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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

Resale of Foods

While the resale of foods is allowable, food service departments should be doing everything possible to have the foods used in child nutrition programs serve the needs of students first. Food service departments should utilize Offer vs. Serve (OVS), offer multiple choices within components, and conduct plate waste studies to eliminate items from the menu that few students eat before moving to the resale or recycling of food. If a school decides to retrieve food for resale in future reimbursable meals, they must have a procedure or policy in place that details how food will be handled. [This resource](#) outlines the process for the resale of food items in school cafeterias. Contact your assigned field specialist with any questions.

Important Updates

Nominations for the School Food Service Employee of the Year Due Wednesday, February 14

Help IDOE recognize school food service employees who contribute significantly to the health and learning capabilities of students by nominating them for IDOE's 2024 School Food Service Employee of the Year Award. This award was created to recognize the outstanding achievements of school food service employees who excel in the areas of customer service, attitude, professionalism, and teamwork. Submit your [nomination](#) by Wednesday, February 14. Contact [Suzette Hartman](#) with any questions.

Comment Period Open: Summer EBT Interim Final Rule

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to make available an option to states to provide summer meals for non-congregate meal service in rural areas with no congregate meal service and to establish a permanent summer electronic benefits transfer for children program (Summer EBT) for the purpose of ensuring continued access to food when school is not in session for the summer.

This interim final rule amends the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) regulations to codify the flexibility for rural program operators to provide non-congregate meal service in the SFSP and SSO, collectively referred to as the summer meal programs. This rule also establishes regulations and codifies the Summer EBT Program in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, invites interested persons to submit written comments on this interim final rule. Comments may be submitted in writing by one of the following methods:

- [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#): Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Mail comments to Community Meals Policy Division, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.

All written comments submitted in response to this interim final rule will be included in the record and will be made available to the public. Please be advised that the substance of the comments and the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be subject to public disclosure. USDA will make the written comments publicly available [here](#).

To be considered, written comments on this interim final rule must be received on or before Monday, April 29.

USDA Foods

Annual Pre-order Survey

The Annual Pre-order Forecast Survey Training is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET. Event details are below:

- [Join on Teams](#) - Meeting ID: 279 767 622 757, Passcode: APBDnL
- Call in - (317) 552-1674, Meeting Code: 8261172#

Expire Dates and Close Dates

As a reminder, school food authorities (SFAs) that participate in the Food Distribution Program (FDP) should regularly check Expire and Close dates in the FDP link in CNPweb under the Inventory tab. The expire date is not the USDA Food expiration date. It is the latest date a USDA Food can remain at the state assigned warehouse (Dilgard Frozen Foods, Stanz-Troyers Foodservice or Wabash Foods) before excess storage fees are assessed. It is a 45-day grace period for school districts to place an order in CNPweb to have USDA Foods delivered to the school and removed from the state assigned warehouse. The close date is the latest date a USDA Food can remain in a school's inventory before it is swept and redistributed to other schools. This is approximately six months after the USDA Food has been allocated into the SFA's inventory. Click [here](#) for more information.

USDA Foods Recipes

It's cold outside! It's a good time to serve some hot soup to your students. Here's one variation of a [taco soup](#) recipe where you can incorporate your USDA Foods such as canned or frozen corn, ground beef, salsa, and beans.

Holidays and E-Learning Day USDA Foods Orders

Please remember that it is mandatory to have school staff available to inspect, verify and accept all USDA Foods orders that are placed. This is especially important for orders placed during e-learning days, school breaks and holidays. State-assigned warehouses Dilgard Frozen Foods, Stanz Foodservice, and Wabash Foods are contracted to deliver Direct Delivered (Brown Box) USDA Foods to schools between the hours of 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. local school time.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

OVS Training

IDOE's OVS training will be a two-part series with a focus on each meal pattern and OVS for grades K-8 and 9-12. Join one or both depending on your needs.

- [OVS Grades K-8](#): Wednesday, January 24, 10 to 11 a.m. ET
- [OVS Grades 9-12](#): Thursday, January 25, 10 to 11 a.m. ET

School Breakfast Week Preparation Webinars

[Register](#) for Culinary Skills for A+ School Meals virtual training opportunities.

Registration for IDOE's Breakfast Best Practices webinar on Thursday, February 22, is coming soon.



SURF'S UP
WITH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

National School Breakfast Week
Monday, March 4, through Friday, March 8.

Catch a wave and join the breakfast webinar series!

Virtual Culinary Skills Workshops

- Breakfast Handhelds - Thursday, January 25
- Low Sugar, Low Fuss Breakfast - Thursday, February 8
- Savory Breakfast Ideas - Thursday, February 15
- Breakfast in the Classroom - Thursday, February 29

[IDOE and American Dairy Association Indiana](#)
Breakfast Best Practices - Thursday, February 22

Reminders

Coming in June: Farm to School Symposium

The Indiana Farm to School and Farm to Early Care and Education (ECE) Symposium will be Tuesday, June 18, and Wednesday, June 19, at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds. IDOE is hosting a Farm to School Symposium to discuss gardening, local procurement, and agriculture education. Teachers, food service staff, administrators, and other staff members are welcome to come plan your school's Farm to School and Farm to ECE projects. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please contact [Sophie Lindley](#).

Direct Certification (DC) Possible Duplicates

The DC system in CNPweb has pushed through match lists that may display duplicate students. Review that the student's eligibility status has not changed before disregarding the duplicate. Upcoming DC trainings are listed below.

Updates from Our Partners

Closing Soon: Grant Opportunity from the Partnerships for Local Agriculture & Nutrition Transformation in Schools (PLANTS)

The PLANTS grant application closes Monday, January 22. This grant is a part of the USDA Food & Nutrition Service Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative and is administered by Chef Ann Foundation in partnership with Kitchen Sync Strategies Collaborative, Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, and National Farm to School Network. Eight projects will be awarded grants between \$500,000 and \$600,000 to help build and strengthen relationships in community-based food systems, improve food supply chain coordination with local food producers, and expand scratch cooking in schools. Visit the [PLANTS webpage](#) for more information.

Upcoming Dates



Friday, January 19, 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Super Sandwiches
Monday, January 22	PLANTS Grant Applications Due
Wednesday, January 24, 10 to 11 a.m. ET	OVS Grades K-8
Thursday, January 25, 10 to 11 a.m. ET	OVS Grades 9-12
Thursday, January 25, 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Breakfast Handhelds for Nutrition on the Go
Friday, January 26, at 11:59 p.m. ET	Project SCALES Grant Application Due
Wednesday, February 7, 10 to 11 a.m. ET	Annual Pre-Order Survey Training
Thursday, February 8, 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Low Sugar, Low Fuss Breakfast
Wednesday, February 14	IDOE 2024 School Food Service Employee of the Year Nominations Due
Thursday, February 15, 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Savory Breakfast Ideas
Thursday, February 29, 2 to 3 p.m. ET	Breakfast in the Classroom

Monday, April 29

[Summer EBT Final Rule Comments Due](#)

Additional Resources

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

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Department News

- [01/10/24 Secretary Jenner Unanimously Elected as State Board of Education Chair for Fourth Consecutive Year](#)
- [01/09/24 Key Literacy Data Publicly Available for the First Time](#)

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