



## 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

#### Summer Meal Service Preparation

Summer is almost upon us, and the deadline for the summer meal applications are quickly approaching! If you are planning to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer, make sure that you and staff have completed the [application](#) by the deadline on **Thursday, April 30** and have attended any required training. If you will be operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), make sure that you have submitted your operating information in [CNPweb](#) no later than **Friday, May 1**, and if possible, attend our [SSO Information Session](#) on Wednesday, April 15, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET. Reach out to your Field Specialist if you have any questions.

### Important Updates

#### 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 Highschool, 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 should direct questions regarding civil rights and nondiscrimination obligations to their assigned Field Specialist. To review the policy and additional resources, click [here](#).

### 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. Food Day is a great opportunity to collaborate across departments to help your students get a well-rounded education in all things tomatoes. Trying to figure out how to celebrate? Watch the recording of our kick-off webinar [here](#). Register [here](#) today to get your free seeds in time for the 2026 growing season.

#### 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. We will be joined by the founder and executive director of Let's Go Compost, a national organization helping schools expand composting education, as well as Gowri Somasundaram, board president of the Indiana Composting Council. They will discuss the basics of composting in schools, available resources, and Indiana-specific regulations and grants for composting programs. Bring your questions and your food scraps for a fun and educational experience that will help our schools be better equipped for composting initiatives. Register today, [here](#).

### 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

#### Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Information Session

The SSO is a summer meals solution that is a continuation of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs with the ability to serve meals in school buildings as well as at community sites. It is important to note that the SSO is a separate program from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the programs cannot operate simultaneously. Sponsors who plan to or have already been approved to operate the SSO in summer 2026 are requested to join us for this webinar on **Wednesday, April 15 from 2 to 3 p.m. ET** to review the SSO program requirements and expectations. 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

#### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Election Period – Now through Tuesday, June 30

[Election Period Information](#).

The CEP election period for the 2026-2027 school year is now open through Tuesday, June 30. Initial determination of eligibility must be made by local school corporations using Direct Certification (DC) and enrollment data collected around Wednesday, April 1. The data must be submitted to IDOE via the CEP worksheet located on the [CEP webpage](#). Once any additional requested information is submitted, a validation process will occur before final approval and the collection of a signed agreement.

#### How CEP Works:

Community eligibility allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, ensuring they are well nourished and able to learn throughout the school day.

Under CEP, schools do not collect free and reduced meal applications, instead, the school's meal reimbursement reflects the percentage of its students who are DC for free meals (called "Identified Students"). That percentage is multiplied by 1.6 to determine the share of meals that are reimbursed at the free rate, with the balance reimbursed at the paid rate. For example, a school with 50 percent Identified Students would receive 80 percent (50 X 1.6) of its meal reimbursements at the free rate and 20 percent at the paid rate. Schools must agree to serve both breakfast and lunch every school day to all students free of charge.

#### Minimum Application Requirements:

A school district may implement CEP in any school or group of schools with a minimum of 25 percent or more Identified Students. Resources such as the [CEP Estimator Tool](#) and [CEP Slider Tool](#) may be helpful in determining the feasibility of CEP implementation and should be used early in the evaluation process.

Additional resources are located on the [CEP webpage](#). For more information, contact your assigned school nutrition programs field specialist.

#### 2026 Appropriations Act: Impact on Child Nutrition Programs

On Tuesday, March 24, USDA released policy memo [SP 05-2026](#), outlining how the 2026 Appropriations Act impacts Child Nutrition Programs. In accordance with the 2026 Appropriations Act, School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are now allowed to credit any vegetable offered in place of a fruit with no subgrant requirements. Additionally, SFAs are not allowed to purchase raw or processed poultry or seafood products imported from the People's Republic of China. SP 05-2026 also outlines new guidance that only requires SFAs with a negative balance in their non-profit foodservice account (as of June 30, 2025) to increase prices per the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) rule. For more information and to view policy memo SP 05-2026, click [here](#).

#### Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Crediting Handbook

The revised [Crediting Handbook for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP) is now available online! The handbook was recently revised to make the guidance clear and consistent, add new crediting examples, and make updates to match current policy. This updated resource will help CACFP operators serve meals and snacks that encourage healthy choices, healthy families, and healthy outcomes. The handbook works with the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#) to help with crediting foods and planning meals. It also provides information on the current CACFP meal patterns, crediting guidance for each meal component, a "Crediting in Action" section to practice crediting skills, as well as a list of helpful resources.

### Updates from Our Partners

#### No Kid Hungry's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Best Practices

The CEP election period for school year 2026-2027 is open through Tuesday, June 30. Navigating CEP can be challenging, and No Kid Hungry is offering guidance on what CEP is, how it works, tips for success, and where to go for more information and assistance. You can find this information and more on their [CEP Best Practices Webpage](#). For information and forms specific to Indiana, be sure to reference IDOE's [CEP Webpage](#).

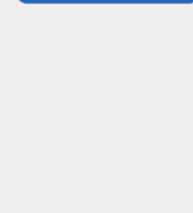
#### 2026 National School Lunch Week (NSLW) Theme

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) recently announced that the NSLW 2026 theme is *Cafeteria Circus!* NSLW takes place each year in October and provides an opportunity to engage with students and encourage participation in the National School Lunch Program with special menu items, activities, and decorations. NSLW 2026 will take place the week of October 12, but it is never too early to start preparations! Check out SNA's website [here](#) for more information and related resources.

#### Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) Child Nutrition On Demand Series

ICN has made new additions to their Child Nutrition On Demand Series, with more topics set to roll out throughout the coming year. In each video, directors from across the country share their real-world experiences, practical strategies, and insights on navigating key topics in child nutrition programs. These engaging, on-demand sessions are designed to provide both inspiration and actionable takeaways that you can apply in your daily work. View the videos that are currently available [here](#) and do not forget to check back regularly for updates!

### 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>          |



### Additional Resources

School Nutrition Programs Calendar  
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage  
CNPweb