

ISBE School Nutrition Programs Update

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025

On the Calendar

- **February:** National Sweet Potato Month,
Recipe Highlight: [Sweet Potato and Black Bean Stew](#)
- **Feb. 10:** [Submit claims in WINS](#)
- **Feb. 11:** ["Food Allergies in School Nutrition" webinar](#)
- **Feb. 11:** [ILSNA 2025 Winter Conference in Naperville](#)
- **Feb. 12:** Lincoln's Birthday (ISBE offices closed)
- **Feb. 15:** [School Breakfast Program Mandates](#),
opt-out provision deadline
- **Feb. 17:** Presidents Day (ISBE offices closed)
- **Feb. 20:** National Muffin Day,
Recipe Highlight: [Berry Cornmeal Muffins](#)
- **Feb. 20:** [Meal Talk Webinar: Reducing Sodium](#)



On the Calendar

- **Feb. 27:** National Chili Day, Recipe Highlight: [Smokin' Powerhouse Chili](#)
- **March:** Berries and Cherries Month, Recipe Highlight: [Berry Delicious Apple Sauce](#)
- **March 3-7:** [National School Breakfast Week](#)
- **March 5:** [ISBE SNP Update webinar](#)
- **April 2:** [ISBE SNP Update webinar](#)
- **April 3:** National Burrito Day, Recipe Highlight: [Breakfast Burrito With Salsa](#)
- **April 7-9:** [ISBE School Wellness Conference](#)
- **May 7:** [ISBE SNP Update webinar](#)
- **May 26:** Memorial Day (ISBE offices closed)



USDA Surveys

2024-25 SFA Survey on Supply Chain Disruption and Student Participation

- Survey emailed to SFAs on Jan. 27 from noreply@qemailserver.com
- Conducted by Decision Information Resources Inc. (DIR), sponsored by USDA FNS
- Questions? Call (844) 632-9010 or email SFASupplyChainSurvey@dir-online.com

USDA Surveys

School Food Procurement Survey

- ATTENTION: School food directors and school business officials
- Survey emailed by ISBE Nutrition Department to SFAs on Jan. 27 from cnp@isbe.net.
- Please complete the survey by Feb. 26
- Questions: Email Pamela Portocarrero at pamela_portocarrero@hks.harvard.edu.

What's New? www.isbe.net/nutrition

ISBE School Nutrition Programs Updates

- 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 5
- 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 2
- 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, May 7
- Register online:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5845>

- Recordings Available on the [SNP Training and Professional Standards webpage](#)



What's New?

Get The Outlook

- Latest issue posted at www.isbe.net/nutrition
- Keep your WINS contacts up-to-date
- Subscribe at www.isbe.net/subscribe



What's New?



Ramadan Waiver Available

- Schools can serve reimbursable non-congregate meals/snacks to students fasting during Ramadan
- Schools must complete waiver request in WINS
- Students must be in attendance at the school on the day the congregate meals/snacks are offered.
- Waiver request requires date range and a brief description of process to assure accurate meal counts.
- Parent/guardian template letter [available to download](#)

What's New?

Meals During E-Learning/Remote Days

- Reminder in [last month's issue of The Outlook](#)
- Providing meals during e-learning days not required but encouraged
- Must submit waiver request to offer meals for an unanticipated school closure day(s)

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers-Public-Notices.aspx>

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Annual Order Period Set to Open Jan. 13

The School Year 2025-26 Annual Order Period opens Monday, Jan. 13, and closes Friday, March 7, 2025. The three spending options include USDA Foods, DOD Fresh, and diversion to processors.

The diversion to processors option will close in the Illinois Commodity System (ICS) the week of Feb. 24-28, so that ISBE can compile truck loads. It will re-open March 3-7 for final changes. All diversion to processor requests are due by March 7.

Please refer to the [ICS Instructions](#) for step-by-step instructions on placing an order.

For those interested in the diversion to processor spending option, please check out the [Diversion to Processor Fact Sheet](#) and the [USDA Foods Show webpage](#) for resources and information related to processing. Email fdp@isbe.net with questions.

