



THE OUTLOOK

A Monthly Newsletter for School Nutrition Programs



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Apply for the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department is accepting applications for eligible schools to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in School Year 2023-24.

The [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#) is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to children at eligible elementary schools during the school day. The goal of the FFVP is to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables, to include new and different varieties, and to increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children. The FFVP also encourages healthier school environments by promoting nutrition education.

Program Eligibility: Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have 50% or greater free and reduced-price eligibility percentage and serve students enrolled in grades 8 or below are eligible to apply.

Schools with the highest free and reduced-price eligibility percentage have the greatest chance of being selected for the program.

Application Submission and Deadline: Sponsors with eligi-

ble schools that wish to participate should access the FFVP Application link in the sponsor tasks tab in their Program Year 2023 School Nutrition Programs Application in WINS and refer to the [application instructions](#). **FFVP applications must be completed no later than April 14, 2023**, for consideration.

Sponsors will be notified via email, within approximately 90 days from the application deadline, on whether their schools are selected for the program. If selected, schools must be prepared to begin the program at the start of School Year 2023-24.

School Selection: Selection of schools for participation in FFVP is determined by priority given to elementary schools with the highest free and reduced-price eligibility percentage.

Schools that have the same free and reduced-price eligibility percentage are ranked from lowest to highest enrollment to allow the maximum number of schools to be allocated funding. Funding for this program is limited. The number of schools selected will depend on the amount of funding provided for the program year.

Additional information can be found on ISBE's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program [webpage](#). Questions about the program or the application can be directed to Emily Durbin at edurbin@isbe.net or (217) 782-2491.



NEWS BITES

TURNIP THE BEET AWARD

Congratulations to **Springfield School District 186**, one of the 98 recipients of a [Turnip the Beet award](#) for 2022! This national award recognizes sponsors within the Summer Food Service Program and the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option that go above and beyond program requirements to serve high-quality meals to children during the summer months.

USDA



On Feb. 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service announced **proposed updates to school nutrition standards** to promote healthier meals for kids and support the school nutrition community.

Find more information about this proposed rule and how to submit public comments at fns.usda.gov/cn/strengthening-school-meals-healthier-kids.

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

March is **National Nutrition Month!** Help kids develop healthy eating and physical activity habits with these fun and engaging nutrition education materials for teachers:

- [Discover MyPlate \(Kindergarten\)](#)
- [Serving Up MyPlate \(Grades 1-6\)](#)
- [Fueling My Healthy Life \(Grades 6-8\)](#)

Celebrate National School Breakfast Week

To help celebrate National School Breakfast Week (March 6-10, 2023), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition is sharing resources schools can use to help give kids a healthy start with school breakfast:

Resources for Teachers and the School Community

- Breakfast Around the World [game](#) and [informational text](#) (part of Fueling My Healthy Life classroom materials for middle school)
- [Kids Are Stronger With School Breakfast](#) video
- [School Breakfast Photo Props](#) (free print copies now available for program operators)
- [School Breakfast Quiz](#) (now available in [Spanish](#))

- [Shareable Graphics \(Spanish\)](#)

Meal Planning Resources for School Nutrition Professionals

- [Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#)
- [Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast](#) (available in English and Spanish)
- [Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals](#) (available in English and Spanish)
- For more resources, visit Team Nutrition's [School Breakfast Materials](#) webpage. This webpage is also available in Spanish at fns.usda.gov/es/tn/sbp-materials.

Stay Connected

[Sign up to receive Team Nutrition updates online.](#)

Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool Gets a Few Updates

New capabilities for director and manager users are now available on the [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#).

The "View Employee List" and "Search Employees" pages under the "Employees" menu are now one page. The "View Employees" page, which has a search function, now has the option to hide inactive employees from view. Users have the capability to filter the list of employees by school year and assigned school. The

option to hide inactive employees is also available on the "Log Training" page.

For additional information about the PSTTT, check out the recorded webinars linked at the bottom of the Professional Standards Resources page: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>.

Track your Professional Standards required training hours today using USDA's free [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!](#)

Local Health Department Reviews

Each school year SFAs must obtain two food sanitation inspections for each site where food is prepared or served. For most counties, the local health department will conduct such inspections. If the SFA is in a county that does not have a local health department, then the SFA must contact neighboring county health departments to conduct food sanitation inspections.

Copies of these inspections must be maintained at the SFA or at the site for three years plus the current year. The most recent



food sanitation report must be posted in a prominent location that is viewable by the general public.

If an SFA has not received the food sanitation inspections by March 31, a letter must be written to the local health department requesting the required two food sanitation inspections for each site where food is prepared or served. The letter

must be maintained at the SFA or at each site as documentation of your attempt to comply with two food inspections as required by USDA regulations.

New Contract Renewal Forms Distributed

This reminder is for sponsors who currently have a food service management company (FSMC) contract or vended meals contract that contains the option to renew the existing contract at least one more year. If you are conducting a new procurement instead of renewing your contract or you do not have such type of contract you may disregard this notice.

The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department recently emailed the required Contract Renewal Agreement Form and instructions directly to the Authorized Representative listed in the Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS). If you have not received the form, please contact Christina Smith at nutritionprocurement@isbe.net to obtain a copy. Please do not use old renewal forms.

All contracts must be renewed prior to their expiration, generally June 30 or July 31, 2023. Please submit your Contract Renewal Agreement Form along with all required documentation to nutritionprocurement@isbe.net prior to the current contract expiration.

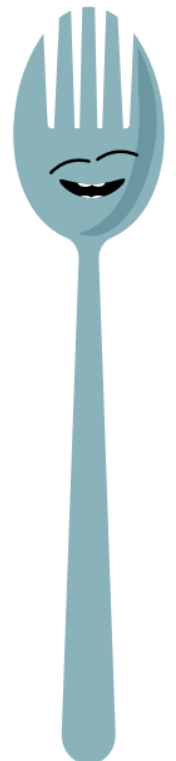
Order School Breakfast Photo Props

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition initiative recently announced that printed copies of the School Breakfast Photo Props are now available.

Schools can use these colorful props to add fun and excitement to school breakfast events during National School Breakfast Week, as well as other activities or celebrations throughout the school year. Each kit includes 40 fun images of breakfast foods, comment bubbles, and signs printed on perforated cardstock.

Schools participating in USDA's Child Nutrition Programs can request free print copies while supplies last, at <https://pueblo.gpo.gov/TN/TNPubs.php?PubID=15628>.

Questions about this announcement may be sent to teamnutrition@usda.gov.





**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

Events, Meetings, and Deadlines

- March – [National Nutrition Month](#)
- March 6-10 – [National School Breakfast Week](#)
- March 12-18 – [National CACFP Week](#)
- March 31 – [Annual Sanitation Reviews](#) deadline
- April 10 – [USDA Revision to Meal Patterns Proposed Rule comment deadline](#)
- April 14 – [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#) application deadline

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

What's New?

- [Discover MyPlate: Nutrition Education for Kindergarten](#)
- [Action Steps for Second Round of Supply Chain Assistance Funds](#)
- [USDA Team Nutrition: School Breakfast Photo Props Available](#)
- [Institute of Child Nutrition Virtual Instructor-Led Trainings](#)

Watch for our latest news and posts under What's New? 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

