

## School Nutrition Programs

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

**Late start**, 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 can only be served on-site and **cannot** be served grab and go or through delivery to households or at bus stops. Unanticipated changes in school schedules due to weather related conditions may, in certain situations, allow for meals to be distributed in a non-congregate setting. Advance approval is required. Please reach out to your designated field specialist with any questions.

### Farm to School

#### Food Day Update

The food day item for 2025 is corn! After 10 years of Indiana Food Day celebrations, this is the first time the Hoosier staple has been selected. Food Day is a promotional event that focuses on a different food item every year. We pick the product; you pick the day to celebrate. Join us this year for a corny celebration! More information, including a toolkit and registration link to get seeds, stickers, and more, will be forthcoming.

#### Farm to School Highlights

**Monroe County Community School Corporation** is working with Fischer Farms, Slaughter Orchard, and Morning Harvest Produce to provide fresh local products to their students across the district. They hold taste tests in order to increase student participation with new recipes. Many of their elementary schools have school gardens or hydroponic units, providing a hands-on learning experience for students. The secondary school and career center provides agriculture, culinary, and family and consumer sciences (FACS) classes exemplifying nutrition and agriculture educational opportunities across the district.

#### Local Foods for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC)

The Indiana Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, received approximately \$14.7 million from the USDA for the LFSCC Program. This program provides funding to operators of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in support of local purchasing of unprocessed or minimally processed foods. We are collecting information to help guide our planning process. Please take a few moments to complete the [five-question survey](#).

### USDA Foods

**USDA Foods Survey Training - Maximize and Master the USDA Foods Survey: Plan, Prepare, Succeed**  
IDOE will offer a live webinar on [Thursday, February 6, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET](#). The webinar will be an overview of USDA Foods and provide a walk-through of the USDA Foods annual pre-order forecast survey process.

#### Canned Diced Pears 100225

Due to excess inventory, USDA will be delivering canned pears packed in 2023 for the deliveries scheduled to arrive at the state assigned warehouses in March 2025. These canned pears have a shelf life of three years and are well within their use-by date. The pears will not expire until 2026. To ensure the best quality and freshness, prioritize the use of these pears.

#### USDA's Six-Month Inventory Rule

School Food Authorities (SFAs) are responsible for effectively monitoring and utilizing pounds allocated to the processing companies and cases at the state assigned warehouses in order to maintain an allowable inventory level below six-months. Excess inventory or inventory higher than a six-month level is discouraged by USDA and subject to pounds being swept and transferred to other SFAs with higher usage. SFAs should refer to [FD-064](#) for additional information.

#### USDA Foods Orders and Deliveries

**Inclement weather has arrived! School closures and delays are imminent.** Please be sure that when your school places USDA Foods or Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables orders that school staff must be available to inspect, verify, and accept the delivery. Please also remember to cross-reference all USDA Foods deliveries/orders with your school and personal calendars. USDA Foods orders are delivered by your school's state assigned warehouse for Direct Delivered (Brown Box) and/or your school's selected distributor for USDA Foods for Processing, as well as Creation Gardens for DoD.

#### Survey Time Approaching

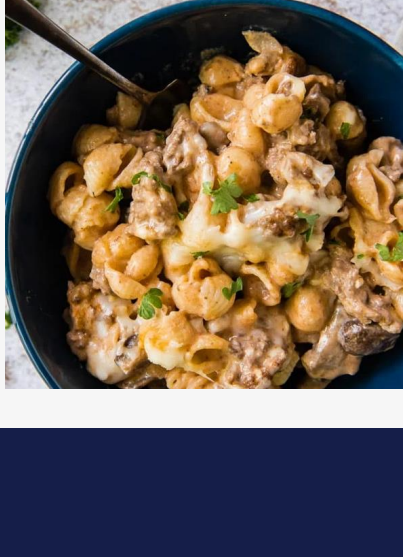
It's time for schools to prepare to complete the annual pre-order forecast survey. For useful information and resources, please review the [Preparing for the Annual Pre-Order Forecast Survey guidance](#).

