

ISBE School Nutrition Programs Update

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024

On the Calendar

- **Aug. 27:** [Public comment period ends for rule on Summer EBT, Rural Non-Congregate Option](#)
- **Aug. 29:** [Food Allergies in School Nutrition](#)
- **Sept. 2:** ISBE offices closed for Labor Day
- **Sept. 4:** [ISBE School Nutrition Programs Update](#)
- **Sept. 10:** [Submit claims in WINS](#)
- **Sept. 12:** [Serve It Safely Food Handler Training](#)
- **Sept. 13:** [Turnip the Beet Award deadline](#)
- **Sept. 15:** [Final date to accept SCA funding](#)
- **Sept. 17:** ["Verification Process for School Year 2024-25"](#)
- **Oct. 2:** [ISBE School Nutrition Programs Update](#)
- **Oct. 10:** [Great Illinois Apple Crunch](#)
- **Oct. 10:** [Submit claims in WINS](#)
- **Oct. 14:** ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day
- **Oct. 14-18:** [National School Lunch Week](#)



Back-to-School Checklist

✓ **Be Sure Your Program Year 2025 Annual Application is Complete**

Name / RCDT / City / Address / Zip	Program	Program Year
<input type="text"/>	School Nutrition Programs	2025


✗ Your application is not complete.

Name / RCDT / City / Address / Zip	Program	Program Year
<input type="text"/>	School Nutrition Programs	2025

✓ Your application is complete.

Back-to-School Checklist

✓ Update Contact Information

- Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) in IWAS 
- [Entity Profile System](#) (EPS)

Back-to-School Checklist

✓ Civil Rights Requirements

- Display the “And Justice For All” poster.
- Complete your annual Civil Rights training



<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/5544971705266440451>

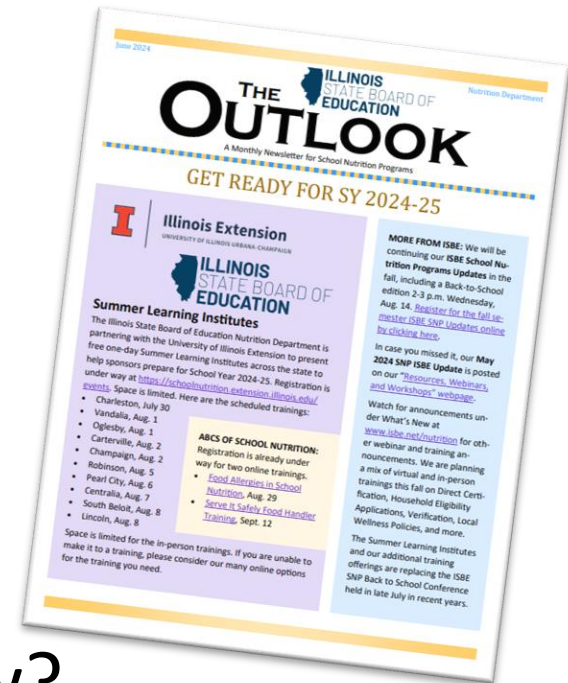
cnp@isbe.net

Back-to-School Checklist

✓ Sign Up for The Outlook

Two ways to receive the monthly newsletter

- Keep your contact info up-to-date in WINS
- Sign up for the listserv at www.isbe.net/subscribe
- New issue under What's New? at www.isbe.net/nutrition.



Back-to-School Checklist

✓ Review the Handbook

The screenshot shows the 'School Nutrition Programs' page on the ISBE website. The page has a left sidebar with a 'NUTRITION' header and a list of program links. The main content area is titled 'NUTRITION SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS' and features eight green buttons for different programs: After-School Care Program, Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), School Breakfast Program, Seamless Summer Option, SNP: New Applicants, and Special Milk Program. Below these buttons are four resource links: 'A TO Z INDEX OF SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS', 'ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK' (highlighted in yellow), 'NSLP OUTLOOK NEWSLETTERS', 'THE ABCS OF SCHOOL NUTRITION', and 'SCHOOL NUTRITION AND WELLNESS CHAMPIONS'. A 'RESOURCES' section on the left lists additional links like 'Farm to School' and 'Food Allergy Resources'.

