



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.

Tip of the Week



Happy National School Breakfast Week!

We hope that you have some fun activities planned for your students! If you would like to share photos from your Quest for School Breakfast, please email them to Annie Tuszyński no later than 4 p.m. ET on Friday, March 13.

Important Updates

Updates to the Food Buying Guide

Updates are frequently made to the Food Buying Guide, so it is important to regularly check the food items that you menu. See below for foods with recently updated yields.

- Bok Choy
Frozen Dragon Fruit (Pitaya)
Ground Elk
Canned Hearts of Palm
Fresh Mussels
Shredded Romaine Lettuce
Canned Jackfruit
Pouched Jackfruit

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) School Year (SY) 2026-2027 Applications for New Sites

The 2026-2027 FFVP application is now open for new sites.

FFVP is a cost-reimbursable grant available to elementary schools (grades K-6) to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students during the school day, outside of the normal meal periods.

Access the application for new sites here: 2026-2027 FFVP Application. Individual applications must be submitted for each new site.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) In-Person Training Sessions Starting Soon

Spring is the training and preparation season for all school food authorities planning to operate the SFSP this summer.

PrimerEdge Catalogs Close Friday, March 6 at 4 p.m. ET

Eligible schools that wish to receive USDA Foods for the 2026-2027 school year must complete their catalogs in PrimerEdge.

USDA Foods

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

As a reminder, schools must enter their DoD Program receipts into the FAVORS 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.

USDA Foods Cancellations for SY 2025-2026

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

USDA Foods Recipe Ideas

Looking for recipes to use your USDA Foods? Check out these resources:

- 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

- SFSP/SSO Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Info Series: Serving Up Sun Meals
Best Practices & Outreach Strategies, Wednesday, March 11, at 2 p.m. ET

Read more about this topic 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.

Reminders

SP 03-2026: Incorporating Local Beef into Child Nutrition Program Meals

On Thursday, February 19, USDA released policy memo SP 03-2026 addressing the recently published USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry: Strengthening Ranches, Rebuilding Capacity, and Lowering Costs for Consumers.

For additional information and resources, view policy memo SP 03-2026. View the Local Meat in Schools Fact Sheet here.

Updates from Our Partners

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) Shop: Gear Up for the Quest

It's not too late to grab NSBW merchandise for your celebrations! The School Nutrition Association's shop has a variety of options including shirts, posters, balloons, stickers, and more.

Scholarships Available for the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Annual National Conference

SNA is awarding 45 members with scholarships to their 2026 Annual Conference. These scholarships would provide \$1,400 towards the costs of registration, airfare, hotel stays, and meals.

Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition: Bowl Concepts in School Nutrition

Join the Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) on Thursday, March 5, at 3 p.m. ET for a webinar discussing the use of bowl concepts for school meals.

Upcoming Dates



Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Rows include: Week of March 2 (It's National School Breakfast Week!), Friday, March 6 (Primer Edge Catalog Closes, 4 p.m. ET), Wednesday, March 11 (SFSP RNC - Best Practices & Outreach Strategies), Monday, March 16 (SFSP In-Person Training Begins), Wednesday, April 1 (Final Due Date for January 2026 Claims), Friday, April 17 (FFVP Applications for SY 26-27 Due).



Additional Resources

- School Nutrition Programs Calendar
IDOE's Nutrition Webpage
CNPweb