

ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

THE OUTLOOK

A Monthly Newsletter for School Nutrition Programs

HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES RECOGNITION AWARDS

5 REASONS TO APPLY TODAY!



Action for Healthy Kids and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are recognizing and celebrating schools with the [Healthy Meals Incentives \(HMI\) Recognition Awards](#)!

[Put Illinois on the map](#) and share your school's amazing best practices across the nation by applying for an HMI Recognition Award. Here is why you should apply:

1. Complimentary registration and two travel stipends to attend an exclusive [national Healthy Meals Summit](#) in Las Vegas (Fall 2024 or Fall 2025).
2. Opportunity to celebrate your school nutrition team for the amazing meals they provide each day!
3. Networking with other HMI Recognition Awardees and school nutrition organizations across the country.

4. Awardee toolkit with promotional resources to help you share the news.

5. National and local recognition – get your school district on the map!

There are eight award categories to select from:

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, and Innovation in Nutrition Education.

Apply by Aug. 30 to be eligible to attend the Fall 2024 Healthy Meals Summit!

Visit <https://healthymealsincentives.org/> to get started.

NEWS BITES

PUBLIC COMMENT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service is seeking public comments for an interim final rule published Dec. 29: [“Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs.”](#) The deadline to submit a comment is Aug. 27.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The USDA recently published the final rule titled “Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.” A [recording of the “2024 Updates to the School Nutrition Standards — Overview” is available online to watch](#). Additional resources are [available on the USDA website](#), including an implementation timeline and frequently asked questions.



USDA IN BOSTON

For those attending the [School Nutrition Association National Conference in Boston](#), we encourage you to attend the USDA Listening Session on the USDA Foods Processing program from 2-3:30 p.m. (Eastern) Tuesday, July 16, in Room 150. The USDA will also be on the exhibit floor, on USDA Lane, USDA Foods booth 1505. And on Sunday, July 14, please plan to attend:

- 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Apples to Zucchini: Basics of USDA DoD Fresh in Room 104-ABC
- 1-2:30 p.m. – USDA Foods 201 in Room 157-ABC



SNP ANNUAL APPLICATION

Make Sure Your Annual Application is Complete in WINS

The deadline for the School Nutrition Programs application for School Year 2024-25 was June 30, 2024. Please do not delay completing the required application any longer. Failure to complete the application before the program operation start date can jeopardize a sponsor’s claims.

To get started sponsors should first view the [“Program Year 2025 SNP Application Instructions” on the ISBE website](#). We ask sponsors to follow the instructions carefully to minimize wait times for assistance.

The application is an annual requirement for all sponsors to participate in such programs as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School

Breakfast Program (SBP), After School Snack Program, Special Milk Program, and Illinois Free Lunch and Illinois Breakfast. Please note that if you are participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), this annual application is still necessary to finalize participation plans in the meal programs for the upcoming school year.



Your application is complete.

If you are unsure if your application is complete, log into the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) and look for the green checkmark on your School Nutrition Programs Program Year 2025 dashboard.

Menu Board & Signage Resources

Menu board templates for Program Year 2025 are now available online. Visit the Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department’s [Menu Board & Signage Resources webpage](#) for the new monthly calendar page you can customize for your school.

Daily, weekly menu templates are

The 5 Components of a School Lunch				
AUGUST 2024 (Enter school name)				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

also available, as well as an a la carte sign. There are also signs for [Offer Vs. Serve Breakfast](#) and [Offer Vs. Serve Lunch](#).

Be sure to check out the [U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Team Nutrition website](#) for additional signage resources that schools can order or download and print.

Register for Trainings

The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department is partnering with the University of Illinois Extension to present free one-day Summer Learning Institutes across the state to help sponsors prepare for School Year 2024-25. Registration is under way at <https://schoolnutrition.extension.illinois.edu/events>. Space is limited. Here are the scheduled trainings:

- Mattoon, July 30
- Caseyville, July 31
- Vandalia, Aug. 1
- Oglesby, Aug. 1
- Carterville, Aug. 2
- Champaign, Aug. 2
- Robinson, Aug. 5
- Pearl City, Aug. 6
- Centralia, Aug. 7
- South Beloit, Aug. 8
- Lincoln, Aug. 8

WEBINARS: Registration is under way for two online trainings.

- [Food Allergies in School Nutrition](#), Aug. 29
- [Serve It Safely Food Handler Training](#), Sept. 12

Space is limited for the in-person trainings. If you are unable to make it to a training, please consider our many online options for the training you need.

MORE FROM ISBE: We will be continuing our **ISBE School Nutrition Programs Updates** in the fall, including a Back-to-School edition 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14. [Register for](#)

Watch Online Trainings

Check out the **ABCs of School Nutrition** website at <https://schoolnutrition.extension.illinois.edu/> for a variety of free trainings and resources for school nutrition professionals. You can earn USDA Professional Standards credit and learn best practices for food service, meal planning, and more. Online training recordings include courses on building flavor stations, customer service, farm to school, reducing food waste, Smart Snacks, share tables, and more. The ISBE Nutrition Department partners with the University of Illinois Extension to present the ABCs of School Nutrition initiative.

[the fall semester ISBE SNP Updates online by clicking here.](#)

Watch for announcements under What's New at www.isbe.net/nutrition for other webinar and training announcements. We are planning a mix of virtual and in-person trainings this fall on Direct Certification, Household Eligibility Applications, Verification, Local Wellness Policies, and more.

The Summer Learning Institutes and our additional training offerings are replacing the ISBE SNP Back to School Conference held in late July in recent years.

Award Recognizes Top Summer Meals Sponsors

The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department encourages Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2024 Turnip the Beet Award. The award recognizes summer meals program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and



nutritious during the summer months.

To be considered for the award, SFSP and SSO sponsors should complete the [Turnip the Beet 2024 Nomination](#)

[Packet](#). Please submit the completed nomination form to summer-meals@isbe.net. The deadline is Sept. 13.

The award is an excellent opportunity to promote your program and recognize those who contribute to its success. More information can be found on the USDA's [Turnip the Beet webpage](#).



**Illinois State
Board of Education
Nutrition Department**

100 N. First St.
Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (800) 545-7892
Fax: (217) 524-6124
Email: cnp@isbe.net
Web: www.isbe.net

Announcements, Events, & Deadlines

- July 4 – ISBE offices closed for Independence Day
- July 30 – [Summer Learning Institute in Mattoon](#)
- Aug. 1 – [Summer Learning Institute in Vandalia](#)
- Aug. 1 – [Summer Learning Institute in Oglesby](#)
- Aug. 2 – [Summer Learning Institute in Carterville](#)
- Aug. 5 – [Summer Learning Institute in Robinson](#)
- Aug. 6 – [Summer Learning Institute in Pearl City](#)
- Aug. 7 – [Summer Learning Institute in Centralia](#)
- Aug. 8 – [Summer Learning Institute in South Beloit](#)
- Aug. 8 – [Summer Learning Institute in Lincoln](#)
- Aug. 14 – [ISBE SNP Update Back to School Edition](#)
- Aug. 27 – [Comment deadline for “Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs” rule](#)
- Aug. 29 – [“Food Allergies in School Nutrition” webinar](#)

Please note this is not a complete list of Nutrition Department events, meetings, and deadlines. Visit us online at www.isbe.net/nutrition.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:** program.intake@usda.gov

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