

THE OUTLOOK

Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

February 2014

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Grant Funds Available to Support School Breakfast Programs!

ISBE released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for School Breakfast Program (SBP) Expansion Grants. ISBE will award up to \$187,000 (\$10,000 per district with at least one qualifying school) for the purpose of increasing school breakfast participation. A “qualifying school(s)” is a school participating in NSLP that served 40 percent or more of its lunches to students eligible for free or reduced price in school year 2011-2012. Priority will be given to those SFAs with qualifying schools in which in October 2012, had at least 75 percent of the students eligible for free or reduced price school lunches under the NSLP, at least 60 percent of students participating in the lunch program, and less than 20 percent of students participating in the breakfast program. Deadline to apply is February 14, 2014. The SBP Expansion Grant RFP is posted at http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm.

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Equipment Grant Funds Available to Support School Meals!

Illinois, one of six states selected by the USDA, will receive \$876,609 to issue another round of National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants. Priority will be given to high need schools where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals as well as to schools that did not receive a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance grant award. Staff are currently working on the Request for Proposals which will be issued early spring and posted at http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/default.htm.

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Paid Lunch Equity: School Year (SY) 2014-2015 Calculations

Under the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement, School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program are to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. There are three ways to meet this requirement:

- 1) increase prices charged for “paid” lunches,
- 2) contribute non-federal funds to the non-profit food service account, or
- 3) combination of increasing paid lunch prices and contributing non-federal funds.

SFAs must annually review their paid lunch revenue to assure compliance with the paid lunch equity requirement. When the average paid lunch price is less than the difference between the free and paid Federal reimbursement rates, the SFA must determine how they will meet the requirement—by increasing their average paid lunch price or providing funds from non-Federal sources. Therefore, **for SY 2014-2015, SFAs which on average charged less than \$2.65 for paid lunches in SY 2013-2014 are required to complete the PLE Calculator to determine their new paid lunch price and/or amount to contribute.**

To assist in meeting this requirement, please join ISBE staff for a webinar on February 18th at 2 pm. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/488502080>. This webinar will also be recorded and posted for later viewing. For further information on PLE requirement, please visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm.

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School Breakfast Summits

Join the Illinois Hunger Coalition and Illinois No Kid Hungry for the School Breakfast Summits on the following dates:

- February 12, 2014 – Tinley Park - 10:30am-2:00pm
Hilton Garden Inn- 18335 S. LaGrange Road, Tinley Park, IL 60487
Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3V8CHYG>
- February 21, 2014 - Arlington Heights - 10:30am-2:00pm
Arlington Lakes Golf Club- 1211 S. New Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3V8CHYG>
- February 27, 2014 - Springfield – 9:30am-2:00pm
Erin’s Pavilion, 4965 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62703
Register at www.bit.ly/cilsummit227
- March TBD – Champaign

Find out how a healthy breakfast can dramatically improve a child’s overall well-being, health, and academic future. Learn ways to implement and fund programs through grants, ensuring all kids eat a healthy morning meal.

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School Nutrition Industry Conference – 2014

The Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education will host the School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC) at two locations this year! SNIC will be held on February 18, 2014 (Tuesday) in Lisle and on February 19, 2014 (Wednesday) in Springfield. The focus of this year’s SNIC will be on the USDA’s Smart Snacks in Schools Rule that will be effective July 1, 2014. You will not want to miss this opportunity to see the products available that meet the new requirements. Visit www.ilsna.net or contact Cindy Coffman, ILSNA’s Executive Director at (217) 529-6578 (info@ilsna.net) for complete information. Register today!

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FY2014 National School Lunch Program Free and Reduce-price Meal Eligibility Data

FY2014 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Free and Reduced-price Meal Eligibility data is now posted at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/eligibility_listings.htm. This data is pulled directly from October 2013 claims submitted by NSLP sponsors. For Community Eligible Provision (CEP) schools, the data posted is the **individual** site CEP percentage.

If you feel there is an error with a non-CEP, the school and/or district must resubmit the free and reduced eligibility counts under “Eligibles” section and/or the enrollment count under “Statistics” section of the October 2014 claim in WINS (refer to screenshot below). If you amend your claim, please send an email to cnp@isbe.net notifying ISBE of the change so that it can be revised on the website.

If you feel there is an error with a CEP school, please send email to cnp@isbe.net.

Meals			
Illinois Free Lunch - Lunch		National School Lunch - Lunch	
Illinois Free Lunch		Less than 60% Eligible	
Free	512	Free	512
		Reduced	47
		Paid	3650

Statistics	
National School Lunch	
Days Claimed	20
Enrollment	385
ADA	374

Eligibles	
National School Lunch	
Free	41
Reduced	7
Paid	337

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SY15 Annual Order Period for USDA Foods is Approaching

The Illinois Commodity System (ICS) will be accepting orders beginning **February 15, 2014** for next school year. The order will need to be completed by **March 15, 2014**. Schools that choose to divert USDA Foods to processors should watch the ICS message board on **March 22, 2014** for important news regarding processors that are getting trucks. Orders placed with processors that do not get a truck can be changed to those processors that are getting trucks from **March 22 through March 30, 2014**. If you placed an order with a processor that didn't get a truck, that order will be deleted and your entitlement will be adjusted accordingly.

