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School Nutrition Programs Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education



Indiana Department of Education sent this bulletin at 08/28/2024 04:00 PM EDT



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

Field Specialist Territory Updates

IDOE has added two new field specialists to the team! Territories have changed and shifted with these new additions. Please ensure you have the correct specialist name before reaching out. Specialist assignments have been updated and can be found in CNPweb.

Sponsor Summary

Checklist	Applications	Reports	Activities	Claims	Payments	Users
Assigned Specialist: Your Specialist Name/ phone number / email			Date: 8/30/2024		Marion County (49)	
Number	Name	Revision	Status	Date Approved	Action	
Sponsor Info Sheet						
		0	Pending Approval		[View] [Edit] [Delete]	
Site Info Sheet						
	Apple Elementary	0	Pending Approval		[View] [Edit] [Delete]	
Community Eligibility Provision Application						
		0	Pending Approval		[View]	

Indiana SUN Bucks

SUN Bucks Application Now Closed

The 2024 Indiana SUN Bucks application is now closed. No new applications will be accepted. The application for program year 2025 will open in the coming months.

Additional SUN Bucks Guidance

- Address change request notice: IDOE is still processing change of address requests submitted prior to program closure on Friday, August 16. Requests submitted after Friday, August 16, may not be completed before funds are expunged, per federal requirement, 122 days after issuance.
- To ensure households receive SUN Bucks cards to the correct address next year, please advertise the need for correct address information at the school-level by April 30, 2025.
- The first expungement date for the initial batch of cards issued is Saturday, September 14. Households that were part of the initial issuance were mailed letters earlier this month stating how much funding remained on the cards.

Protein Procurement Toolkit

The [Farm to School Protein Procurement Toolkit](#) is now live. After celebrating Protein for Food Day 2023, questions and difficulties with procuring and serving local protein in the child nutrition programs became evident. This toolkit was developed to answer some of the most commonly asked questions about procuring and serving local proteins. The toolkit is meant to be utilized in coordination with the Farm to School Procurement Toolkit, which can be found [here](#).

Purdue University Seeks Hydroponic Systems Partnerships

Does your high school have an agriculture, technology, or engineering program? Purdue University seeks to partner with Indiana schools to help lead a digital agriculture technology project through the use of hydroponic units in schools. The projects would consist of students building hydroponic systems and developing digital agriculture technologies to grow crops through indoor vertical farming methods. Students must work with their educator during after-school or non-traditional school settings to complete these projects. Stipends will be allocated to the teachers supporting the efforts. Supplies will also be covered using grant funds. Contact [Sophie Lindley](#), IDOE farm to school coordinator, if you have questions or are interested in learning more.

Login.gov Account Required to Access Department of Defense Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (DoD FFAVORS)

All DoD FFAVORS external users must have a Login.gov account to access FFAVORS before Monday, September 30, per USDA. Access the [Login.gov website](#) and click the "Sign in with LOGIN.GOV" button. If you need assistance, contact the [FFAVORS help desk](#).

DoD Fresh Produce Orders and Receipting

Returning school sponsors that participated in the DoD program in school year 2023-2024 and have allocated funds for school year 2024-2025 can begin placing orders immediately in FFAVORS. Schools new to DoD in school year 2024-2025 must complete the [eAuthentication](#) process by creating a Login.gov account and await approval from USDA and DoD. IDOE will update sponsors new to DoD once accounts are approved. SFAs placing orders must receipt in FFAVORS within five days of receiving DoD orders.

Administrative and Storage Fees Increase for School Year (SY) 2025

Administrative fees for Direct Delivered (brown box) USDA Foods will increase to \$4.50 per case immediately due to state assigned warehouse (Dilgard Frozen Foods and Stanz-Troyers Foodservice) pricing increases. All SFAs are charged these fees. Storage fees have also increased for freezer, cooler, and dry Direct Delivered USDA Foods stored at the state assigned warehouse. These fees are charged to the SFA on a per case, per month basis when USDA Foods remain at the state assigned warehouse past the expire date listed in CNPweb. USDA Foods program fees can be found [here](#).