NUTRITION

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- After-School Care Program
- Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program
- National School Lunch Program
- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)
- School Breakfast Program
- Seamless Summer Option
- SNP: New Applicants
- Special Milk Program

RESOURCES

- Farm to School
- Food Allergy Resources
- Household Eligibility Resources
- Illinois Pre-Approved Equipment
- Illinois School Nutrition Advisory Council

A TO Z INDEX OF SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK

NSLP OUTLOOK NEWSLETTERS

THE ABCS OF SCHOOL NUTRITION

SCHOOL NUTRITION AND WELLNESS CHAMPIONS

www.isbe.net/nutrition

Back-to-School Checklist

✓ Learn to use the A to Z Index of School Nutrition Programs


- Link is under “Resources” at www.isbe.net/nutrition
- Search alphabetically by topic






<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Nutrition-A-to-Z-Index.aspx>

Back-to-School Checklist

✓ **Bookmark the What's New?**
section at www.isbe.net/nutrition

What's New 

- School Nutrition Programs: Read the August Issue of The Outlook 
- July 25 Webinar on "Incorporating Plant-Based Options in Schools"
- School Nutrition Programs: July 30 Webinar to Cover Certification of HEAs 
- School Nutrition Programs: Sign Up for July 29 Webinar on Direct Certification 
- Reimbursement Rates for FY 2025
- "Food Allergies in School Nutrition" Webinar Aug. 29
- School Nutrition Programs: Sign Up for Food Handler Training on Sept. 12
- Household Eligibility Resources: SY 24-25 Documents Available

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

ISBE School Nutrition Programs Updates

- 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4
- 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2
- 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4
- Register online:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/5845845379050237016>



What's New?



<https://theicn.org/>



- New employee resources
- Best practices
- Important trainings

<https://theicn.org/info/backtoschool/>

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

Turnip the Beet Award



- USDA award recognizes outstanding summer meals program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months.
- **SFSP** and **SSO** sponsors eligible
- **Deadline to apply:** Sept. 13
- **Questions:** summermeals@isbe.net

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/turnipthebeet.pdf>

What's New?



Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

- Streamlined application now available at <https://healthymealsincentives.org/recognition-awards/>
- **Eligibility:** SFA's must participate in NSLP and/or SBP. SFA's may apply for any of the awards at any point during the application period, but may only receive each award once.
- Read more at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/hmi/recognition-awards>

What's New?



Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards Congratulations!

- **Midwest Central Community Unit District 191** in Manito, Small or Rural School Food Authority Lunch Trailblazer Award
- **Herrin Community School District 4**, Innovation in Nutrition Education Award
- **Thornton Fractional HSD 215** in Lansing, Breakfast Trailblazer Award

What's New?

Monday, Aug. 19 Webinar, 2-3 p.m.

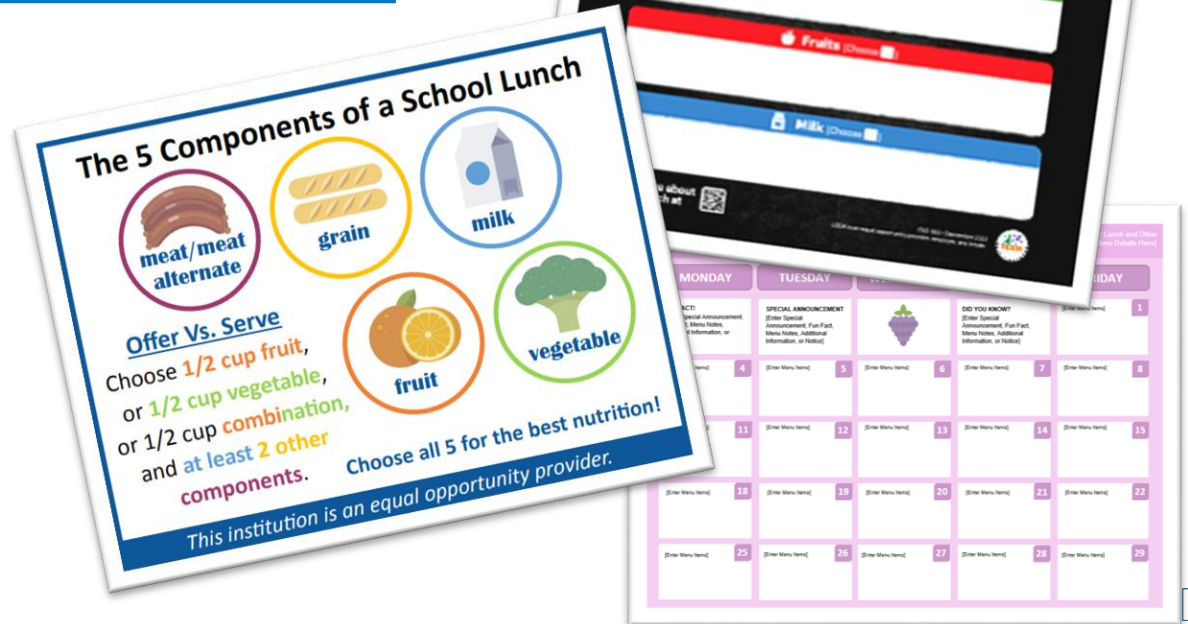


- Learn How to Apply!
 - Healthy Meals Initiative Awards
 - Turnip the Beet Award
- Celebrate your nutrition programs!
- Register today:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8732951809084400222>

What's New?

