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School Nutrition Programs Newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education



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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

Celebrate Local Food in October

The last day to register for Apple Crunch and Food Day and still get stickers, is Sunday, September 9. Sign up for Food Day [here](#) and Apple Crunch [here](#). Need assistance prepping your pumpkins, taking photos, or cleaning up after the event? Contact IDOE's Farm to School Coordinator, [Sophie Lindley](#).

Indiana SUN Bucks

SUN Bucks Phone Line Closed

Due to the end of the 2024 SUN Bucks Program, the call center phone line has been closed. Households can still reach out through the [SUN Bucks Help Portal](#) with questions or concerns.

As a reminder, funds are expunged 122 days after cards are initially issued to households. For issued cards that did not arrive or for households reporting an incorrect address, the issuance period is unfortunately not able to be extended.

The 2025 SUN Bucks Program will open next spring. 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.

Farm to School

Indiana Grown for Schools All-Network Meeting

Join the Indiana Grown for Schools Network's All-Network Meeting on Thursday, September 26, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. ET to help shape the future of Farm to School in Indiana. During this session we will discuss successes, challenges, and priorities for increasing local foods, fostering school gardens, and integrating nutrition and agriculture education in classrooms in your community and statewide. Learn more and register [here](#).

USDA Foods

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

SFAs placing orders must receipt in FFAVORS within five days of receiving DoD orders.

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 your USDA [100396 peanut butter](#) for delicious [Danville Peanut Butter Bars](#). This delicious make ahead recipe was created by our own Danville School Corporation. This recipe must be adjusted to meet serving sizes and meal patterns.



Training and Webinar Opportunities

Final Rule: Updates for Child Nutrition Programs Webinar

Learn more about USDA's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Final Rule titled, *Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* during a webinar discussing updates to nutrition standards, menu flexibilities, and administrative and operational changes.

Note: This will be a repeat presentation of what was presented during the Back-to-School Training on July 10, 2024.

When: Thursday, September 12, at 1 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

Meal Talk: Reducing Sugars in School Meals

USDA's FNS Team Nutrition initiative is hosting a webinar, Meal Talk: Reducing Sugars in School Meals, on Thursday, September 12, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET. The webinar will highlight strategies to reduce added sugars to meet the upcoming added sugar limits for school meals starting in school year 2025-2026. Register [here](#).

Verification Webinar Series

- Verification Methods
 - Tuesday, September 17, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).
 - Repeat Session: Tuesday, September 24, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).
 - Programs able to select their own verification method can join this session to learn about each option.
- Verification Preparation
 - Thursday, September 19, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).
 - Repeat Session: Thursday, September 26, at 2 p.m. ET. [Register here](#).
 - Join IDOE to review steps of verification prior to Tuesday, October 1, to ensure your program is ready.

Reminders

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.

Updates from Our Partners

Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA) 2024 Annual Conference

Register today for the 2024 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.

Chef Ann Foundation: Get Schools Cooking Application Now Open

[Chef Ann Foundation's Get Schools Cooking application](#) is now open! Get Schools Cooking is an intensive three-year assessment and strategic planning program that provides public K-12 schools with comprehensive support to transition from a heat-and-serve to a scratch-cooking operational model. Get Schools Cooking is open to school districts across the U.S. You must be operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and be a self-operated district. Contact the [Chef Ann Foundation](#) with any questions.

Upcoming Dates



Sunday, September 9	Final day to register for Apple Crunch and Food Day
Thursday, September 12, at 1 p.m. ET	Child Nutrition Programs webinar: Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
Thursday, September 12, from 3 to 4 p.m. ET	Meal Talk webinar: Reducing Sugars in School Meals
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
Thursday, September 26, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. ET	Indiana Grown for Schools All-Network Meeting
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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