- Cooler: \$1.10
- Dry Goods: \$1.00
- Frozen: \$1.20

Program Year (PY) 2025 for USDA Foods

PY 2025 remains hidden in CNPweb until the school year rollover is completed. IDOE will notify schools via this newsletter when it is available.

USDA Foods Recipes

Use the USDA [100187 sliced ham](#), [100121 turkey breast deli](#) and cheeses for [ham and turkey sandwiches](#). This recipe must be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Verification Webinar Series

- Verification Methods
 - Programs able to select their own verification method can join this session to learn about each option.
 - Tuesday, September 17, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).

- Repeat Session: Tuesday, September 24, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here.](#)
- Verification Preparation
 - Join IDOE to review steps of verification prior to Tuesday, October 1, to ensure your program is ready.
 - Thursday, September 19, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here.](#)
 - Repeat Session: Thursday, September 26, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here.](#)

Coming in October

- Direct Verification
 - Review how to use the Direct Verification feature. Direct Verification is different from Direct Certification. Don't miss this important step in the verification process.
- Processing Verification
 - Follow along with examples of how to process the information provided from households who have been selected for verification.

Reminders

Traditional Verification Method Spreadsheet

Traditional verification is required for all approved meal benefit applications on file as of Tuesday, October 1. School food authorities (SFAs) can see whether they are required to conduct Standard (Error-Prone) method of verification on this [spreadsheet](#).

Annual Financial Report (AFR) Updates

AFR is currently under construction in CNPweb for additional updates to the report. **These updates have affected previous years AFRs and will not allow a sponsor to submit an old AFR for approval. Please refrain from editing previous years' AFRs until further notice.** Sponsors are still able to view previous years AFRs using the view function, but please do not select the edit function as this will throw the AFR into error status. Once the system is ready and the 2024 AFR is opened in CNPweb, IDOE will share additional announcements. If you have any questions regarding the 2024 AFR, please email scnfinance@doe.in.gov.

Updates from Our Partners

Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) 2024 Annual Conference

Register today for the 2024 Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) Annual Conference! This year's conference will be held Wednesday, November 6, through Friday, November 8, at the Century Center in South Bend. ISNA has a great lineup of presenters and looks forward to reconnecting in person with colleagues from across the state. To view the agenda and register, visit the [ISNA conference website](#). Early bird registration ends Friday, September 20.

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) STAR Webinar

Join the ICN for the August STAR webinar: Strategies for Improving Lunch Line Efficiency. Efficient lunch service is crucial for ensuring that students have ample time to eat and enjoy their nutritious meals. This webinar will explore strategies for improving student queues in the dining room and enhancing communication among school nutrition staff.

Thursday, August 29, at 3 p.m. ET. [Register here.](#)

Indiana Food Vision Survey

The Indiana Food Vision steering committee is working to create a master food vision that will be a strategic roadmap for cultivating a robust and nourishing food system where all communities in Indiana thrive. We want to hear from Hoosiers who eat, grow, or buy food in Indiana - that means you! To learn more and take the survey, visit the [Indiana Food Vision webpage](#). Survey results will help shape the future of the Indiana food system.

Upcoming Dates



Thursday, August 29, at 3 p.m. ET.	ICN STAR webinar
Tuesday, September 17, at 2 p.m. ET	Verification Methods webinar

Thursday, September 19, at 2 p.m. ET	Verification Preparation webinar
Tuesday, September 24, at 2 p.m. ET	Verification Methods webinar
Thursday, September 26, at 2 p.m. ET	Verification Preparation webinar
Monday, September 30	Deadline to activate Login.gov account for DoD FFAVORS
Wednesday, November 6, through Friday, November 8	ISNA Annual Conference

Additional Resources

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

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Department News

- 08/14/24 Stakeholder Feedback Drives Significant Updates to Second Draft of Indiana Diploma Proposal
- 08/14/24 Indiana's Third Grade Literacy Rates Increase for Third Consecutive Year
- 08/07/24 Indiana Department of Education Announces 2025 Indiana Teacher of the Year Top 10 Finalists

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