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Training Opportunities for School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

Every third Tuesday from 2:00pm – 3:30pm, ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a webinar detailing a variety of NSLP regulations. In case this date and time is not convenient for you or your staff, each webinar will be recorded and archived for future viewing <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm> (National School Lunch Program).

Prior topics archived online include Benefit Issuance and Meal Counting and Claiming, Electronic Direct Certification, Certification of Eligibility, Verification, NSLP/SBP Menu Planning, USDA Foods, and Implementing the School Breakfast Program. Below is the list of future training topics, along with registration information.

Training Tuesday Webinars (February - May 2014)		
Date	Topic	Registration Link
2/18/2014	Paid Lunch Equity	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/488502080
3/18/2014	Heart Healthy Month - Focus on Fat and Sodium Reduction in School Meals	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/636191192
4/15/2014	Special Diets/Accommodations/Allergies	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/164631233
5/20/2014	Local School Wellness Policies	https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/672001681

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Final Rule on Elimination of the Maximums for Grains and Meats and Allowance of Frozen Fruit with Added Sugar in the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

On January 2, 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture published a Final Rule in the Federal Register that makes permanent the flexibility that State agencies should consider any SFA compliant with the daily and weekly ranges for grain and meat/meat alternates if documentation is compliant with the daily and weekly minimums. In addition, this final rule allows frozen fruit with added sugar to be offered within the meal pattern. Under both flexibilities, the meal pattern still requires the menu to be in compliance with the nutrient standards including the minimum and maximum calories, saturated fat and trans fat for SY2013-2014. Beginning with SY2014-2015, the sodium standard is required. This Final Rule is effective March 4, 2014. Guidance materials will be updated in the near future to reflect this permanent change. To review the complete final rule, visit the [USDA's website](#).

Please direct any questions to the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

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New Food Handler Training Requirement in Illinois

In Illinois, anyone meeting the definition of a food employee/food handler will need to have food handler training. Food employee/handler means an individual working with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils, or food-contact surfaces. All food handlers working in a non-restaurant (nursing homes, licensed day care homes and facilities, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities and retail food stores) will need to have training by July 1, 2016. New employees have 30 days from date of employment to obtain training. Those food handlers working in schools, nursing homes, licensed day care home and facilities, hospitals and long-term care facilities will need to receive training every 3 years.

Anyone can teach food handler training courses. It is important to remember, it is not who is teaching the training, but that you receive the appropriate training based on whether you work in a restaurant or non-restaurant. Food handlers working in non-restaurants can take any food handler training course that has been registered and approved by the Illinois Department of

Public Health (IDPH). Non-restaurant food handler training is not transferable between employers.

All food handlers working in a restaurant will need to have training by July 1, 2014. *“Restaurant” means any business that is primarily engaged in the sale of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption. Where “primarily engaged” means having sales of ready-to-eat food for immediate consumption comprising of at least 51% of the total sales, excluding the sale of liquor, as defined in Section 3 of the Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act. For the purposes of this definition, restaurants would include concessions and other food service establishments where food is intended for immediate or on-site consumption.*

If you have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the IDPH, Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies at 217-785-2439.

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Changes to the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) Program

This year will bring many changes to the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) Program.

January 1, 2014: The FSSMC exam provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) was eliminated and IDPH Regional Offices no longer offer exams at their locations. Anyone wishing to take a course and/or exam should contact an Illinois approved instructor and can be found on the Department’s website <http://dph.illinois.gov/fssmccourses>.

July 1, 2014: Training hour requirement is reduced from 15 hours to 8 hours, inclusive of exam. The new 8 hour syllabus (7 hours of training and 1 hour for exam) has been proposed and is being reviewed by the Board of Health. The new syllabus will be provided to instructors via the web portal once it is approved.

Refresher courses also end on July 1, 2014 and anyone wishing to recertify will need to take an 8 hour course and exam. Anyone with a FSSMC expiring on or after November 1, 2014 will need to verify with their instructor that they are eligible to take a refresher. Instructors have a “Refresher Course Eligibility Chart” for reference.

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Discretionary Elimination of Reduced Price Charges in the School Meal Programs

The USDA wishes to remind schools that they may use funds from nonprofit school food service account to lower or eliminate reduced price student meal charges.

At the discretion of the School Food Authorities (SFA), participating schools and institutions that are not operating a special provision may offer meals at no cost to students who would otherwise qualify for reduced price benefits. The expenditures associated with covering the reduced price student payments may be funded from the nonprofit food service account. Schools electing to take advantage of this flexibility continue to receive Federal reimbursement based on meals claimed by students in the reduced price category. Only paid students will be charged for meals. SFAs are permitted to implement this option selectively between the Programs (National School Lunch and School Breakfast) and serving sites they operate.

