



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

Login Sharing

Login IDs and passwords should never be shared among employees. All users must be assigned a unique login ID in order to access CNPweb and PrimoEdge (for the Food Distribution Program). To be assigned a personal login account in CNPweb, contact your local [CNPweb Administrator](#). For additional PrimoEdge accounts, please submit requests to the [help form](#).

Important Updates

Direct Certification Update

A couple of the DC menu options may look a little different. IDOE has changed the default setting to not include each individual school building in the DC Download History, DC Possible Matches History, and DC Denied Matched History. This allows the complete list of information to be accessed easily. Individual site selection is still available from the dropdown menu on the screen. Questions about this change can be sent to Quaniqua Finley at qufinley@doe.in.gov.

Food Distribution Program - Catalog Opening Delayed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Catalog (formerly the Annual Pre-order Forecast Survey) open date will be delayed. IDOE is awaiting pertinent information from USDA. Once that information is received and entered, the Catalog will be opened, and sponsors will be notified.

Food Distribution Program - Catalog Q&A Session Postponed

The catalog Q&A session scheduled for Thursday, January 29, has been postponed. Sponsors will be notified when the session is rescheduled.

USDA Foods Incentive Weather Reminder

School staff must always be present to inspect, verify, and accept all USDA Foods deliveries from their state-contracted warehouse at all times, including adverse weather conditions, school breaks/holidays, recess, or other inopportune times, unless there is a federally and/or state declaration of emergency that affects the school food authorities' local area. Missed deliveries may result in restocking and/or delivery drop fees.

Farm to School

Indiana Grown for Schools Office Hours - Winter Sowing

Join us for Farm to School Office Hours, Wednesday, February 11, from 3:30to 4:30 p.m. ET. This will be an open and informal space to connect, ask questions, and exchange ideas with peers and program staff. Whether you're navigating procurement, planning school gardens, expanding local food education, or simply looking for fresh inspiration, this drop-in session offers real-time support and collaborative problem-solving. This month's spotlight topic is winter sowing, a simple, low-cost method for starting plants during the winter months to jumpstart your spring growing season. We'll walk through the basics of creating your own seedlings using this hands-off technique, ideal for busy teachers and food service directors who want to engage students in germination, plant growth, and hands-on learning. Bring your questions about winter sowing, or anything Farm to School related, to our February Office Hours. Everyone is welcome to join at any point during the hour. Register [here](#).

sMall Town Produce - Farmer Feature

Join us as we learn more about sMall Town Produce, located on the southside of Indianapolis. Thomas and Tabitha, both 3rd-generation farmers, have been developing their own farm business for years. They will share background information about their farm, an overview of their farm practices, and details about the schools they currently partner with and future partnership opportunities. They would specifically love to partner with schools to help supply tomatoes for this year's Indiana Food Day Initiative. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 18, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

USDA Foods

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

As a reminder, schools must enter their DoD Program receipts into the [FFAVORS](#) within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

Direct Delivery "Order By" Reminder

As a reminder, schools must place USDA Foods Direct Delivery (Brown Box) orders in CNPweb by 10 a.m. ET the Monday of the week prior to the delivery period that your school would like to receive the delivery. Orders placed after 10 a.m. ET will not be accepted.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2025-2026

100256 Frozen Strawberry Cups (January-September 2026)
100309 Canned Carrots (Entire School Year)
111900 Turkey Breast Deli (January-June 2026)
100124 Turkey Chilled - Bulk (March 2026)

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Use your USDA Foods [frozen blueberries](#) for the [Blueberry Breakfast Bark](#) recipe. Use your [frozen potato wedges](#), [salsa](#), [cheddar](#), or [mozzarella](#) cheeses for this [Potato Wedge Nachos](#) recipe. These recipes may need to be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Procurement

Updated Monthly Reconciliation Form

IDOE has updated the new [USDA Foods Monthly Reconciliation Report Form](#). The updated form includes clearer instructions and a signature page. If you already completed the previous form without the signature, please go to the link above and complete the signature page. This form is required during a procurement review for schools that contract with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) and is a valuable tool for recording USDA Foods activities and transactions. This form can be found on both the [Procurement](#) webpage, under forms, templates, and examples, and the [Forms and Checklists](#) webpage.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

Upcoming Webinars

- January Coffee Break Webinar Series
 - Thursday, January 29: Alternate Breakfast Serving Methods Best Practices
- Food Day 2026 Kick-off, Tuesday, February 3, at 2 p.m. ET
- Component Crediting Series, Wednesdays 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.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Rural Non-Congregate Training

Join IDOE for the SFSP/SSO Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Info Series: Serving Up Sun Meals – a total of four distinct 45-minute virtual info sessions providing valuable insights about Rural Non-Congregate (RNC) meal service.

