



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

Mike Braun, Governor
Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

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

Happy Independence Day!

IDOE's Office of School and Community Nutrition will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the 250th Independence Day. Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!



Important Updates

Hello School Year 2027!

Today, Wednesday, July 1, marks the start of another new school year! Sponsors are free to distribute and process Free and Reduced Applications, however it is highly recommended that Direct Certification (DC) is processed first. The DC system will open up soon—keep an eye out in the newsletter for this announcement. While DC is not available, sponsors can now go into CNPweb and update program year (PY) 2027 sponsor and site applications. For renewal instructions and other resources, visit the [CNPweb Resources webpage](#). For CNPweb questions, site update requests, or DC inquiries, please reach out through the [CNPweb Help Form](#).

Second Review of Applications Requirement

Federal regulation [7 CFR 245.11\(b\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) requires that state agencies subject all local education authorities (LEAs) to a second review of applications if the state agency determines during an administrative review that the LEA has 10% or more of the certification and benefit issuances in error. In addition to this requirement, state agencies must establish a secondary criterion for identifying LEAs at risk for certification and benefit issuance errors. Therefore, IDOE has established the following as secondary criterion:

1. 8% or more of the certification and benefit issuance errors during an administrative review or follow-up review.
2. Discretionary criteria as identified by the field specialist which may include significant or repeat findings with certification and benefit issuance errors.

Sponsors required to complete a second review of applications for school year (SY) 2026-2027 based on the USDA and State agency criterion listed above were notified on Friday, June 26. The reporting document and instructions were sent to the foodservice and free and reduced contacts. Please contact your field specialist with any questions.

School Year (SY) 2026-2027 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

On Tuesday, April 14, USDA released [SP 06-2026 Paid Lunch Equity Guidance for School Year 2026-2027](#). For SY 2026-2027, the target weighted average price is \$4.16. SFAs with positive or zero balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, are exempt from PLE pricing requirements found in [7 CFR 210.14\(e\)](#) for SY 2026-2027.

SFAs that qualify for this exemption must complete the [attestation statement](#) to confirm their exempt status. Exempt SFAs may still use the PLE tool to complete the steps necessary to determine their target paid lunch price for SY 2026-2027, consistent with program regulations in 7 CFR 210.14(e), and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly. The PLE tool can be found [here](#).

Additional guidance and resources are available on the financial management website. Email questions to SCNfiance@doe.in.gov, including your sponsor number and PLE Tool in the subject line.

Preparing for PrimeroEdge

- **Food Distribution Program (FDP):** All FDP accounts in CNPweb are now view-only.
- **All Other CNPweb Accounts:** All other accounts remain fully operational and available for normal transactions.

If you do not have a PrimeroEdge account or are not sure if you have an account or who has access to it, please complete the [School and Community Nutrition \(SCN\) Help Form](#). To verify you have a [PrimeroEdge](#) account, please attempt to login if you have not already done so.

USDA Foods

Direct Delivery Ended

As of Tuesday, June 30, direct delivery/direct ship USDA food deliveries to schools will end and unused DoD funds in FFAVORS will be lost. However, any bulk pounds remaining at processors will automatically roll over to school year 2026-2027.

All USDA Foods are intended to be used in the year they are allocated.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2026-2027

- 100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)
- 100258 Frozen Apple Slices
- 110721 Sweet Potato Fries
- 110921 Frozen Chicken Fillet, Unbreaded

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Utilize your USDA frozen [mixed berries](#) in this [berry sorbet](#) recipe. Recipes must meet USDA meal patterns and regulations. Looking for recipes to use your USDA Foods? Check out these resources:

- [Nutrition.gov](#)
- [Smart Swaps Recipes](#)
- [Wild Blueberry Recipes](#)
- [Recipes for Healthy Kids](#)
- [Recipes for Schools - Child Nutrition Recipe Box](#)
- [Team Nutrition Recipes](#)



Procurement

Procurement Information

Do you have questions about procurement click [here](#) or contact the [SCN Procurement mailbox](#) for assistance.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

Upcoming Webinars Scheduled

Check out the upcoming webinar list [here](#), as new events are added regularly. Four new webinars are scheduled for this summer as a part of the Free & Reduced Summer Series. Click the links below for more details and to register.

- [Free & Reduced Processing](#) - Thursday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET
- [Direct Certification \(DC\) Overview](#) - Thursday, July 23, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET
- [Eligibility Disclosure](#) - Thursday, July 30, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET

If there is a specific topic you would like to see covered, let us know by filling out [this form](#)!

Reminders

Now Available: PY 2026-2027 Free and Reduced Application and Notification Letter Templates

Access the updated Free and Reduced Application, parent letter/instructions, and approval/denial letters on the [Free & Reduced Forms webpage](#).

The application is a PDF with fillable space for customization. The parent and notification letters are Google Docs. To update templates with contact information, click File and then Make a copy to revise, or click File and download into your preferred file format.

Important Updates and Reminders:

- The only change to the application is the removal of the optional textbook section on the back.
- Your application may be in a different format from the template; however, applications and letters must include all the same information as the templates.
- English and Spanish-language applications are available. If you need an application in another language, please reach out through the [CNPweb Help Form](#) and submit a request within the SNP CNPweb General Questions option.
- Applications cannot be distributed to parents until Wednesday, July 1.
 - Best practice is to wait until Direct Certification is conducted for the new school year to reduce the administrative burden of processing applications.
- All households must be notified of their ability to apply for benefits if they haven't already been approved through Direct Certification.
- For those that use online applications, ensure there is a paper option available for households to use if they prefer that method.
 - Review the [Online Free and Reduced Application Checklist](#) to ensure online applications meet USDA requirements.
- Find helpful fact sheets and guidance manuals for processing free and reduced applications on the [Fact Sheets & Training webpage](#).
- Updated income guidelines are available [here](#).

District-Wide CEP Sponsors: Alternate Applications for Free and Reduced Eligibility

Sponsors that operate CEP are not required to process free and reduced applications for meal benefits, however there are other programs and opportunities that rely on individual student free and reduced eligibility information. This data is collected by IDOE and is used for allocating funding, reducing fees, and providing grant opportunities. For this reason, district-wide CEP sponsors are highly encouraged to process alternate applications to determine individual eligibility for any student who could not be Direct Certified (DC).

Access the Alternate Household Application, parent letter/instructions, and approval/denial letters on the [Free & Reduced Forms webpage](#) under the Alternate Applications for District-Wide CEP Schools drop-down.

The application is a Word document that will download to your computer. The parent and notification letters are Google Docs. To update templates with contact information, click File and then Make a copy to revise, or click File and download into your preferred file format.

Important reminders:

- Applications cannot be distributed until Wednesday, July 1.
 - Best practice is to wait until Direct Certification is conducted for the new school year to reduce the administrative burden of processing applications.
- For more information about Alternate Applications view the fact sheet [here](#).
- Find helpful fact sheets and guidance manuals for processing free and reduced applications on the [Fact Sheets & Training webpage](#).
- Updated income guidelines are available [here](#).

Updates from Our Partners

No Kid Hungry Annual Report

No Kid Hungry had released their Annual Report, recapping all of the work the organization has done to assist families in getting nutritious meals. This report includes information on grants provided to schools for Child Nutrition Programs and the impact of those programs. To review the Annual Report, click [here](#).



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, July 1	Annual Financial Report Opens
Thursday, July 30	Final Due Date for May Claim



Additional Resources

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

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