



## 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

**Accommodating Special Dietary Needs**  
[USDA regulations](#) require substitutions or modifications in meals through the Child Nutrition Programs for children who are unable to eat the normally provided meal due to medical need, disability, and/or impairment. Accommodations for students are split into two categories: within the meal pattern and outside of the meal pattern.

When an accommodation can be made within the meal pattern, sponsors are not required to obtain a medical statement signed by a medical authority. For example, a child is allergic to strawberries, so they are given an alternate fruit on days when strawberries are served.

When the accommodation cannot be made within the meal pattern requirements, sponsors need to obtain a [medical statement](#) signed by a state licensed healthcare professional with prescriptive authority, including doctors (MD/DO), nurse practitioners (NP), physician assistants (PA), and registered dietitians (RD)\*. When the medical statement is required, it must include information about the child's physical or mental impairment that helps to understand how it restricts the child's diet; an explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's disability; and the food or foods to be omitted, as well as recommended alternatives.

Check out the [Special Dietary Needs](#) webpage for a medical statement template and other helpful resources.

\*The requirement to accept medical statements from RDs became effective July 1, 2025, for school meal programs.

## Important Updates

**Recent Commercial Food Recalls, USDA Foods are Not Affected**  
The following message contains important information about two commercial recalls that may affect schools. These recalls do not involve USDA Foods.

Recently, two manufacturers – [Hillshire Brands Company \(Sept. 27\)](#) and [Foster Farms \(Oct. 4\)](#) – recalled corn dog products that may be contaminated with extraneous material, specifically pieces of wood embedded in the batter.

Recalled products were not part of food distributed by the USDA for the National School Lunch Program. However, the products may have been purchased by some schools through commercial channels. Consumers and institutions, including schools, who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

**New Regions for Stanz-Troyers Foodservice (Raydia Group) Sponsors**  
The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) received confirmation that Stanz-Troyers has closed and is no longer taking USDA Foods orders or making deliveries to schools in regions 1 (North West) and 3 (Central West). IDOE has expanded its relationship with VanEerden to include the impacted regions. VanEerden will now be the distributor for regions 1-4. IDOE has updated the state assigned warehouse regions from Stanz to VanEerden. Please click [here](#) to access the new regional map and locate your school's region.

IDOE is working with VanEerden to physically transfer the USDA Foods from Stanz-Troyers to them as quickly as possible. IDOE is also working with our IT vendor to make the appropriate updates in CNPweb. In the meantime, Stanz-Troyers school sponsors in regions 1 and 3 should not place any additional orders until further notice. Region 1 will begin receiving deliveries on Monday, October 20, and Region 3 will begin receiving deliveries on Monday, November 10. Additional information will be shared via this newsletter when orders and deliveries can resume.

## Farm to School

### Farm to School Month Weekly Calls to Action!

- Week of October 13: October's Harvest of the Month is apples! There are over 100 apple varieties grown in Indiana. Schools are encouraged to join us in the celebration for Apple Crunch this week as your way of participating in Farm to School Month!
- Week of October 20: Feature a farmer. If you are featuring a local farmer this week, use our [template](#) to highlight the product and the farmer!
- Week of October 27: Sign up for, participate in, or highlight your [Food Day](#) celebration in some way.

Still trying to decide how to celebrate? Use the toolkits [here](#) to help.

**Agriculture Education Live Stream for Farm to School Month**  
Organic Valley is hosting a [National Farmers Day live stream](#) on Thursday, October 9, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET. This event brings viewers behind the scenes for a firsthand look at small organic, sustainable farming practices that support people, animals, and the planet. Share this opportunity with others in your school, enjoy for yourselves, or show during lunch if you have screen capabilities!

## USDA Foods

**Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program**  
As a reminder, schools must enter their Department of Defense (DoD) Program receipts into the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System ([FFAVORS](#)) within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

**USDA Foods Recipe Ideas**  
Use your USDA Foods [blueberries](#) for this [wildberry frozen yogurt](#) recipe. This recipe may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



## Procurement

**Procurement Review**  
It's Procurement Review season. If your school is scheduled to participate in an Administrative Review this school year, you will be contacted by the IDOE Procurement team for a procurement review. A Procurement Review is a process where state agencies evaluate a sponsor's procurement practices to ensure compliance with program regulations.

**Procurement Review Tips**

- Prepare early
- Be sure you are documenting and keeping organized records.
- Have a copy of your school's procurement plan.
- Complete the procurement tool and submit it with your paid vendor list.

**New Monthly Reconciliation Form**  
IDOE has a new [USDA Foods Monthly Reconciliation Report form](#). This form is required during a procurement review and is a valuable tool for recording USDA Foods activities and transactions. This form can be found on both the [Procurement](#) webpage, under forms, templates and examples, and the [Forms and Checklists](#) websites.

## Training and Webinar Opportunities

### October Webinars

- Basic Knife Skill Technique, Thursday, October 16, at 2 p.m. ET
- Verification Processing (repeat session), Tuesday, October 21, at 10 a.m. ET.
- Essential Knife Skills for Veggie Prep, Thursday, October 23, at 2 p.m. ET
- Knife Techniques to Enhance Fruits, Thursday, October 30, at 2 p.m. ET

Read more about these topics and register [here](#).

Please note: Artificial Intelligence (AI) notetakers must be disabled when attending an online training webinar or meeting hosted by IDOE's School and Community Nutrition team.

## Reminders

**Allowable Costs- Staff Meals During Training**  
Below for the most recent allowable cost webinar, questions were asked about providing staff meals during training. Please see guidance below for the allowability of staff meals charged to the Nonprofit School Food Service Account:

**Allowable:** Providing a reasonable meal for school nutrition staff during an applicable school nutrition-specific training that meets the USDA Professional Standards. Examples of applicable training would cover topics like meal pattern, offer versus serve, etc. The cost of the meal should be reasonable compared to the cost of a normal earned meal.

**Unallowable:** Providing a meal to school nutrition staff during a district-required training that is not school nutrition specific or does not meet USDA professional standard requirements. Examples include a district-required training for emergency preparedness or human resources. Providing meals for staff assigned outside of school nutrition is an unallowable cost to the Nonprofit School Food Service Account and must be covered with nonfederal funds.

**Direct Certification Possible Matches Spreadsheet**  
IDOE has had several help requests regarding the possible matches spreadsheet. This spreadsheet should be uploaded back into CNPweb using the Upload Possible Matches feature, and then approved students can be pulled from the year to date (YTD) list pull. The **spreadsheet should not be** uploaded into your point of sale or Student Information System (SIS), as local systems are not programmed to note the "approve" and "deny" designations next to each student in column AC and will designate all students as approved.

View Direct Certification guidance and resources [here](#).

## Updates from Our Partners

**Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Virtual Instructor-Lead Training (VILT)**  
This October, join the Institute of Child Nutrition's VILT sessions—interactive, expert-led opportunities designed to strengthen your knowledge and skills in child nutrition programs.

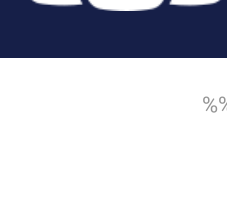
- Staff Training and Engagement for Sodium Reduction Success Thursday, October 16, at 1 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

## Upcoming Dates



Monday, October 13, through Friday, October 17	<a href="#">National School Lunch Week</a>
Friday, October 17	Last day to order <a href="#">Apple Crunch</a> materials
Thursday, October 30	<a href="#">Final August Claim Date</a>

## Additional Resources



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

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