



## 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

### Claims Edit Check

The edit check is a required document for record keeping and should be reviewed before a claim for reimbursement is filed. If possible, the edit check should flag when claims are outside of the claiming guidelines, including when more meals are claimed than the number of eligible students and when the claim is higher than the attendance adjusted number of allowable meals. Justification for claims that are higher than expected is required to be documented monthly. Point of sale systems should flag issues automatically. If they do not, a manual review of the edit check is required. If your point of sale system does not have a built-in edit check report, find the updated IDOE fillable edit check form [here](#).

## Important Updates

### CNPweb System Outage

CNPweb will be inaccessible this Thursday, September 18, between 6 and 10 p.m. ET. The system should be back up and running on Friday, September 19.

### September is National Food Safety Education Month!

Keeping food out of the temperature danger zone is important at all points of the production cycle. From receiving to service, foods must remain at acceptable temperatures. The Institute of Child Nutrition has many resources available for ensuring staff understand their role in keeping food temperature safe.

- [Temperature Danger Zone](#)
- [Cooking Foods](#)
- [Hot Holding](#)
- [Cold Holding](#)
- [Thawing Foods](#)
- [Methods for Cooling Foods](#) (video link)

### October Opportunities

October is a big month for school nutrition programs. Check out the opportunities below to celebrate the work you do every day!

- National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2025 is Monday, October 13, through Friday, October 17. This year's theme is Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport. Start planning now for incorporating global flavors into your menus that week. The School Nutrition Association has [graphics and other resources](#) available to help celebrate.
- October is [Farm to School Month!](#) Highlight local products in your menus. [Indiana Grown for Schools](#) also has resources available to help enhance your program.
- [The Great Apple Crunch](#) is also celebrated in October. Purchase locally grown apples and have students crunch into them together!
- [Indiana Food Day](#) can be celebrated any day, but Farm to School Month is a great connection. This year, we are celebrating corn! Any form of locally grown corn can be celebrated!

If you are already planning a celebration, please let your field specialist know.

## Farm to School

### Food Day Apparel Ordering Portal

Want to spread the word for your Indiana Food Day far and wide? Order Food Day apparel [here!](#) Orders and payments are managed through the apparel website. If you need the branded graphics to order apparel through another company, please email [f2s@doe.in.gov](mailto:f2s@doe.in.gov).

### Grant Re-Opening

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 USDA Patrick Leahy Farm to School grant is now open and accepting applications until Friday, December 5. Indiana schools, nonprofits, and farm partners are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Funds can be used to bring more local food into the cafeteria, build or expand school gardens, increase food education, and/or build community partnerships. The Request For Applications (RFA), which has all of the grant information, has changed so we encourage you to attend the USDA [introduction webinar session](#) on Wednesday, October 1, at 2 p.m. ET. This session will guide participants through the RFA process. The Indiana Grown for Schools Network will be walking alongside you in this process. Please reach out to [f2s@doe.in.gov](mailto:f2s@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

### School Highlight

Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson School Corporation Food Service had an amazing local corn day in August! They partnered with Zupancic Farms to purchase local corn and brought in students to help prepare it! This is one of the many farm to school initiatives they have, in addition to their work with their FFA department. Creek Cattle Company is a student-run beef company organized by the Agriculture Department that sells beef to the food service department. The school received a glowing article in the Johnson County Daily Journal which can be found [here](#).



## USDA Foods

### Direct Delivered (Brown Box) USDA Foods

IDOE has opened the FDP (Food Distribution Program) link in [CnpWeb](#). Schools may now recertify for FDP once their application is in pending approval status for SNP (School Nutrition Program). Schools must follow the steps listed below in the recertifying for USDA Foods section.

### Recertifying for USDA Foods

Your school's SNP application must be in pending approval before you can be approved for FDP.

Login to [CNPweb](#) and go to FDP.

- Read the update and message screen, then scroll to the bottom and click "continue."
- Click "Program Year 2026" in the upper right corner.
- Go to the applications tab and then click the "Edit" link.
- Verify and/or update the address and contact information.
- Ensure that a 24-hour access phone number (such as a mobile phone number) is entered.
- Scroll down to box 29 in the verification section and place a checkmark in the box.
- Click the submit button, and your account should be pending approval.
- IDOE will approve your account if all requirements are met.

If your account has the following message, "You do not currently have a NSLP information sheet for Program Year 2026 in a Pending Approval or Approved status. You must complete the enrollment process for the National School Lunch Program before your FDP information sheet can be Certified and Approved," your school still has tasks that need to be completed under SNP.

### Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Funds

DoD allocations and sites have been entered into the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System ([FFAVORS](#)). Schools must complete the e-Authentication process by creating a [FFAVORS](#) account if not previously done. Following this action, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will create a profile in order for the school to begin placing produce orders. As a reminder, schools must enter their DoD Program receipts into [FFAVORS](#) within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

### USDA Foods Recipes

Use your USDA Foods frozen [blueberries](#) or [strawberries](#) for a fruity taste or add or substitute vegetables for a savory taste for this [sheet pan buttermilk pancakes](#) recipe. This recipe may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



## Procurement

### New Resources

There are several new and updated documents for procurement. Visit our procurement website, [here](#). Ensure that the SFA is completing forms that explicitly state that the FSMC should not complete them.

## Training and Webinar Opportunities

### September Webinars

- Allowable Costs, Tuesday, September 23, at 10 a.m. ET.
- Verification Preparation, Tuesday, September 23, at 2 p.m. ET.
- Harvest to Lunchroom for Indiana Food Day, Thursday, September 25, at 2 p.m. ET.
- Traditional Verification Methods, Tuesday, September 30, at 10 a.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

### Caffeine Concerns

IDOE has received a number of calls from concerned parents regarding caffeinated beverages. While Smart Snacks requirements do not have a limit to the amount of caffeine that a beverage can have, NSLP operators are encouraged to determine if a caffeine limit would be best for your student population. The decision should then be written into the local wellness policy as a guideline for the entire district.

As a reminder, caffeinated beverages are not allowed to be sold to students in grades K-8. Students in grades nine-12 may be offered caffeinated beverages that meet the Smart Snacks beverage nutrition requirements. Points of sale with overlapping grade groups must follow the requirement for the lowest grade level. See the [Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools](#) for more information.

### September is National Food Safety Education Month!

Food allergen awareness has become a critical component of food service management. Allergies occur when the immune system mistakenly identifies a harmless food protein as a threat, leading to reactions that can range from mild symptoms, such as hives or gastrointestinal discomfort, to severe and potentially life-threatening conditions like anaphylaxis. Given the serious nature of these reactions, it is essential for food service staff to prioritize allergen awareness to ensure the safety and well-being of students. The recently updated Indiana Food Code, specifies that the person in charge (kitchen manager) and food service staff should be allergen aware and that signage must be publicly posted regarding the potential allergens found in the food served. See resources below to train your employees.

- [Remembering Caitlin](#) (video link)
- [Allergen Awareness](#)
- [Food Safety Spotlight: Food Allergies](#)
- [Managing Food Allergies](#)
- [Allergen Sign by Item Template](#)
- [Allergen Sign by Menu Template](#)

Free Webinar: The Food Allergy Academy at Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE) is hosting *From Emergency to Every Day: Best Practices for Managing Food Allergies* in Schools on Monday, September 22, at 1 p.m. ET. Find more information and register [here](#).

## Updates from Our Partners

### Grant Season with the American Dairy Association Indiana (ADAI)

ADAI is offering the Mobile Yogurt Parfait Bar grant this fall. Take advantage of this opportunity to help increase your daily participation at breakfast and lunch! Stay relevant and on trend with this "build your own" (BYO) opportunity which showcases nutrient packed yogurt parfaits. If you aren't ready for BYO, this cart can be used to increase accessibility of Grab N Go options or Second Chance Breakfast. Click [here](#) for more information and to begin the application. The deadline to apply is Friday, October 3. Those who previously applied and were not awarded this grant, are encouraged to apply again if still interested.

### Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) Annual Conference

ISNA is excited to be hosting the 2025 Annual Conference Wednesday, November 5, through Friday, November 7, at the French Lick Resort in beautiful southern Indiana! This year's conference will feature a great lineup of engaging speakers to equip you with the tools and knowledge to excel in school food service. You do not have to be a member to attend. Find more information and register [here](#).

## Upcoming Dates



Tuesday September 23 at 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Allowable Costs Webinar</a>
Tuesday, September 23 at 2 p.m. ET	<a href="#">Verification Preparation Webinar</a>
Monday, September 29	<a href="#">Final claim day for July Claims</a>
Tuesday, September 30 at 10 a.m. ET	<a href="#">Traditional Verification Methods Webinar</a>
Wednesday, October 1	Traditional Verification Begins
Wednesday, October 1	<a href="#">Farm to School Month</a> begins
Friday, October 3	<a href="#">American Dairy Association Grant Deadline</a>
Monday, October 13, through Friday, October 17	<a href="#">National School Lunch Week</a>



## Additional Resources

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

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