Alternatively, SFAs might consider decreasing the reduced price charge rather than eliminating it entirely, or decreasing it incrementally to better ensure the integrity of the nonprofit school food service account. Lowering or eliminating the reduced price charge will lessen or remove any financial barriers to access that these students might experience. SFAs are advised to conduct a thorough analysis of their current and projected operating costs to ensure that they are able to maintain operations and meal quality without the revenue generated from charging students for reduced price meals.

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Celebrate International School Meals Day - March 6th 2014

The purpose of the International School Meals Day (ISMD) is to raise awareness of the importance of food and nutrition in education and to share school feeding experiences from across the globe. Students and schools around the world can celebrate International School Meals Day by promoting healthy eating and learning, using the theme Food Stories. Stories that involve food communicate the culture of peoples and their dreams for a healthier and better future. Food brings communities together.

It is up to each individual country, school, and classroom to take part and work together to make the Day fun. This year, schools and classrooms are being encouraged to connect with other schools and classrooms within their own country and around the world and share their Food Stories.

Get connected:

-Skype in the Classroom – <https://education.skype.com> and
<https://education.skype.com/partners/164-international-school-meals-day>

- British Councils Schools Online – <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org>

More information on International School Meals Day:

Resources, partners, and contact information – <http://www.internationalschoolmealsday.com>

Follow us on Twitter- @IntSchoolMeals

Follow us on Tumblr- international-school-meals-day.tumblr.com



Students from Harmony Hills Elementary School in Maryland bonded- via Skype - with students from Dairy Primary School in Scotland to celebrate International School Meals Day. "The children in my class loved being twinned with a school in America. They found it very exciting and are eager to become pen pals with them. They are looking forward to sharing their experiences of International School Meals Day with them as well as some of their favorite Scottish recipes" – Eastbank Primary School teacher from Scotland.

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Focus on Nutrition this March with Special Events

The following Special Events occur during March 2014:

National Nutrition Month is hosted each March by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Find resources reflecting this year's theme, Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right at <http://www.eatright.org/nnm/>.

National School Breakfast Week Take Time for Breakfast is right around the corner - March 3-7, 2014. Visit the School Nutrition Association's website for a press release, menu, proclamation, web banners, and presentations for foodservice staff, presentations for stakeholders and more at http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Level2_NSBW2014.aspx?id=18805.

International School Meals Day is noted in previous article

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New Resource, State School Health Policy Matrix

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) created a recent guide to state-level school health policies. This resource covers the following topics: competitive foods and beverages, physical education and physical activity, and administration of medication in the school environment. Links are provided for each policy. Go to <http://www.nasbe.org/project/center-for-safe-and-healthy-schools/state-school-health-policy-matrix/>.

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Staff news: Peggy Hargis Retires from ISBE



I began my career at the Illinois State Board of Education in October 1991 and it has been quite an adventure. I have met and worked with a lot of wonderful people. There have been many hills, valleys, and interesting curves along the way, but I wouldn't trade the experiences and memories for anything. As I close a chapter in my life book and begin a new one, I just want to say thanks for the journey and for your unwavering support. I will miss you. - Peggy Hargis

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Correction:

Please note the following correction: In last month's January 2014 Outlook, the New Cookbook with Standardized Recipes Available to Download article source was misprinted. The cookbook source is from Vermont's Farm to School Food Education Every Day (FEED), not Virginia. The cookbook titled, New School Cuisine: Nutritious and Seasonal Recipes for School Cooks by Schools Cooks is available to download at <http://www.vtfeed.org/tools>.

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Calendar of Events

February 2014

- 1 Deadline for completing On-Site Review (Completed by School District staff and kept on file at district office for review) Sample form available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/67-35_onsite_review.pdf
- 4 CACCFP Refresher Training—Fairview Heights, Four Points Sheraton <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscalendar/asp/eventlist.asp>
- 12 School Breakfast Summit - Tinley Park - 10:30am-2:00pm
Hilton Garden Inn- 18335 S. LaGrange Road, Tinley Park, IL 60487
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3V8CHYG>

ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Deadline to apply for SBP Expansion Grant RFP <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/sbp-expansion-rfp-fy14.pdf>
- 15 Deadline to submit request to Regional Office of Education to opt-out of School Breakfast Program mandate http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb_756.htm
- 17 ISBE offices closed for Washington's Birthday
- 18 NSLP Training Tuesday Webinar: Paid Lunch Equity (will be recorded for later viewing) <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/488502080>

ILSNA School Nutrition Industry Conference - Lisle/Naperville, Hilton www.ilsna.net
- 19 ILSNA, School Nutrition Industry Conference—Springfield, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel www.ilsna.net
- 21 School Breakfast Summit - Arlington Heights - 10:30am-2:00pm
Arlington Lakes Golf Club- 1211 S. New Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3V8CHYG>
- 27 School Breakfast Summit - Springfield – 9:30am-2:00pm
Erin's Pavilion, 4965 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62703
www.bit.ly/cilsummit227



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Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the [State Information/Hotline Numbers](#) (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm.

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