- Team Nutrition
- Menu Board & Signage Resources

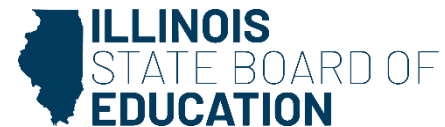


What's New? <https://schoolnutrition.extension.illinois.edu/>



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

- **Food Allergies in School Nutrition**
 - 2:30-4:30 p.m. Aug. 29
- **Serve It Safely Food Handler Train**
 - 2-4:30 p.m. Sept. 12
- **Resources**
 - Recorded [Online Training](#)
 - [Marketing and Cafeteria Signage](#)
 - [Recipes and Sample Menus](#)
 - [Best Practices and more!](#)



What's New?



Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

fsis.usda.gov/recalls



Recalls & Public Health Alerts

Advanced Search

ENTER KEYWORDS BELOW

Start typing here...

Search

Filter Results

PHA-09102022-01

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

PRODUCT CONTAMINATION

ACTIVE

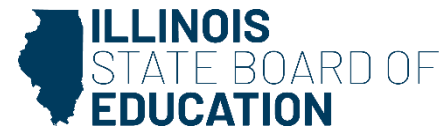
SAT, 09/10/2022 - CURRENT

NATIONWIDE

FSIS Issues Public Health Alert For Specific Ground Beef In HelloFresh Meal Kits Due to Possible E. Coli O157:H7 Contamination

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing a public health alert due to concerns that ground beef products in HelloFresh meal kits may be associated with Escherichia coli (E. coli) O157:H7 illness. A recall...

- www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls



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

Direct Certification and HEAs

- [Direct Certification recorded webinar](#)
- [Certification of Household Eligibility Applications recorded webinar](#)
- [Household Eligibility Resources: SY 24-25 Documents Available](#)



What's New?

Verification Process for SY 24-25

- Webinar: 1-2:30 p.m. Sept. 17
- [Register online](#)
- School food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program that process HEAs are required to verify income for a small percentage of households approved for free or reduced-price meals each school year.



Local Food for Schools (LFS)



- LFS is funding for schools in the National School Lunch Program to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods to serve as a part of your reimbursable meals.
- Local means grown, raise, produced and processed in Illinois or if outside of Illinois, then within 400 miles of your school.
- Additionally, the funds need to be used on a new local product or an expansion of a local food item that you have already been purchasing. Because of this milk is not an allowable item for LFS funds but there are a lot of other local foods that are eligible to purchase with LFS funds.

Illinois State Board of Education

Local Food for Schools(LFS) Funding

Funding for
Illinois Schools

**\$7.3
million**

For schools to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods from Illinois farmers, ranchers & producers for school meals.

of Local Food
Producers
selling to LFS
schools

88

When schools purchase from local producers, those funds stay local and support the local community!

Local Food
Items Served
with LFS funds

45

Common local food items purchased include:

Apples
Beef
Lettuce
Rice
Chicken
Flour

of School
Districts in LFS

314

312 School Districts in Illinois have signed up for LFS Funds to purchase local foods from right here in Illinois!

of Students
Impacted @ LFS
schools

970,000

Healthy students who are not hungry during the day are better prepared to learn & are improving their knowledge about healthy food choices.

*Data is based on schools signed up for LFS & claims submitted as of 5/6/2024.

More Information on LFS

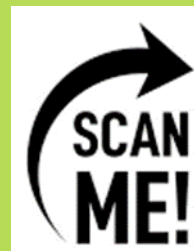
Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is excited to announce that Illinois will be participating in the USDA's Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS). This new program will provide 7.3 million dollars to ISBE, that will be distributed to eligible schools to purchase local unprocessed and minimally processed food. ISBE plans to issue non-competitive sub-awards of these funds to School Food Authorities (SFAs) that participate in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program for use by January of 2025.

The goal of LFS is to increase purchases of domestic, locally grown foods from local producers, small businesses, and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers for distribution to schools in order to build a more resilient local food chain by expanding and strengthening local and regional markets.

