



School Nutrition Programs

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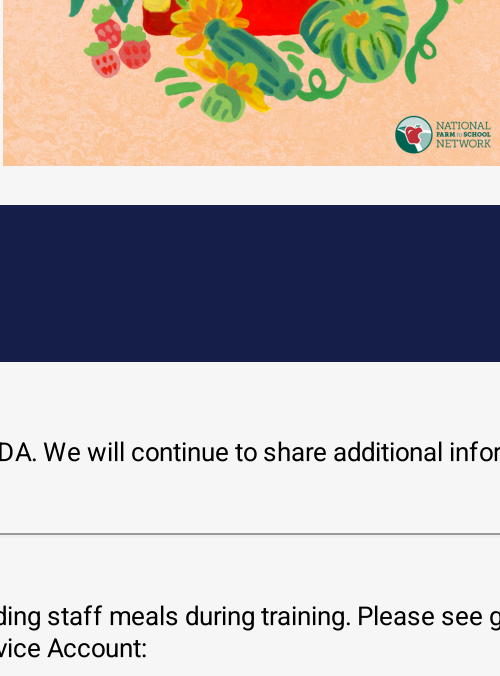
This weekly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to providing education, training, and technical assistance opportunities to school nutrition professionals, helping to ensure seamless operations for those participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 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

Happy Farm to School Month!

Farm to School month is a chance to celebrate food education, school gardens, and lunch trays filled with healthy, local ingredients. The National Farm to School Network has free poster graphics, found [here](#). The [Indiana Grown for Schools Network](#) is your local connection supporting Hoosier schools. You can also see which Indiana schools and childcare facilities participate in Farm to School [here](#).

IDOE is looking for Farm to School Month celebration pictures for a 2025 scrapbook! Please send Farm to School celebration photos to F2S@doe.in.gov by Wednesday, November 5.



Important Updates

Notification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Indiana Department of Education received the following [notice](#) today from USDA. We will continue to share additional information as we receive it from USDA.

Allowable Costs- Staff Meals During Training

During 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](#).

Stanz-Troyers Foodservice (Raydia Group) Closing

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 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. Route scheduling for Region 1 will begin on Monday, October 13, and Region 3 on Monday, November 3. Additional information will be shared via this newsletter when orders and deliveries can resume.

Farm to School

Apple Crunch Resource Deadline

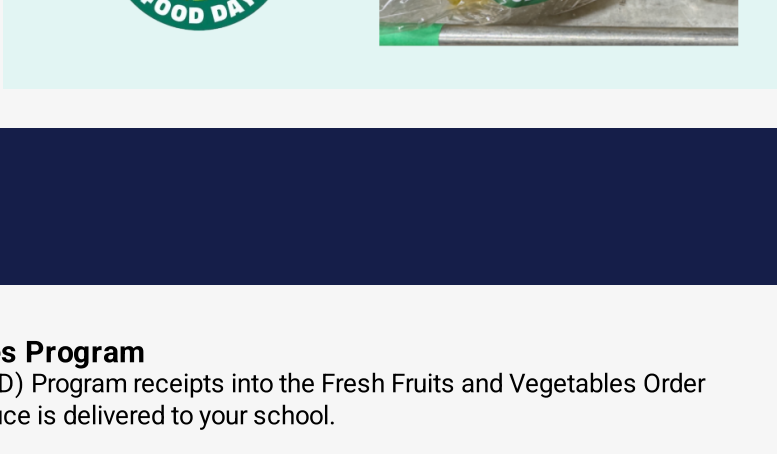
Sign up for Apple Crunch by Friday, October 17, to ensure you receive your stickers and posters! The Indiana Apple Crunch is a fun way to celebrate National Farm to School Month. Each October, Indiana schools, businesses, youth organizations, and groups purchase local apples, provide apple education, and CRUNCH together. Registration and more information can be found [here](#).

Innovation Hub Grant

The Lake Michigan School Food System Innovation Hub is here to shake up school meals. The Spark and Innovation Awards applications are open Wednesday, October 15, through Friday, January 23. The goal of the funding is to focus efforts on healthier food for kids and building a stronger, smarter local food system. The Northwest Indiana (NWI) Food Council is the Indiana State Lead for the Innovation Hub, and they are here to help you make your school food innovation dreams a reality— no matter where you are in the state! Find more information about this award opportunity [here](#) and contact NWI Food Council Farm to School Coordinator [Veronica Jalomo](#) with additional questions.

School Highlight

Noblesville Schools' Food Service Department celebrated Food Day by bringing local corn on the cob into their cafeteria. They utilized the promo stickers to seal their corn baggies as seen in the photo. In addition, they captured some great photos of the students enjoying their corn. They also developed a taste test [webpage](#) where they featured information about the event and activity sheets for students to utilize. The webpage is a great way to bring families into the celebration and provide access to educational resources at home!