The sessions will explore different topics and feature direct input from multiple food service directors. All sponsors eligible for RNC option, with or without prior operating experience, are encouraged to join. Attendees must register for all four sessions separately. Please note, completion of the RNC information sessions does not guarantee a sponsor's approval to operate non-congregate service.

- Wednesday, February 11, Session 1 at 2 p.m. ET – [RNC Meal Service 101](#)
- Wednesday, February 25, Session 2 at 2 p.m. ET – [Building a Successful Operation](#)
- Wednesday, March 4, Session 3 at 2 p.m. ET – [RNC Meal Service: Home Delivery Option](#)
- Wednesday, March 11, Session 4 at 2 p.m. ET – [Best Practices & Outreach Strategies](#)

These sessions are for informational purposes and do not replace the required annual state agency or local sponsor training requirement.

Reminders

November Claim Deadline is Thursday, January 29

Please note the final due date for November claims and upward revisions is Thursday, January 29.

Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act Signed by President Trump

On January 15, 2026, the USDA released policy memo [SP 01-2026](#) Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 – Implementation Requirements for the National School Lunch Program regarding the implementation of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025. This law, effective immediately, amends the requirements for the milk component of meals served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Schools are now permitted to serve expanded milk options, including whole milk, 2% reduced fat milk, 1% reduced fat milk, fat-free milk, lactose-free milk, and nondairy beverages that are nutritionally equivalent to fluid milk and meet the USDA nutritional standards for fluid milk substitutes. Fluid milk may be unflavored or flavored and nonorganic or organic. Note that while the requirement to restrict calories from saturated fats to <10% of total calories weekly is still in effect, milk is now exempt from this rule and does not count towards the weekly saturated fat total.

See [SP 01-2026](#) for more information on the implementation of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025, and be sure to check back for any additional updates following the recent release of the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Questions about the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act can be sent to your assigned field specialist.

Nominations for the School Food Service Employee of the Year Due Friday, February 6

Help IDOE recognize school food service employees who contribute significantly to the health and learning capabilities of students by nominating them for IDOE's 2026 School Food Service Employee of the Year Award. This award was created in 1998 to recognize the outstanding achievements of school food service employees who excel in the areas of customer service, professionalism, and teamwork. All school food service personnel except food service directors are eligible to be nominated. Submit your [nomination](#) by Friday, February 6. Contact [Suzette Hartmann](#) with any questions.

Updates from Our Partners

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Live Training Practical Menu Solutions

School meal programs across the country are navigating the latest nutrition standards for reducing added sugars, while still serving meals students enjoy and meeting USDA meal patterning requirements. In this session, school nutrition professionals will share their practical menu solutions they have implemented to reduce added sugars in school meals while maintaining participation, appeal, and operational efficiency. Drawing through first-hand experience, the speakers will walk through how their teams identified common sources of added sugars, evaluated products, and made strategic menu adjustments aligned with USDA guidance. Speakers will also discuss timelines for implementation, lessons learned, and how student engagement supported the program's successful changes. Thursday, January 29 at 3 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

Healthy Schools Resource Hub Now Available

The Indiana Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (IDOH, DNPA) is excited to share some exciting news! In 2023, the division received a five-year cooperative agreement awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect and improve the health and well-being of school-age children and adolescents. Through this funding, the Indiana School Health Coalition was formed after merging with the former Healthy Schools Action Team.

Throughout 2025, the division and coalition collaborated to create the [Healthy Schools Resource Hub](#). This hub houses a range of resources and information, and is a one-stop shop for all your school health resources!

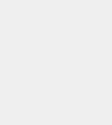
Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) Regional Workshop Opportunities

ISNA invites school nutrition program managers to the spring 2026 workshop. The workshop will focus on building supportive work environments and strengthening team performance through practical strategies for communication, collaboration, and conflict management, using the Institute of Child Nutrition's Strategies for Leading Effective Teams. These three-hour sessions will be led by Indiana school nutrition leaders during the first week of March at locations across the state, allowing participants to attend whichever location is best for them and their travel. The fee to attend is \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members.

- Central: Tuesday, March 3, at North West Hendricks
- Northwest: Tuesday, March 3, at Merrillville
- Southeast: Tuesday, March 3, at Seymour
- Northeast: Wednesday, March 4, at Southwest Allen Schools
- Southwest: Thursday, March 5, at North Daviess

Learn more and register [here](#).

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, January 29	Final November Claim Date
Thursday, January 29, at 9:30 a.m. ET	Coffee Break Webinar: Alternate Breakfast Models Best Practices
Friday, January 30	Last day to conduct on-site self monitoring visits
Friday, February 6	School Nutrition Employee of the Year Nominations close
Wednesday, February 11	Indiana Grown for Schools Office Hours
Wednesday, February 18	Farmer Feature: sMall Town Produce



Additional Resources

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