



ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THE OUTLOOK

A Monthly Newsletter for School Nutrition Programs

GET READY FOR SY 2024-25



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

Summer Learning Institutes

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:

- Charleston, July 30
- 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

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.

ABCS OF SCHOOL NUTRITION:

Registration is already under way for two online trainings.

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

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

In case you missed it, our **May 2024 SNP ISBE Update** is posted on our "[Resources, Webinars, and Workshops](#)" webpage.

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.

NEWS BITES

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released updates to the School Nutrition Standards. The ISBE Nutrition Department will be reviewing and developing trainings. The USDA presented a webinar on the final rule on May 9. If you missed the live webinar, a recording is posted on the USDA's ["Updates to the School Nutrition Standards" webpage](#), where you can also re-view FAQs, implementation timelines, infographics, and more.

APPLY TODAY!

Apply for a Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Award! [Get started online today](#). As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative, Action for Healthy Kids is recognizing and celebrating School Food Authorities (SFA) who have made operational changes to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals, as well as SFAs who engage students and families in nutrition education and in the planning and preparation of nutritious school meals.



SUMMER EBT REMINDER

ISBE Nutrition Department staff sent emails to National School Lunch Program sponsors with links and resources for Summer EBT. They include outreach resources and checklists for schools to help with the new program process. [Review the message online](#) or visit www.isbe.net/sebt.

CEP Application Deadline June 30

The application period for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) ends June 30, 2024.

If you are looking for basics on the program, we encourage you to watch the [U.S. Department of Agriculture's CEP 101 webinar](#).

In case you missed it, a recording of our March 28 webinar is also available online. This webinar is specific to Illinois and operating CEP for School Year 2024-25. It is an overview of the CEP requirements as well as our online CEP Evaluation and Application Module.

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture has lowered the minimum identified student percentage eligibility percentage to 25%](#), down from 40%. This means more schools will qualify to operate CEP but districts will still need to carefully consider the economic feasibility of the program since reimbursements for a district

operating CEP vary based on the identified student percentage. Just because you qualify now does not mean it may be the best choice for your district.

CEP is an alternative to collecting, approving, and verifying Household Eligibility Applications for free and reduced price eligible students in high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) for schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Students at CEP schools are offered reimbursable breakfast and lunch for no charge. Districts are reimbursed based on their identified student percentage.

For more information, visit our CEP webpage at www.isbe.net/cep, where you can find evaluation worksheets, outreach data, and other resources such as the [CEP Evaluation & Application Module Quick Reference Guide](#).

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

DOD Fresh Free for All Open

FFAVORS are open for all DOD participants to place orders against the state balance.

FFAVORS will remain open for orders until all School Year 2023-24 funds are expended or until June 30, 2024, whichever comes first.

If you operate SFSP or SSO at your school, you may continue to order DOD, for service in these programs.

The Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh program is one spending option for Food Distribution Program funds. School districts that chose to allot school year 2023-24 FDP funds to DOD Fresh have had the opportunity to spend those funds since July 1, 2023.

If you have questions, please contact Paula Williams at (217) 782-2491 or pawillia@isbe.net.

June 30 Deadline Reminder

The School Nutrition Programs (SNP) application for School Year 2024-25 is available in the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS). **Sponsors should complete the application by June 30, 2024.**

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.

Instructions and other resources for the annual application are posted at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Nutrition-Applications-and-Reports.aspx>. There is a recording and a PDF of the instructions available.

All sponsors should first view the recorded training, as there are some new steps in the application and some of the information has changed for Program Year 2025. We ask sponsors to follow the instructions carefully to

SNP Annual Application Instructions and Resources


- [Program Year 2025 SNP Application Instructions](#)
 - [Recorded Training](#)
 - [SNP Annual Application Quick Reference Guide](#)

There is also an introductory training on WINS available for review:

- WINS: What is It and Where Do I Find It? Who Should Have a Login?
 - [Recorded training](#)
 - [Presentation slides](#)

SUMMER MEALS: For those who need to operate the Seamless Summer Option this upcoming summer, we ask that you review these two trainings:

- [Seamless Summer Option Basics](#)
 - [Presentation slides](#)
- [SSO Application Instructions](#)



minimize wait times for assistance.

UPDATING CONTACTS: As part of the annual application, you will be asked to update contact information in WINS. It is not a best practice to make one district personnel the contact for all areas of the School Nutrition Programs. Most contacts can be edited by the district in WINS without assistance or approvals. Look for the pencil icon to edit. Please note that the Food Ser-

vice Director should be a district employee responsible for the day-to-day operations of the meal program. It cannot be a food service management company employee.

We also want to remind you that a change to the Authorized Representative/District Superintendent must be made in the [Entity Profile System \(EPS\)](#) so all agency systems can reflect the change.

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 summermeals@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 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

87

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

Local Food Items
Served with LFS
funds

43

Common local
food items
purchased include:

Apples
Beef
Lettuce
Rice
Chicken
Flour

of School
Districts in LFS

312

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

910,000

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.

Use LFS Funds for SSO

If your School Food Authorities is signed up for [Local Food for Schools](#) (LFS) and will be participating in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), did you know that you can use your LFS funds to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods for your SSO meals? Summer-time is the perfect time to source fresh local ingredients for your summer meals!

It is important to note only SSO is eligible to use LFS funds; the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is NOT eligible to use LFS funds.

If you have any questions, please reach out to ISBE at localfoods@isbe.net.

All SFAs that participate in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program were eligible to receive LFS funding to purchase local unprocessed or minimally processed foods to serve as part of the NSLP and/or SBP reimbursable meals. The open enrollment period for Local Foods for Schools Funding ended Feb. 29, but funds may still be available. For more information, email localfoods@isbe.net.

Did You Miss the Recent LFS Webinar?

No problem! The webinar was recorded; [click here](#) to view the recording.



**Illinois State
Board of Education
Nutrition Department**

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Announcements, Events, & Deadlines

- **June 19** – ISBE offices closed for Juneteenth
- **June 21** – National Smoothie Day ([Try a new recipe!](#))
- **June 30** – [CEP application deadline](#)
- **June 30** – [SNP Annual Application deadline](#)
- **June 30** – [DOD Fresh Free for All closes](#)
- **July 4** – ISBE offices closed for Independence Day
- **July 30** – [Summer Learning Institute in Charleston](#)
- **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](#)



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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