



School Nutrition Programs

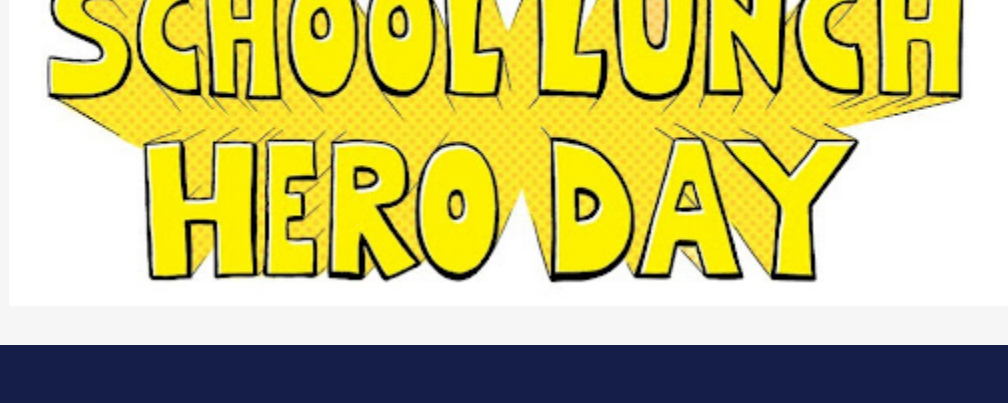
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

School Lunch Hero Day is Friday, May 1

Thank you to all school nutrition professionals across the Hoosier State!



Important Updates

2026 Back to School Training Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for IDOE's Annual Back to School Training on Wednesday, July 8, at Martinsville High School. This event will be packed with relevant information for staff in all areas of school nutrition, including front-line staff, programming and administration, and finance and budgeting. Topics will include customer service, team building, Farm to School, procurement, and more, with the complete agenda available soon. To register for this event, click [here](#). Please note that registration is capped at 310 and spots are available on a first come, first served basis.

Guidance for Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Pricing School Year (SY) 2026-2027

On Tuesday, April 14, USDA released [SP 06-2026 Paid Lunch Equity Guidance for School Year 2026-2027](#). For SY 2026-2027, the target weighted average price is **\$4.16**. School Food Authorities (SFAs) with positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, are exempt from PLE pricing requirements found in [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#) for SY 2026-2027.

SFAs that qualify for this exemption must complete the [attestation statement](#) to confirm their exempt status. Exempt SFAs may still use the PLE tool to complete the steps necessary to determine their target paid lunch price for SY 2026-2027, consistent with program regulations in 7 CFR 210.14(e), and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly. The PLE tool will be posted to the [financial management website](#) soon.

Additional guidance and resources are available on the financial management website. Email questions to SCNfiance@doe.in.gov, including your sponsor number and PLE Tool in the subject line.

USDA Guidance Portal

USDA recently announced the creation of the [USDA Guidance Portal](#). This interactive tool – a searchable database – contains guidance issued by the Department and its agencies.

Farm to School

Season Your Summer Initiative

There are still great herb activity sheets and other resources available from the 2025 Season Your Summer initiative. This includes a [toolkit](#) with marketing materials, activity handouts, recipes, and free basil seeds. Register [here](#) to repeat the initiative or participate for the first time!

USDA Foods

Direct Delivered/Direct Ship USDA Foods Allocations End Thursday, April 30

Allocations for direct delivered USDA Foods end Thursday, April 30. Direct Delivered USDA Foods deliveries to schools end on or before Tuesday, June 30.

Processed Goods/Processed USDA Foods

Bulk pounds remaining at the processor on Tuesday, June 30, will rollover to SY 2026-2027.

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

DoD Funds remaining in the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) by Tuesday, June 30, do not rollover over to next school year and will be lost.

All USDA Foods are intended to be used in the year they are allocated.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2026-2027

- 100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)
- 100258 Frozen Apple Slices
- 110721 Sweet Potato Fries
- 110921 Frozen Chicken Fillet, Unbreaded

USDA Has New Fraud Posters Relating to USDA Programs

USDA has released both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions of these posters.



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

Spring Webinars

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

- [Understanding Non-Program Revenue in School Nutrition Programs](#) - Tuesday, May 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [End of Year Updates and Reminders](#) - Tuesday, May 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET.
- [Recordkeeping Reminders](#) - Thursday, May 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET.

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

Reminders

Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines (2026-2027)

The Income Eligibility Guidelines for the 2026-2027 school year are now available. Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or the Summer Food Service Program are required to use these federal guidelines to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and free milk benefits for the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. For more information and to view the updated guidelines, click [here](#).

Academic Summer School Meal Options

School corporations providing IDOE-approved summer school courses can provide reimbursable meals during the summer months. A detailed list of eligible courses can be found [here](#). The following are options for feeding students attending academic summer school.

- Sites that would like to be open to the public and qualify by area eligibility to operate a summer meal program could operate under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Site locations for SFSP and SSO must be in an area where at least 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced price meals or are census area eligible. Academic summer school sites under SFSP and SSO must be advertised to and operate as open to the general public.
- Sites that wish to be closed to the public or do not qualify for the summer meal programs can extend National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal service. Meals served on NSLP can only be offered to students enrolled in academic summer school. Students on campus for other reasons are not eligible to participate in meal service. NSLP must operate as usual with money collected for students receiving reduced and paid meals. The non-profit food service account cannot absorb the cost of reduced and paid student meals.

Contact your assigned field specialist with any questions.

Federal Task Force on Children's Health: Lead Resource Guide

The [President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children](#) recently published an interim [Federal Lead Resource Guide](#) (The Guide). The Guide is a collection of select federal lead-related resources, programs, and assistance opportunities for use by the public. Resources include tips to promote awareness, financial opportunities, regulatory documents, as well as tool kits and guidance documents. Click [here](#) for more information.

USDA School Food Authority (SFA) 2025-2026 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Survey

SFAs should have received a survey from USDA on Monday, March 30, seeking to collect critical information on current challenges faced by SFAs, including those related to school food procurement and program administration. Please take advantage of this opportunity to share your experiences from this school year and communicate your community's specific issues directly to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS); your input is vital to improve FNS support. The survey was sent from [USDA-FNS-SFASurvey@gemails.server.com](#) and consists of up to 30 questions, taking roughly 20 minutes to complete. If you have any questions about this survey, please email the FNS survey team at CNSurveys@usda.gov.

Updates from Our Partners

School Lunch Hero Day Resources

Need last minute resources for School Lunch Hero Day? Check out the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) resource page linked [here](#). You can find graphics, official merchandise, and ideas for meaningful ways to celebrate the team's hard work. Have a great idea to share? Reach out to SNA at marketing@schoolnutrition.org for a chance to be featured on the official SNA celebration list.

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, April 29	Final Due Date for February Claim
Thursday, April 30	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Application Due
Friday, May 1	Seamless Summer Option Deadline in CNPweb
Monday, June 1	Final Due Date for March Claim



Additional Resources

- [School Nutrition Programs Calendar](#)
- [IDOE's Nutrition Webpage](#)
- [CNPweb](#)