



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

**Jesse H. Ruiz**  
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**Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.**  
State Superintendent of Education

May 2009

Dear School-Based Child Nutrition Program Sponsor:

As this school year comes to a close, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Nutrition Programs Division has some exciting information to share with sponsors of School-Based Child Nutrition Programs.



## **School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Workshops**

Unlock your training through School-Based Child Nutrition Programs Workshops. Upcoming workshops include Menu Planning and Dietary Guidelines Training, Basic Training, and Certification and Verification. For current information, locations, additional details and registration for these upcoming trainings, visit [www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm).

## **Electronic Direct Certification System**

ISBE and the Illinois Department of Human Services are once again partnering to implement the statewide Direct Certification Process, but this process is going electronic! Please note that the eligibility certificates that were mailed to each student receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) will NO LONGER be mailed.

Effective with school year 2009–2010, a NEW Electronic Direct Certification System will be implemented statewide. Guidance regarding this system will be available on our website in May 2009. The Basic Training (June/July 2009) and Certification and Verification (July/August 2009) workshops planned this summer will provide training on the Electronic Direct Certification System as well.

## **The Outlook Newsletter Available Only Online in School Year 2009–2010**

The May 2009 issue of *The Outlook* is the final mailed copy to SFAs. As a “green initiative,” Nutrition Programs will no longer be mailing copies of *The Outlook* newsletter to you. We will inform you via email when each month’s issue of *The Outlook* has been posted. *The Outlook* newsletter is published August through May annually. You may view and print *The Outlook* newsletters and current, archived, and annual indexes at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition), click on *Newsletters*.

## **Illinois Nutrition Education and Training Programs (IL NET)**

Enclosed is a document that highlights the services of the IL NET sponsored by ISBE. Please take advantage of their free on-site training opportunities as well as online resources.

## **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Selected Schools**

Congratulations to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant selected schools for the 2009–2010 school year! A complete list including a map of the selected school is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv\\_program.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm).



### **Household Eligibility Application Materials**

The Household Eligibility Application forms and materials for school year 2009–2010 will be available online at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/household\\_eligibility.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/household_eligibility.htm). Local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to implement household applications and to use the current school years forms. LEAs should send out the Household Eligibility Application no earlier than four calendar weeks prior to the time students start school. Household Eligibility Applications cannot be sent home at the end of the school year for next year, nor can the LEAs begin accepting and processing Household Eligibility Applications before the beginning of the federally defined school year, which is July 1 through June 30.

### **Public Announcement**

Federal regulations require LEAs to submit a public announcement of the federal School-Based Child Nutrition Programs to the local news media. ISBE will submit a statewide public announcement on behalf of all participating School-Based Child Nutrition Programs sponsors for school year 2009–2010. LEAs may still submit public announcements to local employment offices and major employers contemplating large layoffs in the attendance area of the school.

### **The Food Buying Guide and Menu Planner for Healthy School Meals Materials**

The newly revised Food Buying Guide (FBG) and Menu Planner for Healthy School Meals are available in CD ROM format. The Menu Planner includes tips on implementing the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans into school meals. The FBG includes all updated sections in one file. This CD-Rom is included with this mailing. If additional copies are needed, please order at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tforms/fbgorder.html>.

### **Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Sponsor and Site Application**

The annual application process for participation in the Child Nutrition Programs for fiscal year 2009 will be completed online. Information and instruction on how to complete and submit your online application will be available in August 2008. Please complete the sponsor and site application(s) no later than September 15, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs staff via email at [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net) or via phone at (800) 545-7892. Thank you for your continued support of the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs and we look forward to working with you during the 2009–2010 school year.

Sincerely,

Christine Schmitt  
Division Administrator  
Nutrition Programs Division

Enclosures