Additional DOD Funds Available for SY 24-25

The state has additional DOD funds available for school districts participating in the Food Distribution Program. You may request funds by following the procedures below:

1. Please spend your allotted DOD funds before requesting additional funds.
2. Email Paula Williams at pawillia@isbe.net to request additional funds.
3. Additional funds will be added in increments of 20% of your SY 25 Beginning PAL Balance. For example, if your Beginning PAL Balance was \$20,000, we will add \$4,000.
4. If you use all additional funds, you can request more at that time, following this same process.

Questions can be directed to Paula Williams at pawillia@isbe.net.

Meals During E-Learning/Remote Days

It is a good time to remind districts about the rules and recommendations providing meals during e-learning days as we experience colder temperatures and winter weather.

Providing meals during e-learning days is not required. However, providing meals can be an important part of a student's day, regardless of whether instruction is in person or via electronic means. As such, districts are encouraged to offer meals to all enrolled students during e-learning days to the extent practical and possible and according to the individual needs of each student.

If a district or school switches to e-learning/remote learning for any unanticipated school closure (COVID-19, fire, flooding, weather related (heat, cold, snow), strikes, etc.), the district may offer meals to all enrolled students. To receive federal reimbursement, the school district must submit a waiver request through the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) and may offer non-congregate meals to all enrolled students under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Meals offered must continue to meet the federal program requirements. Districts must continue to charge, track,

and claim meals provided by individual student eligibility. CEP approved sites must track and claim meals daily.

For the waiver process, log into IWAS and then WINS. On the left side of your dashboard, click "Waivers" under the "Sponsor Tasks" tab. Start by clicking the blue "Apply New Waiver" button and select the Waiver Type. These waivers should be completed prior to the day(s) necessary if possible. [Instructions are available on the Waivers and Public Notices webpage.](#)

If you have further questions, please contact ISBE's Nutrition Department at cnp@isbe.net.

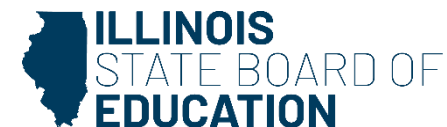
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What's New?



ISBE School Wellness Conference

- **WHEN:** April 7-9
- **WHERE:** Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
- **WHO:** School nutrition professionals, school nurses, counselors, administrators and more
- [Register today online!](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Wellness-Conference.aspx)



Student Wellness



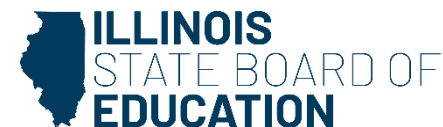
FARE Teen Talk

(Food Allergy Research & Education)

- For kids ages 11-22 with food allergies
- 4-5 p.m. Feb. 15
- Register by 11 a.m. Feb. 14

<https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/teen-talk>

- Questions? Email Melissa Egel
at mengel@foodallergy.org.



What's New? <https://schoolnutrition.extension.illinois.edu/>



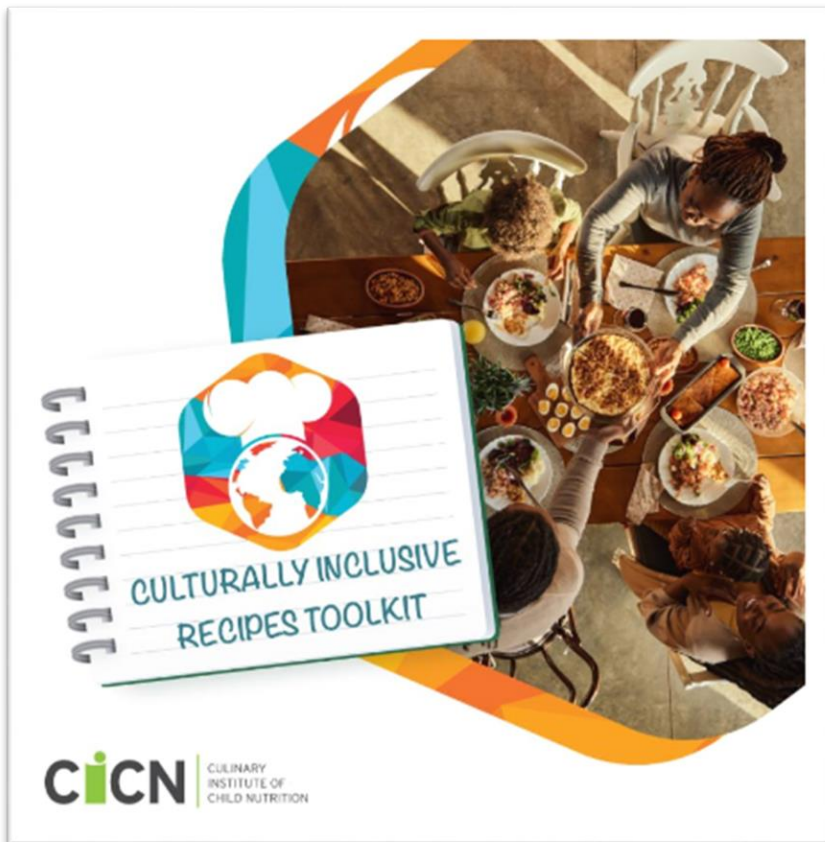
Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

