



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

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Requirement: Summer Meals Advertisement

As you plan May newsletter submissions, please consider that all NSLP sponsors must advertise the availability of free meals for children during the summer. Sponsors that serve meals at open sites on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) should advertise their meal locations. Sponsors that do not participate in summer meal service must notify families that meals may be available in the community. Sponsors can provide the following site finder resource information to households:

- [USDA Site Finder Map](#)
- Hunger Hotline
 - Families seeking food assistance for their children can contact the USDA National Hunger Hotline, operated by Hunger Free America. The hotline can be reached Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) (for English) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273) (for Spanish).

Please note these site finder options will be updated to include Indiana locations the last week of May.

Important Updates

Academic Summer School Meal Options

Beginning in summer 2025, school corporations are required to provide summer school to students who do not pass IREAD. Because this is a required offering, the program is considered academic summer school. If you had previously been advised that your program did not qualify for meal service, but will be offering summer school as a result of this requirement, please reach back out to the Office of School and Community Nutrition for further guidance.

- Sites that wish to be closed to the public or do not qualify for the summer meals programs can extend NSLP meal service. Meals served on NSLP can only be offered to students enrolled in academic summer school. Students on campus for other reasons are not eligible to participate in meal service. NSLP must operate as usual with money for reduced and paid students collected. The non-profit food service account cannot absorb the cost of reduced and paid student meals.
- Sites that would like to be open to the public and qualify by area eligibility to operate a summer meal program could operate under SFSP or SSO. Site locations for SFSP and SSO must sit in an area where at least 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced price meals or is census area eligible. Academic summer school sites under SFSP and SSO must be advertised to and operate as open to the general public.

Unsure if your program qualifies as academic summer school? See [this resource](#). Contact your assigned field specialist with any questions.

FY 2024 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant

Applications for the [2024 National School Lunch Equipment Grant](#) are being accepted until Friday, May 16. Indiana has received \$229,328 from USDA to award Equipment Assistance Grants for fiscal year 2024 (this award is always one year behind the current program year). Public school districts, private schools, and residential child care institutions (RCCI) are eligible to apply if they participate in the NSLP. Priority will be given to schools where at least 50% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals and have not previously received an equipment grant.

Additional information and application tools can be found on [this resource](#). Questions can be sent to scnfinance@doe.in.gov with “equipment grant” in the subject line.

School and Corporation Profile Amendment Window

The school and corporation profile amendment submission window for the 2025-2026 school year is open until Sunday, August 31. In order to ensure IDOE maintains accurate information, all schools and school corporations must provide notice when changes are made that affect school openings, closures, and reconfigurations. If school or corporation names or numbers are changing, please notify us in the [CNPweb Help Form](#) so we can update your sponsor and/or site applications in CNPweb.

Farm to School

Produce Safety for School Gardens and Hydroponic Towers Webinar

Purdue University, College of Agriculture, will offer a produce safety crash course webinar on Monday, April 28, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. ET. This webinar is for sponsors with gardens or hydroponic towers that want to learn important safety practices when growing food for consumption. The Indiana Grown for Schools Network wants to equip you with knowledge and skills to be able to grow fresh and safe food for your students. Register [here](#).

Season Your Summer

Join us for the second Farm to Summer celebration called Season Your Summer! The theme for this year's educational initiative focuses on exploring different locally grown herbs that spice up daily meals. Participation in this initiative is voluntary, easy, and open to anyone operating a summer child nutrition program. All learning activities listed in the Toolkit are geared toward elementary-age students and provide different educational opportunities for young minds. The nutritional component of the initiative will teach students how to grow herbs at home and use them in preparing easy and fresh recipes. Sign up [here](#) today and request free seed packets for your summer sites, while supplies last!

USDA Foods

USDA Foods and DoD Fresh Orders and Deliveries

Schools should begin preparing for the end of the school year. Allocations end on Wednesday, April 30. USDA Foods deliveries (based on delivery periods) and USDA Foods for Processing and DoD orders end Monday, June 30. Schools should make plans for ordering and utilization. USDA Foods for Processing pounds remaining will carry over to school year 2026 depending on usage and availability. DoD Fresh funds will not carry over.

USDA Foods Recipes

Use your USDA Foods [diced ham](#), [shredded cheddar cheese](#), and [frozen broccoli](#) to prepare this variation of [homemade hot pockets](#). These recipes must be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



USDA Foods Cancelled or Unavailable for School Year 2025-2026

The following USDA Foods are unavailable for school year 2025-2026 due to lack of interest, inability to fill a truck, or because they are not being offered by USDA.

Apple Slices, Frozen (A346)	100258
Black Bean Burger, Patties, Cooked,	111860
Chicken, Fillet Unbreaded, Frozen	110921
Ham Cubed Frozen (A727)	100188
Orange J Sngl (A299)	100277
Sweet Potatoes, Crinkle Cut Fries	110721

Training and Webinar Opportunities

IDOE Live Webinars

Live webinars are now scheduled through May! Read details and register [here](#).

- Special Dietary Needs on Wednesday, April 23, at 2 p.m. ET
- End of Year Reminders on Thursday, May 1, at 10 a.m. ET
- Record Keeping Reminders on Wednesday, May 7, at 2 p.m. ET
- Annual Financial Report (AFR) End of Year Preparation on Tuesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. ET
- Private Schools Indirect Costs on Thursday, May 15, at 10 a.m. ET

Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership (ISNL)

This summer, in connection with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN), we will be offering two sessions of ISNL, one in-person and one virtual via Zoom. ISNL is intended for new school nutrition program directors and provides an overview of school nutrition programs, defines the role and responsibilities of a director, and reviews the relationship between local policies and State/Federal regulations.

Per ICN guidelines, these sessions will be capped at 40 participants. Therefore, we ask that only those with three or fewer years of director/program management experience, and who have never attended ISNL register to attend. Please register for only one option below. The training layout has changed from years past with 24 hours of live training with additional self-paced online lessons taken on the ICN iLEARN platform. Attendees are expected to be in attendance at the times listed below each option.

- In-Person: Lebanon Community High School
 - Monday, June 23, through Wednesday, June 25, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET
 - Register [here](#)
- Virtual Option via Zoom
 - Tuesday, July 15, through Friday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET
 - Register [here](#)

Back to School Training - IN the Mix, Prepped for Success

Join IDOE for in-person training as you prepare for the 2025-2026 school year. All food service personnel are invited to attend this day-long session. We had a great turnout last year and are looking forward to seeing more of you this year!

- **When:** Tuesday, July 8, from 8 a.m to 3:30 p.m. ET
- **Where:** Renaissance Indianapolis North Hotel, 11925 N Meridian St, Carmel
- **Additional Details:** This training is free to attend, and the cost of travel to the training is an allowable expenditure of food service funds. View a draft of the agenda [here](#). Attendees will receive credit toward annual professional standards training hours.

Register [here](#).

Please complete one registration form for each attendee.

Upcoming Dates



Friday, April 18	FFVP Application Deadline
Wednesday, April 23, at 2 p.m. ET	Special Dietary Needs Webinar
Monday, April 28, at 2 p.m.	Farm to School Produce Safety for School Gardens Webinar
Tuesday, April 29	February Final Claim Due Date
Thursday, May 1, at 10 a.m ET	End of Year Reminders Webinar
Wednesday, May 7, at 2 p.m. ET	Record Keeping Webinar
Tuesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. ET	AFR End of Year Preparation Webinar
Thursday, May 15, at 10 a.m. ET	Indirect Costs for Private Schools Webinar

Additional Resources

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