



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

Double Check Summer Operating Information
Whether operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the operating information in CNPweb must be followed. If times, days of service, or meal types change, the revision must be submitted in CNPweb and approved prior to the change in operation. Failure to update operating information could result in the disallowance of meals served.

Important Updates

Civil Rights and Ethics Training Courses: Please Print Certificates from Moodle
Sponsors are required to take civil rights and ethics training courses annually. Given this annual requirement, IDOE will be conducting a reset of these courses for program year (PY) 2026 in Moodle.. The reset will delete the past year's learner history in these two courses. Please ensure all certificates for the training have been saved for your corporation. Print or save the civil rights and ethics course certificates no later than Friday, June 27. Certificates can be accessed through the Moodle account of the person who took the course.

Indirect Cost Updated Guidance
Effective October 1, 2024, the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate for unrestricted grants is not applicable for school corporations, public or non-public. Since private or non-public school corporations do not have a source of data being reported to the Office of School Finance, an unrestricted indirect cost rate cannot be calculated moving forward. Due to this, School Nutrition Programs are no longer able to approve indirect costs for non-public or private school corporations moving forward. Please review the [Indirect Cost Frequently Asked Questions](#) resource for more information.

Farm to School

School Highlight at Indiana Grown for Schools Office Hours
The next Indiana Grown for Schools Network virtual office hour is on Wednesday, June 18, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET. During this engaging session, the inspiring work of one of the farm to school grantees, Madison Consolidated High School, will be showcased. Hear firsthand how they're developing an innovative student-led farm stop in their community, bringing fresh, locally grown produce directly to students and families. Register [here](#).

Cultivating Success
Join us Thursday, June 26, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET for an interactive and engaging webinar that will provide participants with the ultimate blueprint for building a thriving farm to school program! We'll dive deep into crafting a robust project plan that sets operators up for success. Discover the secrets to forging strong partnerships with key stakeholders to amplify impact. The presenter will share proven strategies for overcoming common obstacles and measuring program success. Register [here](#) and let's grow together.

USDA Foods

School Year (SY) 2024-2025 Direct Delivered (Brown Box) USDA Foods Deliveries Will End Soon
Direct Delivered USDA Foods deliveries, which are delivered by state assigned warehouses, Dilgard Frozen Foods or Stanz Foodservice will end on or before Monday, June 30. Please check your school's inventory tab in CNPweb to verify that all direct delivered USDA Foods have been ordered. Also, check your school's delivery periods to verify your school's last available delivery period. Any remaining USDA Foods inventory will be swept and reallocated to other schools.

USDA Foods Pounds Remaining at Processors
School Food Authorities (SFAs) should make every effort to utilize their inventory by drawing down pounds as close to zero at the processing companies by Monday, June 30. Any remaining unused pounds will carry over to SY 2025-2026 unless needed to assist other schools.

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Funds
The last day to place a produce order in FFAVORS for SY 2024-2025 is Monday, June 30. 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. All USDA DoD receipts must be entered into ([FFAVORS](#)) by Monday, June 30, or before leaving for summer break. All DoD funds must be used by Monday, June 30. Any unused funds do not carry over to the next school year and will be lost.

USDA Foods Recipes
Use your USDA Foods [pears](#), [applesauce](#), and [mixed berry cups](#) for this [berry delicious applesauce](#) recipe. This recipe may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Training and Webinar Opportunities

Free and Reduced Training Series
Free and reduced meal benefits processors must be trained annually. The following training series will meet the requirements. For details on each webinar and to register, visit [here](#).

- Free and Reduced Preparation on Thursday, June 19, at 10 a.m. ET
- Direct Certification (DC) Basics on Thursday, July 10, at 10 a.m. ET and Thursday, July 31, at 3 p.m. (Repeat session)
- Free and Reduced Application Processing on Thursday, July 10, at 1 p.m. ET and Tuesday, July 29, at 10 a.m. ET (Repeat session)
- New day and time! Processing Possible Matches on Thursday, July 17, at 10 a.m. ET
 - Due to a schedule conflict, this session was changed.
- Eligibility Disclosure on Tuesday, July 22, at 2 p.m. ET
- Verification for Cause on Thursday, July 24, at 10 a.m. ET

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. For more information, view our AI policy [here](#).

Reminders

Record Keeping Webinar Now Available
Did you know the State of Indiana has a longer retention length for most records than the USDA? All public schools are subject to the State of Indiana or USDA record keeping timelines (whichever is longer) as listed on the [Record Retention Fact Sheet](#). Non-public schools may elect to follow either schedule. Public schools must also ensure correct disposal of records that have passed the retention period. This Record Keeping [webinar](#) with guest speaker from the Indiana Archives and Records Administration outlines these retention requirements.

Guidance for Paid Lunch Pricing for School Year (SY) 2025-2026
On Wednesday, May 14, USDA released [SP 12-2025 Paid Lunch Equity Guidance for School Year 2025-2026](#). The memorandum provides notice that any SFA with a positive or zero balance in its nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2024, is exempt from PLE pricing requirements found at [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#), for SY 2025-2026.

The PLE Tool is still in the approvals process at USDA. IDOE will post the tool as soon as it is available.

SFAs with a positive or zero balance in its nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2024, are exempt from PLE pricing requirements for SY 2025-2026. These SFAs will need to complete the [attestation statement](#).

Email questions to scnfinance@doe.in.gov (include PLE Tool in the subject line). Questions received will be answered within the PLE Tool Common Questions and Answers found on the [financial management webpage](#).

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Election Period – Now through Monday, June 30
CEP Election period is open now through Monday, June 30. Reach out to your assigned school nutrition programs field specialist for any questions or for assistance in determining potential eligibility. CEP allows high-poverty schools to provide breakfast and lunch free to all students, ensuring that they are well nourished and able to learn throughout the school day. Additional information and the application for community eligibility is available on [IDOE's website](#). Determination of eligibility is made using the local school corporation's actual Direct Certification and enrollment data as of around April 1, 2025. The application deadline to participate in CEP for the 2025-2026 school is Monday, June 30.

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, June 18	Indiana Grown for Schools Network virtual office hours
Thursday, June 19	Free and Reduced Preparation webinar
Monday, June 23 through Wednesday, June 25	ISNL at Lebanon Community Schools (in-person)
Friday, June 27	Last day to pull Civil Rights and Ethics training certificates from PY 2025 in Moodle
Monday, June 30	CEP Application Final Due Date
Tuesday, July 8	IDOE Back to School Training (in-person)
Tuesday, July 15 through Friday, July 18	ISNL Online Option

Additional Resources

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