



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

Thank you to all school nutrition professionals around the Hoosier State!



USDA Foods

USDA Foods Allocations End Today, Wednesday, April 30

Allocations for Direct Delivered (Brown Box) USDA Foods end today, Wednesday, April 30. Schools should make plans for ordering, storage and utilization.

USDA Foods Recipes

Use your USDA Foods [raisins](#) to prepare this variation of [classic carrot-raisin salad](#). These recipes must be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Training and Webinar Opportunities

IDOE Live Webinars

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

- 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.

Reminders

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 Lunch Hero Day Allowable Cost Reminders

School Lunch Hero Day is Friday, May 2, and is a designated day to recognize the valuable contributions of school nutrition staff to the child nutrition programs. Here are a few allowable cost ideas for the Nonprofit School Food Service Account.

- Cost of printing and obtaining promotional items for School Lunch Hero Day.
- Decorations for the kitchen and cafeteria are considered allowable costs. Please ensure decorations are school nutrition specific and promote School Lunch Hero Day.
 - Check out [these banners](#) made by West Lafayette Community Schools to promote their local School Nutrition Heroes.
- Gifts for School Nutrition Staff that promote School Lunch Hero Day or optimize their production and serving of reimbursable meals such as aprons, t-shirts/uniforms, new thermometers, pens, clipboards, hats, etc.

As a reminder, the Nonprofit School Food Service Account is considered a federal fund, and all expenditures must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable direct costs to the program to be considered an allowable expenditure. The item(s) purchased must be intended for the sole use, operation, and improvement of the Child Nutrition Programs. The intent of a purchase should always be kept in mind. For more information about allowable costs, including employee recognition expenditures, please read [General Expenditures - Examples of Allowable and Unallowable Costs](#).

Updates from Our Partners

American Dairy Association Indiana (ADAI) Virtual Farm Tour

ADAI is hosting a virtual dairy farm tour on Wednesday, May 7, at 1 p.m. ET for PreK through grade 12. Teachers can register their classes on [Zoom](#) and parents and students can also watch live on their [Youtube channel](#).

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, May 1, at 10 a.m ET	End of Year Reminders Webinar
Thursday, May 1	Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Application and Information Updates Deadline
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
Friday, May 16	Equipment Grant Application Deadline
Friday, May 30	Final Day for March Reimbursement Claim



Additional Resources

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