#### Receipt Deadline Has Changed in FFAVORS

USDA has changed the deadline for schools to receipt DoD produce receipts into the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) has changed to two calendar days after the produce delivery instead of the original five day deadline.

#### USDA Foods Recipes

Use your USDA Foods [shredded mozzarella cheese](#) and [ground beef](#) to prepare this variation of [easy hamburger casserole](#). This recipe must be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



### Training and Webinar Opportunities

#### Upcoming Live Webinar Trainings

Learn more and register [here](#) for the training sessions below.

##### January

- **LEAD to Succeed Training Options**
  - **The Power of Emotional Intelligence:** Thursday, January 30, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET

##### February

- **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Informational Webinar:** Tuesday, February 4, at 10 a.m. ET
- **Summer Meal Program Options Webinar:** Thursday, February 6, at 10 a.m. ET
- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Overview Webinar:** Tuesday, February 11, at 2 p.m. ET
- **After School Snack Program (ASSP) Operations Webinar:** Tuesday, February 18, at 2 p.m. ET

#### Culinary Skills for A+ School Meals

Virtual culinary skills workshops are back! View the current line up of sessions, which begin Thursday, February 13, and register [here](#).

#### In-Person Meal Pattern and OVS Training

IDOE is excited to offer in-person training on breakfast and lunch meal patters and OVS. This training is geared toward menu planners, but all staff who would benefit are welcome. Attendees must register in advance. Sessions will be repeated, so please select the date and time that best meets your needs.

- [Tuesday, February 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. ET at MSD of Decatur Township School for Excellence](#)
- [Thursday, February 27, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET at Noblesville Schools Educational Services Center](#)

### Reminders

#### State Match Resource

June 2024 State Match has been disbursed. Federal regulations require state agencies to contribute state matching funds to school food authorities (SFAs) on the nutrition program. USDA calculates the amount states must distribute, and states choose how it is distributed among schools. Indiana distributes the match requirement based on the paid meals (fair share based on the number of paid meals at that SFA, compared to all paid meals in the state). Sponsors should treat state match funds like other school nutrition federal funds, but SFAs can decide how they distribute the funds among their programs. Sponsors that claim using the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at all sites and are reimbursed for all meals at the free reimbursement rate will not have State Match funds distributed. To learn more including instructions on how to pull a report of the funds received by site, please see the [State Match fact sheet](#). Questions about State Match can be directed to [SCNfinance@doe.in.gov](mailto:SCNfinance@doe.in.gov).

### Updates from Our Partners

#### January STAR Webinar: Reading and Understanding Food and Nutrition Facts Labels

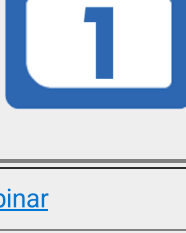
The January STAR Webinar from the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) will cover the essentials of food labels, strategies for evaluating products and ensuring compliance with child nutrition program requirements. This session will provide valuable insights to enhance your understanding of food labels and equip you with practical tips for effectively communicating food label information with your staff. Thursday, January 30, at 3 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

#### America's Healthiest Schools Award

Alliance for a Healthier Generation's signature award program honors schools for the key role they play in advancing the health and wellness of students, staff, and family. Any public or non-public school can apply for national recognition, with applications due Tuesday, April 15. The alliance has several resources to help you with your application:

- Watch a [quick video tour of the application](#).
- Download the [guide](#) to view the application offline.

### Upcoming Dates



Thursday, January 30, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET	<a href="#">LEAD to Succeed Training: The Power of Emotional Intelligence webinar</a>
Thursday, January 30, at 3 p.m. ET	<a href="#">January STAR webinar</a>
Saturday, February 1	<a href="#">On-site reviews due</a>
Tuesday, February 4, at 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">CEP Informational webinar</a>
Thursday, February 6, at 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Summer Meal Program Options webinar</a>
Thursday, February 6, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Maximize and Master the USDA Foods Survey: Plan, Prepare, Succeed webinar</a>
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