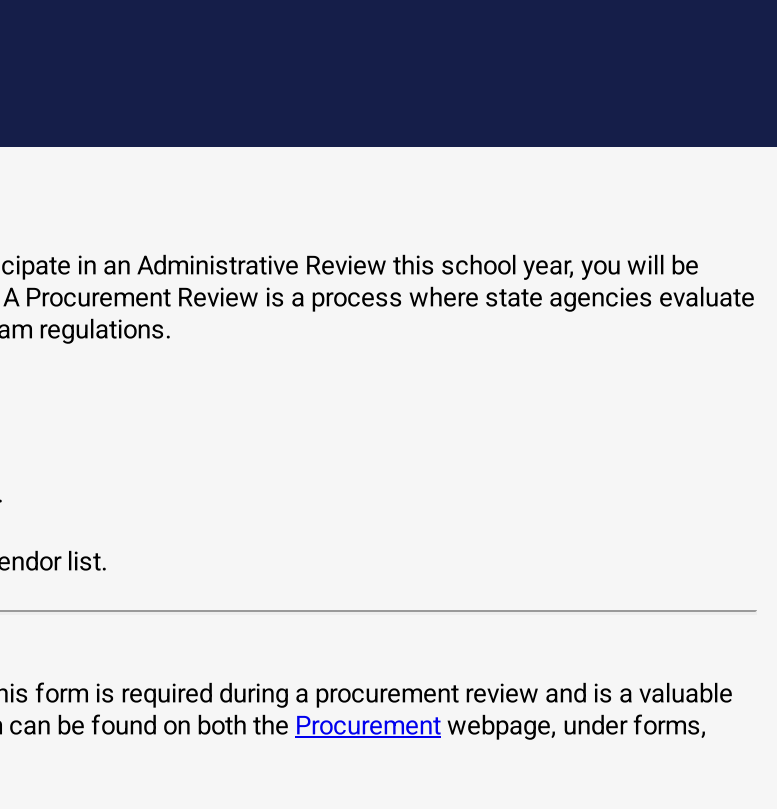
USDA Foods

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 [canned](#), or [frozen](#) apples for this [hot cinnamon apple](#) 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

- Verification Processing, Tuesday, October 7, at 2 p.m. ET.
- 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

America's Healthiest Schools 2025

Awardees for the [2025 America's Healthiest Schools](#) by Alliance for a Healthier Generation were announced in late August. This award is a prestigious annual recognition program that celebrates schools for implementing best practices to support the physical, mental, and social-emotional health needs of their learning communities.

Awardees must meet criteria in the [Thriving Schools Integrated Assessment](#), an evidence-informed tool that helps schools identify strengths and opportunities for improving policies and practices to advance health and learning with an integrated approach. Congratulations to all Indiana schools chosen for this award!

- Northside Middle School- Bartholomew Consolidated School District
- Discovery Charter School
- Purdue Polytechnic High School, Englewood
- Ernie Pyle Elementary School 90- Indianapolis Public Schools
- Thomas Carr Howe Middle School- Indianapolis Public Schools
- Central Elementary School- MSD of Pike Township
- College Park Elementary School- MSD of Pike Township
- Deer Run Elementary School- MSD of Pike Township
- Eagle Creek Elementary School- MSD of Pike Township
- Eastbrook Elementary School- MSD of Pike Township
- Fishback Creek Public Academy- MSD of Pike Township
- Guion Creek Elementary School- MSD of Pike Township
- Guion Creek Middle School- MSD of Pike Township
- Lincoln Middle School- MSD of Pike Township
- New Augusta Public Academy North- MSD of Pike Township
- New Augusta Public Academy South- MSD of Pike Township
- Pike High School- MSD of Pike Township
- Snacks Crossing Elementary- MSD of Pike Township
- Winslow Elementary School- Pike County School Corporation
- Edgewood High School- Richland-Bean Blossom Community School District
- Edgewood Intermediate School- Richland-Bean Blossom Community School District
- Edgewood Jr High School- Richland-Bean Blossom Community School District
- Edgewood Primary School- Richland-Bean Blossom Community School District
- East Tipp Middle School- Tippecanoe School Corporation

Traditional Verification Period Begins October 1

Sponsors who collect USDA Meal Benefit applications must follow traditional verification requirements. Those with a non-response rate of 20% or greater the previous year must conduct Standard (error-prone) verification. Emails were sent to the verification contact listed on last year's verification summary report yesterday. If you did not receive the information, please review the [Verification Method spreadsheet](#) and identify whether your corporation must conduct Standard verification. Training on the verification process can be found on [Moodle](#) or join one of the remaining verification presentations listed in the training section below.

September is National Food Safety Education Month!

Using a thermometer is the only reliable way to ensure the food has reached a high enough internal temperature to kill the germs that lead to food borne illnesses. Not only that, but taking the temperature of food also ensures even cooking and prevents overcooking which diminishes the quality of food.

- [Calibrating Thermometers- ice method](#) (video file)
- [Calibrating Thermometers- boiling water method](#) (video file)
- [Calibrating Thermometers fact sheet](#)
- [Use that Thermometer poster](#)

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.

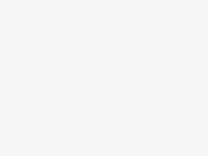
- Identifying Low-Sodium Food Products and Menu Planning Strategies, Tuesday, October 7 at 9 a.m. ET. Register [here](#).

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

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, October 1	Traditional Verification Begins
Wednesday, October 1	Farm to School Month begins
Friday, October 3	American Dairy Association Grant Deadline
Monday, October 13, through Friday, October 17	National School Lunch Week
Friday, October 17	Last day to order Apple Crunch materials



Additional Resources

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

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