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INDIANA
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EDUCATION

Mike Braun, Governor
Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

School Nutrition Programs

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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

End of Year Updates and Reminders

Join us on **Tuesday, May 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET** for a webinar reviewing recent federal updates to the school nutrition programs rules and regulations, as well as important due dates and reminders to be aware of as the 2025-2026 school year concludes and we prepare for summer meals and the 2026-2027 school year! Click [here](#) to register.

Important Updates

Child Nutrition Programs: Income Eligibility Guidelines (2026-2027)

The Income Eligibility Guidelines for the 2026-2027 school year are now available. Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or the Summer Food Service Program are required to use these federal guidelines to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals and free milk benefits for the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. For more information and to view the updated guidelines, click [here](#).

Academic Summer School Meal Options

School corporations providing IDOE-approved summer school courses can provide reimbursable meals during the summer months. A detailed list of eligible courses can be found [here](#). The following are options for feeding students attending academic summer school.

- Sites that would like to be open to the public and qualify by area eligibility to operate a summer meal program could operate under the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Site locations for SFSP and SSO must be in an area where at least 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced price meals or is census area eligible. Academic summer school sites under SFSP and SSO must be advertised to and operate as open to the general public.
- Sites that wish to be closed to the public or do not qualify for the summer meals programs can extend National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal service. Meals served on NSLP can only be offered to students enrolled in academic summer school. Students on campus for other reasons are not eligible to participate in meal service. NSLP must operate as usual with money collected for students receiving reduced and paid meals. The non-profit food service account cannot absorb the cost of reduced and paid student meals.

Contact your assigned field specialist with any questions.

Federal Task Force on Children's Health: Lead Resource Guide

The [President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children](#) recently published an interim [Federal Lead Resource Guide](#) (The Guide). The Guide is a collection of select federal lead-related resources, programs, and assistance opportunities for use by the public. Resources include tips to promote awareness, financial opportunities, regulatory documents, as well as tool kits and guidance documents. Click [here](#) for more information.

USDA Foods

The End of the School Year is Near

The end of the school year is just around the corner. Now is the time to review your school's USDA Foods inventory and place orders to have them delivered to your school.

- Check direct delivered inventory at the state assigned warehouse listed in [CNPweb](#), the processing companies for bulk pounds by accessing the commodity tracking websites, [K12 Foodservice](#) and [ProcessorLink](#) and utilizing Department of Defense (DoD) funds available in [Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System \(FFAVORS\)](#).
- Direct delivered and Department of Defense Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program (DoD Fresh) funds remaining after Tuesday, June 30, will not roll over to school year 2026-2027.
- Processor pounds remaining after Tuesday, June 30, carryover to school year 2026-2027.
- Allocations for direct delivered USDA Foods end Thursday, April 30. Direct Delivered USDA Foods deliveries to schools end on or before Tuesday, June 30.

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:

- [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

Recordkeeping Reminders

School Nutrition Programs require that School Food Authorities keep important meal service documents on file for recordkeeping and auditing purposes, with requirements varying by document type. As the end of the school year approaches, this is a good time to review existing documentation, identify any needed updates, and remove documents that are outside the required auditing window. Join IDOE and Amy Christensen from the Indiana Archives and Records Administration to review the state level requirements for record keeping, as well as procedures for destroying records once the required retention period has passed. This webinar will take place on **Thursday, May 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET**. Click [here](#) to register.

Spring Webinars

Check out our upcoming webinar list [here](#), as new events are added regularly. Three new webinars are scheduled for April. Click the links below for more details and to register.

- [Direct Certification for the Community Eligibility Provision Application](#) - Thursday, April 23, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [Understanding Non-Program Revenue in School Nutrition Programs](#) - Tuesday, May 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [End of Year Updates and Reminders](#) - Tuesday, May 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET.

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

Reminders

Gluten-Free Resources

Food substitutions and/or other reasonable modifications to a student's meal may be necessary to meet the dietary needs of students who meet the USDA definition of a disability, which encompasses food allergies, intolerances such as a gluten intolerance, and other disorders including Celiac disease. Celiac disease is an autoimmune disorder where exposure to even trace amounts of gluten can trigger an inflammatory response in the digestive system. This can cause nutrient malabsorption, fatigue, and weight loss among other symptoms. Celiac disease is different from a gluten intolerance, although both require avoiding gluten to prevent symptoms. Gluten-free diets can be challenging to navigate for both families and schools.

The [Gluten Intolerance Group](#) (GIG) is an organization that works to support schools and families with navigating gluten-free living. The organization has created toolkits for teachers and school staff, parents and families, school nurses, and teens who are preparing to go to college. Helpful information and resources are also available through the [National Celiac Association](#) and the [Celiac Disease Foundation](#). Additionally, IDOE offers supporting resources on the [Special Dietary Needs](#) webpage, including a sample gluten-free menu.

Updates from Our Partners

Amplifying Impact: Advocacy Strategies for Rural, Non-Congregate Programs

Join No Kid Hungry for this webinar to hear from community-based organizations, program sponsors, and state agencies about effective strategies for advancing rural non-congregate summer meal programs. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN): Upcoming Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT)

ICN is offering several VILTs for sponsors this spring, covering topics such as serving instructor style, implementing schedules and routines around meals, developing menus with variety, as well as implementing recent updates to meal patterns. Register [here](#). ICN also offers on-demand virtual training [here](#) that can be accessed and completed independently.

Upcoming Dates



Wednesday, April 29	Final Due Date for February Claim
Thursday, April 30	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Application Due
Friday, May 1	Seamless Summer Option Deadline in CNPweb
Monday, June 1	Final Due Date for March Claim



Additional Resources

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

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