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School Nutrition Programs Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education



Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 11/06/2024 04:00 PM EST



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

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

Breakfast Meal Pattern Changes with the Final Rule

With the release of the [Final Rule](#), effective July 1, 2024, schools now have the ability to more easily offer protein-rich foods like eggs, cheese, and yogurt at breakfast.

The final rule establishes a combined grains and meats/meat alternates meal component at K-12 school breakfast. This removes the requirement for schools to offer 1.0 ounce equivalent of "real" grain each day at breakfast before offering meats/meat alternates. Schools may choose to offer grains, meats/meats alternates, or a combination of both to meet the combined component requirements. See the updated breakfast meal pattern [here](#).

Important Updates

Annual Financial Report (AFR)

AFRs in CNPweb were due on November 1, 2024. If you have not submitted your AFR, or it is in "error" or "needs correction" status, please submit your AFR to avoid your claims being put on hold. If you have already requested an extension to submit your AFR, disregard this correspondence. For questions, please email scnfinance@doe.in.gov, include your sponsor number in the subject line.

The slides from the AFR presentation can be found at: [AFR presentation](#)

Resources:

- [Step-by-step Guide](#) for completing the AFR
- [Pre-Approved Equipment List](#) for equipment over \$5,000
- [Equipment approval](#) form for equipment \$5,000
- [2024 Approved Indirect Cost Rates](#)
- [Examples](#) of allowable and unallowable cost to the Nonprofit School Food Service Account
- [Spend Down Plan Template](#)
- [Annual Financial Report Q&A](#)
- [MTDC \(example\)](#)
- [MTDC Tool](#)

All other resources can be found under the Annual Financial Report (AFR) drop down tab on the [CNPweb Resources page](#).

Verification

All final letters notifying households of the verification results must be sent by Friday, November 15. Verification is considered complete once this is done. As soon as the October claim for reimbursement has been submitted and approved, the Verification Summary Report will open under the Reports tab in CNPweb. The verification summary report will be due on January 15, 2025. For more information, visit the [IDOE verification webpage](#). Also be on the look-out in future newsletters for a webinar on the verification summary report.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Sponsors Reminder

The agreement signed by all CEP sponsors states they **must** offer both breakfast and lunch every day that school is in session. The only exceptions are days with a planned schoolwide late start or when an unscheduled schoolwide delay due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances occurs which makes it so sponsors are unable to serve breakfast.

Cindy Harris's Retirement

Cindy Harris, IDOE's procurement specialist for the past seven and a half years is retiring and entering the new phase of her life. We have had the pleasure of working with and learning from her in the procurement space. She will be greatly missed. During the transition period, school nutrition staff asks that schools direct their questions to the procurement mailbox at scnprocurement@doe.in.gov.

Farm to School

USDA Fiscal Year (FY) Farm to School Grant Program Now Open

In FY 2025, the USDA will award up to \$12 million in competitive grants to eligible entities through the grant program. Each grant will help eligible entities implement farm to school programming that increases access to local food in eligible schools, connects children with agriculture for better health, and inspires youth to consider careers in agriculture. You can apply for \$5,000 to \$500,000 depending on your funding track. Find more information [here](#). Applications must be submitted by Friday, January 10, 2025.

USDA Farm to School Census Results

In fall 2023, USDA asked all School Food Authorities (SFAs) to answer a comprehensive survey about their farm to school activities in child nutrition program settings during the 2022-2023 school year. The results are now in! Visit the [2023 Farm to School Census website](#) and [2023 Farm to School Census Report](#) to see the data and growth in farm to school since 2019.

Apple Crunch Day School Highlights

Southeast Fountain School Corporation made apple sauce from local apples for their elementary, junior high, and high school! They diced and blended roughly six cases of Red Delicious apples, and visited 10 classrooms to teach about apples and let the kids taste different kinds.



St. Mary Cathedral School in Lafayette partnered with Purdue Extension for Apple Crunch Day. Students from kindergarten to fourth grade learned about different types of apples and the purpose of all the parts of an apple.



USDA Foods

Holiday Breaks are Upon Us

Please remember to put a 24-hour access phone number under the Application tab in CNPweb and cross-reference your school calendars and personal calendars with your USDA Foods delivery periods under the Orders tab in FDP link in CNPweb. Schools must ensure that school staff is available to inspect, verify and accept all USDA Foods deliveries. Missed deliveries where school staff is unavailable could result in costs to the school for transportation, fuel, handling, and restocking fees.