- Open Enrollment for Local Foods for Schools (LFS) funding has ended. If you did not sign up for LFS, but are interested please reach out to ISBE staff at localfoods@isbe.net to inquire if funds are still available. We will do our best to accommodate requests to participate!
- [USDA Press Release](#)
- ["Introduction to Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement" Webinar \(April 27, 2023\)](#) 🗣️
- ["Sourcing Local Foods Using Illinois Market Maker" Webinar \(May 11, 2023\)](#) 🗣️
- [SFAs that are signed up for LFS](#) 📄
- [SFAs that are not signed up for LFS, but may be eligible](#) 📄
- [Fast Facts and Timeline](#) 📄
- [LFS Questions & Answers](#) 📄 (8/10/23)
- [Resource for Sourcing Local Foods](#) 📄
- [LFS Claims for Reimbursement](#)
 - [LFS Claims for Reimbursement Instructions](#) 📄
 - [Click here to submit your claim](#)
- [LFS Funding and Data Tracking Tool](#) 📊
- [Procurement Flowchart: Determining if Your LFS Purchases are Eligible to Utilize the Micro Purchase Method](#) 📄

Please visit our website for more resources and information!



The Apple Crunch

October 10, 2024

The Illinois Great Apple Crunch is an annual celebration of fresh, local apples on the second Thursday of October, which would be October 10th this year. You can purchase local apples for your celebration in a number of ways, and your celebration can be held in the cafeteria, outside in a garden or lawn space, or in the classroom.



Congratulations to the FY 2024 USDA Farm to School Grantees!

- The USDA awarded \$14.3 million to support 154 grants, serving an estimated 1.9 million students.
- Illinois Awardees include:
 - Just Roots
 - Collaborating with Strassburg Elementary School
 - Urbana School District #116
 - Collaborating with Sola Gratia Farm & the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
 - Youth & Opportunity United, Inc. - Evanston, IL

Plant-Based School Lunch Option

Effective Date: August 1, 2023



Plant-Based School Lunch Option

105 ILCS 125/5.5

Sec. 5.5. Plant-based school lunch option. As a part of the school lunch program, a school district shall provide a plant-based school lunch option that complies with federal nutritional mandates to those students who submit a prior request to the school district requesting a plant-based school lunch option.

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Plant-Based School Lunch Option—What Next?

1 Set a local policy

- How far in advance do meals need to be requested?
- What documentation needs completed?

2 Reach out to the student making the request

- What type of diet do they follow or what restrictions do they have?
- How often will they be eating school lunch?

3 Research menu items

- What products does your distributor have available?
- What recipes fit your food service operation?

4 Set the menu

- Will you use a cycle menu?
- Will you menu a plant-based option regularly?

Plant-Based School Lunch Option— Considerations

Plant-based meat alternate examples: nuts, seeds, nut or seed butters, beans, lentils, tofu, tempeh, plant-based protein products or meat analogs

Processed meat alternates need crediting documentation, such as a Child Nutrition (CN) Label or Product Formulation Statement (PFS)

Meals must meet the NSLP meal pattern

Plant-Based School Lunch Option Resources

Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs
Webpage (ISBE Nutrition Department):

- Regulatory Guidance
- Sample Plant-Based School Lunch Request Form
- Recipe Resources



<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-Special-Dietary.aspx>

Food Distribution Program

- New staff will need access to the Illinois Commodity System (ICS)
- Depending on spending options, new staff may also need access to:
 - FFAVORS – DOD Fresh produce ordering and receipting
 - ProcessorLink – Diversion to processor management
 - K12 – Diversion to processor management
- Email fdp@isbe.net to gain access



Food Distribution Program

- Bonus Orange Juice (100277) available now!
- Place your request on the Bonus Tab of the 2025 Annual Order Form, in ICS.

Click on PAL to place an PAL order

2025 - SCHOOL (A) ▼ Fruits ▼ Go

PAL Bonus

Code	USDA Foods Name	PAL/ Bonus	Accepted	Requested	Balance	Case Value	Requested Value	Pack Size	Storage Type
100277	ORANGE JUICE CTN, FRZ UNSWT 4 OZ	Bonus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0	\$23.9115	\$0.0000	70/4 OZ CTN	Freezer



Food Distribution Program

- The school year 2024-25 final PAL Factor was released by USDA in July and is \$0.45.
- The Illinois Commodity System was updated to reflect the additional funding for all SFAs.
- Please review your 2025 Annual Order Form in ICS and determine how to spend the additional funds. Your options include DOD Fresh and/or USDA Foods.
- You may enter additional USDA Foods requests directly in ICS.
- DOD Fresh changes may be emailed to Paula Williams at pawillia@isbe.net.



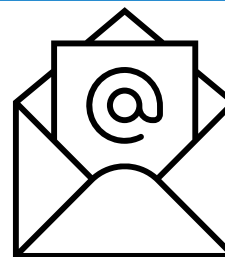
Food Distribution Program

- SFAs will be required to pay the delivery costs for USDA Foods.
- Be sure to update delivery site mailing addresses and contact information in ICS.

Description	Price
Delivery	\$7.04 per case
Custom Delivery	\$0.79 per case
Refusal/Backhaul	$\$7.04 + \$3.52 = \$10.56$ per case

Questions?

Email cnp@isbe.net



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

