contact and FFVP Coordinator](#).

A complete application for *multi-site sponsors* (i.e. more than one school is applying under the sponsor) includes [New Site Applications](#) for each applying school, as well as signature sheets for the [Kitchen Manager](#) and [Principal](#) of each applying school. Finally, the multi-site signature sheet needs to be signed for the [Executive Contact and FFVP District Coordinator](#).

**Application Deadline:** Friday, April 17

For questions or additional information, please contact [Quaniqua Finley](#).

#### Save the Date: 2026 Back to School Training

Join IDOE for in-person training as you prepare for the 2026-2027 school year. All food service personnel are invited to attend this daylong session. We had a great turnout last year and are looking forward to seeing more of you this year!

**When:** Wednesday, July 8, from 8 a.m to 3:30 p.m. ET

**Where:** Martinsville High School, 1360 E Gray St., Martinsville, IN 46151

**Additional Details:** This training is free to attend, and the cost of travel to the training is an allowable expenditure of food service funds. The agenda and registration will be available soon. Attendees will receive credit toward annual professional standards training hours.

#### CRD 01-2026 Modifying the FNS Instruction 113-1: Civil Rights Compliance and Enforcement – Nutrition Programs and Activities

On March 3, USDA released policy memo [CRD 01-2026](#) announcing that FNS is revising the FNS Instruction 113-1 and developing a new guidance to reflect current civil rights obligations and recent Executive Orders. In the interim, civil rights and nondiscrimination laws and regulations remain in effect, along with related compliance and enforcement requirements. Sponsors and nondiscrimination regarding civil rights and nondiscrimination obligations to their assigned Field Specialist. To review the policy and additional resources, click [here](#).

### Updates from Our Partners

#### Smart Swaps That Work: Navigating Evolving Nutrition Standards With a Focus on Student Appeal

Join the American Dairy Association on Wednesday, May 6, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET for a fun, idea-packed webinar featuring school chefs and nutrition experts. During this webinar, participants will learn practical strategies to introduce lower-sugar breakfast items into your school menu, as well as review recipes developed with the time, staffing, and equipment realities of school nutrition operations in mind. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

#### Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 Guidance

Fun Fact: whole milk (flavored and unflavored) makes up a very large share of total milk sales — roughly 41% of the conventional fluid milk volume. And, 2% milk by itself is also a large share at approximately 28%. Students might be drawn to choosing milk that they are consuming at home especially if promoted well. The American Dairy Association wants to help schools navigate the changes outlined in the [Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025](#). As planning begins for next school year, take a moment to review [Whole and Reduced Fat Milk are Back on the Menu](#). This piece provides insight into why offering students a wider range of milk options matters.

#### Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN) Wants to Hear From You

ICN's Applied Research Division invites you to participate in an online survey about serving local foods in rural school districts. Your experience and insights are crucial to understanding the unique challenges rural school districts face in serving local foods, and this study aims to identify key factors and sustainable strategies to support school nutrition programs like yours. Complete the survey [here](#).

#### No Kid Hungry: Breakfast Success!

Testing spring items for your breakfast menu or gathering student input for next year? No Kid Hungry wants to see what's been working for you! Send one to two sentences about your School Breakfast Program plans and a photo to [Kate McDevitt](#) for a chance to be featured nationally in the "Breakfast Bites" newsletter.

### Upcoming Dates



Friday, April 17	<a href="#">FFVP Applications for SY 26-27 Due</a>
Wednesday, April 29	<a href="#">Final Due Date for February Claim</a>
Thursday, April 30	<a href="#">Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Application Due</a>
Friday, May 1	<a href="#">Seamless Summer Option Deadline in CNPweb</a>
Monday, June 1	<a href="#">Final Due Date for March Claim</a>



### Additional Resources

School Nutrition Programs Calendar  
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage  
CNPweb

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