USDA Whole Frozen Strawberries Canceled

The October shipment of whole frozen strawberries 110846 has been canceled by USDA due to the inability of the vendor to fill this order before the end of school year 2024-2025. Currently, no future orders are affected.

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Broccoli

The DoD Fresh Program broccoli has been removed from the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) catalog due to short supply and will no longer be available.

Remember to Receipt in FFAVORS

Schools should be receipting their DoD produce receipts into FFAVORS within five calendar days after the produce delivery.

USDA Foods Recipes

Use your USDA [diced chicken](#) to prepare this variation of [creamy chicken pasta with roasted squash and broccoli](#). This recipe must be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Training and Webinar Opportunities

Fall Culinary Skills for School Meals Webinar Series

Chef Cathy Powers and her team will be offering free, interactive culinary education for all K-12 school nutrition professionals. Virtual training is provided from 2 to 3 p.m. ET, featuring live chef demonstrations of practical recipes, efficient techniques, and important nutritional insights. Each class earns one continuing education unit (CEU) and includes great giveaways. Click the title of the sessions below to see more details and to register.

- Thursday, November 7 - [Cooking Whole Grains - Techniques for Chilled Dishes](#)
- Thursday, November 14 - [Super Simple Sauces](#)

Did you miss any of the previous Culinary Skills for School Meals Webinars from earlier this year? Click any of the links [here](#) to view the recording.

Reminders

And Justice For All Posters

And Justice For All posters are currently **not** being printed by USDA nor distributed by IDOE. All sponsors should continue to use the 2019 version. Sponsors are recommended to make copies of their existing posters as needed. If possible, you should print the poster at the intended 11x17 size and in color.

However, if printing capabilities are limited, an 8.5x11 size and/or a black and white version is allowable. There will be no administrative review findings until posters are printed and distributed again.

New Field Specialists and Territory Realignment

Since June 2024, three new field specialists have been added to the School and Summer Field staff. Now serving the west central Indiana territory is Lorrie Rainey who resides in Lafayette. Serving the northeast corner of the state is Andrea Stieglitz, who resides in Ft. Wayne. The most recent addition to the team is Katie Sherman who resides in Huntingburg and will be serving the southwest corner of the state. As always, your assigned field specialist contact information can be found within CNPweb, program year 2025, right under the Checklist heading on the Sponsor Summary page. With this expansion of the field staff team, territories could have shifted slightly. If you have any questions or need technical assistance in the day-to-day operation of your school nutrition program, please reach out to your field specialist.

Updates from Our Partners

New USDA Grants Available

As part of [USDA's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative](#), Project SCALES (Supporting Community Agriculture and Local Education Systems) is funding partnership grants that strengthen school meals programs, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. To apply, you'll need a team of at least three partners, which must include a school food authority and a food industry partner, along with farmers, producers, distributors, and other organizations. To learn more and apply, visit projectscales.com.

Kosher and Halal Foods in Child Nutrition Programs USDA Webinar

Does your Child Nutrition Program serve participants who follow kosher and/or halal diets? Join USDA on Thursday, November 14, from 1 to 2 p.m. ET to learn more about how kosher and halal foods fit into Child Nutrition Program meal patterns and how USDA Foods can help! USDA will also highlight how non-congregate waivers for Ramadan 2025 can support participants' access to meals throughout Ramadan. Please register for the webinar [here](#).

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, November 7, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Culinary Skills for School Meals webinar series: Cooking Whole Grains - Techniques for Chilled Dishes
Thursday, November 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Culinary Skills for School Meals webinar series: Super Simple Sauces
Thursday, November 14, 1 to 2 p.m. ET	USDA webinar: Kosher and Halal Foods in CNPs
Friday, November 15	Deadline for notifying households of verification results
January 10, 2025	Application deadline for FY 2025 Farm to School Grants

Additional Resources

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

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Department News

- 10/09/24 Hoosiers Encouraged to Share Feedback on Second Draft of Diploma Rule
- 10/02/24 Indiana Launches Early Childhood Education Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program

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