- **Food Allergies in School Nutrition**
 - 2:30-4:30 p.m. Feb.11
- **Online Training includes:**
 - Academic Success: What Do Diet and Physical Activity Have to Do With it?
 - Building Flavor Stations
 - Promoting School Meals



What's New? <https://theicn.org/>

Institute of Child Nutrition



OF
EDUCATION

What's New?



- **"How to Transition to Scratch Cooking"**
 - 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6
 - [Register now!](#)



What's New?

In Case You Missed It



- Jan. 21 "Meal Patterns Consistent With the Dietary Guidelines" webinar
 - Recording and PDF of slides posted at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/snp-training.aspx>
- Additional trainings on Verification, Household Eligibility Applications, Local Wellness Policies, the Community Eligibility Provision, and more.

What's New?

"Reducing Sodium in School Meals"

- 2-3 p.m. Feb. 20
- USDA Team Nutrition,
teamnutrition@USDA.gov
- Register online:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/meal-talk-webinar-series>

▶ Meal Talk Webinars



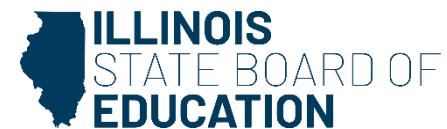
Professional Standards Reminder

Chart 1: Summary of Required Minimum Annual Training Requirements for School Nutrition Employees

Job Category	Annual Training Requirements*
Directors	12 hours
Managers	10 hours
All Other Staff (working 20 hours or more per week)	6 hours
Part-Time Staff (working less than 20 hours per week)	4 hours
Mid-year hires in all categories (January 1, or later)	One-half of training requirement for each job category
Temporary and acting employees, substitutes, and volunteers	Any annual training requirements are at the discretion of the State agency and may be required within 30 days of start date

*Annual training requirements apply to the 12 months between July 1 and June 30.

RESOURCES: [SNP Administrative Handbook \(Section J\)](#)
and the [SNP Training and Professional Standards webpage](#)



What's New?



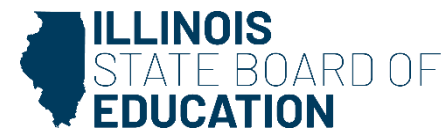
HMI Recognition Awards

- **Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards**

<https://healthymealsincentives.org/recognition-awards/>

Award Categories

- Breakfast Trailblazer
- Small and/or Rural SFA Breakfast Trailblazer
- Lunch Trailblazer
- Small and/or Rural SFA Lunch Trailblazer
- Innovative School Lunch Makeover
- Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals
- Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals
- Innovation in Nutrition Education



What's New?

ILSNA 2025

Winter Conference

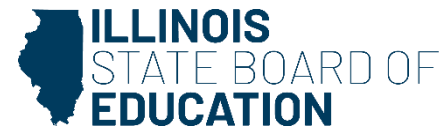
When: Tuesday, Feb. 11

Where: NIU Naperville
Conference Center

<https://www.ilsna.net/pdandevents/winterconference>



<https://www.ilsna.net/home>



What's New?

Farm to Child Nutrition Programs

- Round 1 of **Local Food for Schools** funding has been extended through Jan. 31, 2026!
 - localfoods@isbe.net
- **Illinois Farm to School Network**
 - Local Procurement Nextgen Bootcamp Training, 1-6 p.m. March 11, NIU Rockford Campus
<https://illinoisfarmentoschool.org/about/meetings/>

Food Distribution Program Update

Upcoming!

Register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STLExp25>



COMMODITY EXPO AND VENDOR SHOWCASE

Tuesday, February 18
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Registration opens at 7:30 AM

River City Casino
777 River City Casino Blvd.
St. Louis, MO




Free admission to
both events

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Monday, February 17
5:00 - 8:00 PM

Cibare Italian Kitchen at the
River City Casino
777 River City Casino Blvd.
St. Louis, MO



ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

FDP Annual Order Period



- Opened Jan. 13
- Three spending options:
USDA Foods, DOD Fresh,
Diversion to Processors
- Diversion to Processors
option closes Feb 24-28 and
reopens March 3-7
- **Annual Order Period closes
March 7**

Questions? Email fdp@isbe.net

New USDA Foods

Black Bean Burger, Patties, Cooked



Code: 111860

Pack Size: Approximately 165-137 patties/case

Case Size: 30 lb. case

Estimated Price/Case: \$107.70

Crediting: One patty credits as 2.0 oz MMA

Additional Information: This product contains soy. Dairy and egg ingredients are not allowed.

New USDA Foods

Chicken, Pulled, Cooked



Code: 111881

Pack Size: 6/5 lb. or 3/10 lb. bag

Case Size: 30 lb. case

Estimated Price/Case: \$136.80

Additional Information: This product is 100% white meat chicken. Soy and gluten-containing ingredients are not allowed.

New USDA Foods

Apple Juice, cups, frozen



Code: 111790

Pack Size: 96/4 oz cups

Case Size: 24 lb. case

Estimated Price/Case: \$15.36

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

- Additional DOD funds available now!
- Email pawillia@isbe.net



DOD/FFAVORS Update

FFAVORS:

***Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order
Receipt System***



Customer Ordering Manual

- DOD / FFAVORS receipt requirements have changed
- Orders must be receipted within 2 business days (used to be 5 business days)
- New orders cannot be submitted until receipts are processed

USDA Foods Delivery Rates

SY 2025-26 Rates (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026)

Description	Price
Delivery	\$7.37 per case
Custom Delivery	\$0.83 per case
Refusal/Backhaul	$\$7.37 + \$3.69 = \$11.06$ per case

ISBE plans to rebate schools a portion of the delivery costs.

School Breakfast Program Reminders

School Breakfast Reminders

School breakfast program mandate ([105 ILCS 126/15](#))

- Every public school in which at least 40 percent of the students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in October of the preceding year must operate a school breakfast program.

School Breakfast Reminders

School breakfast program mandate ([105 ILCS 126/15](#))

- [SNP Administrative Handbook, Section J](#)
- Petition ROE no later than Feb. 15 of the current school year to opt out
 - [Petition for Exemption information](#)
- [Download October 2024 data](#)
(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Nutrition-Data-Analytics-Maps.aspx>)

School Breakfast Reminders

Breakfast After the Bell program mandate ([105 ILCS 126/16](#))

- [SNP Administrative Handbook, Section J](#)
- [Petition for Exemption information](#)
- [Download October 2024 free and reduced-priced meal eligibility data](#)
(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Nutrition-Data-Analytics-Maps.aspx>)

School Breakfast Reminders

- Breakfast After the bell means breakfast is provided to children after the instructional day has officially begun.
- Delivery models include:
 - Breakfast in the Classroom
 - Grab and Go
 - Breakfast After First

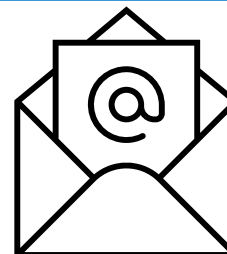
National School Breakfast Week

- **March 3-7**
- [School Nutrition Association Resources](#)
- [USDA Team Nutrition Resources](#)



Questions?

Email cnp@isbe.net



Call (800) 545-7892
(toll free in Illinois)
or (217) 782-2491

