



Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

February 2015

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ISBE Staff News: Joan Love Retiring



Twenty-eight years ago, practically to the day, I left the hospital foodservice arena in Champaign, Illinois and traveled 90 miles west into the world of School Foodservice and Nutrition in the Child Nutrition Programs at the State Board of Education in Springfield.

It's been challenging, memorable, educational, enlightening, and so much more! I was fortunate to partner with numerous advocates, associations, organizations and councils--- (who were much more than business associates) you know who you are!!! I've met many professionals in this field who bring passion to their careers every day, inside and outside of ISBE. Those relationships kept me in this field, and to what I will miss the most.

Best Wishes!

Joan Love, Principal Consultant

Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division

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SY2015-2016 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Application Coming Soon Due March 20, 2015

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant application for School Year 2015-2016 will be posted online no later than February 6, 2015 under *What's New* at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> . Carefully review the application packet for all of the FFVP program requirements. All elementary schools (grades 8 and below) that participate in the National School Lunch Program and have 50% or more of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals are eligible to apply. If the application process does not yield enough applicants to allocate the total FFVP federal monies, another application will be released for elementary schools with less than 50% of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2015-2016) is March 20, 2015.

The purpose of FFVP is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). FFVP grant funds are used to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to children at no cost, during the school day outside of the reimbursable meal(s) periods. **This program is different from the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.** The DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allocate USDA Foods planned assistance level (pal) monies so that schools may acquire fresh fruits and vegetable to use during the service of reimbursable meals to students (breakfast and lunch).

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CONTEST: Share Your Smart Snack Implementation Stories

The National Education Association Health Information Network has launched a national contest to collect videos, photos and narratives about Smart Snacks implementation, with the goals of supporting healthy school food policies/efforts through success stories, sharing useful ideas with struggling schools, and retooling technical assistance to address submitted challenges.

Deadline is March 6, 2015 with prizes up to \$300 and national video about winning school! Visit <http://www.neahin.org/bagthejunk/national-schools-contest.html> for eligibility, guidelines, prizes, and entry form.

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Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) – Unused Funds

For the current school year (SY15), ISBE and the Department of Defense (DOD) allowed participation in the DOD Fresh program to all schools that requested to participate. (This is different from the NSLP Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grants.) Schools determined themselves how much of their entitlement they would spend on the DoD program.

Recent reports from DoD indicate Illinois is way behind schedule to utilize allocated funds and many schools that have money allocated to them have yet to place any orders for fresh fruits or vegetables.

Schools can see how much SY15 entitlement they allocated by selecting *DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* on the *Annual Order Forms* drop-down menu option on the Illinois Commodity System (ICS). Those schools that have not spent any of the money allocated to them are advised to contact the DoD, Mary Ann Sharpe at 215-737-8294 to begin placing orders or risk having the money used by other schools participating in the program. You may also call ISBE at 217-782-2491 if you have questions regarding the DoD Fresh program or visit the DoD information page here: http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/DoD_FreshFruitandVegProg.pdf

The DoD Fresh program is a “use-it-or-lose-it” program, unless the current trend ceases, as in previous years, we anticipate there will be unused funds available for use by schools participating in the program beginning sometime in April 2015. Watch the ICS message board for updates on the DoD Fresh program.

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Paid Lunch Pricing for School Year (SY) 2015-2016

As a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) sponsor, it’s time to start thinking about what your schools will charge for paid lunches in school year 2015-2016....

Under the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement, NSLP sponsors 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 2015-2016, SFAs which on average charged less than \$2.70 for paid lunches in SY 2014-2015 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, a brief training webinar will be posted by mid-February entitled *SY2015-2016 Paid Lunch Equity Recorded Webinar* along with the *SY2015-2016 PLE Calculator* at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm.

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School Nutrition Programs Food Handler Training

On August 27, 2013 the Food Handler Training Enforcement Act was signed into law. This law requires all food service area employees or food handlers that work with open/unpackaged foods, food service equipment or utensils, or any food contact surfaces to receive an approved food handler training.

This training requirement includes school food service staff. School food services are classified as being “non-restaurant” facilities. Food handlers working in non-restaurant facilities must complete an approved training program by July 1, 2016. Additional information regarding the Food Handler Training Enforcement Act is available at http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/fdd/FSSMC_FoodHandler_FAQ_V5_07072014.pdf.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division has been approved by the IDPH to provide the training to school food service staff. School food service staff that complete the training and are able to score a passing grade on the required assessment will receive a certificate that is valid for 3 years. All trainings provided by the ISBE Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will be free of charge to all school food service employees.

PLEASE NOTE: Any food service staff person that has a current Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) does not need to complete a food handler training. Food service staff that have completed an Illinois approved FSSMC course would have had to pay a \$35 fee to IDPH for the Illinois issued certificate. An FSSMC certificate is valid for 5 years from the date of the exam. ISBE is not offering FSSMC classes.

Additional FSSMC information is available at <http://www.ilqa.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077007500C05400R.html> and <http://www.ilqa.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/077007500C05510R.html>. Please contact a [local IDPH office](#) for questions regarding the FSSMC requirements and classes.

ISBE has the following dates and locations scheduled for the food handler training.

- Belleville, March 24, 2015
- Carterville, March 25, 2015 – Morning and Afternoon Sessions
- Effingham, March 26, 2015

Additional Spring, Summer, and Fall dates will be posted as they are confirmed.

Seating is limited; please register as soon as possible by visiting <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cns/calendar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

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Smart Snacks and USDA Foods Workshops –Feb 2015

Staff with the Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition and Wellness Program Division will host ½ day workshops on the USDA Smart Snack Regulations (first two hours of session time) and the USDA Foods Program (second two hours of session time). The USDA Foods session will be technical

assistance only, there will be no presentation. Bring your laptops and all your questions related to the annual order.

Please feel free to come to the entire ½ day workshop or the part applicable to your job. Registration is available online at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> under *Upcoming Workshops*. Registration space at each location is limited, so please register now.

Dates and Locations

- **February 3, 2015** – Palatine (Afternoon session)
- **February 4, 2015** - Kankakee (morning session)

Register today! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

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Interagency Nutrition Council (INC) 2015 National Nutrition Month® Robin A. Orr Community Partnership Award

The Illinois Interagency Nutrition Council (INC) promotes health and wellness through nutrition education, coordination of services and access to nutrition programs so that Illinois residents can achieve food security. With the rates of overweight and food insecurity being at an all-time high, the Interagency Nutrition Council (INC) would like to hear about those that are doing great work to promote healthy lifestyles in your area. Our goal is to celebrate organizations/programs that work collaboratively to promote healthy eating, promote regular physical activity, and mirror the mission of INC.

Through a photo contest, INC would like to honor a variety of programs/activities that work with youth Preschool to 6th Grade in public or non-public schools or afterschool settings, such as:

- Head Start/Child Care programs
- Positive in classroom activities
- School Wellness Initiatives
- Afterschool programs
- School Garden Activities
- School Meal Enhancements



To enter photo contest:

Send the following information to Mary Warren at maryellenihc@yahoo.com:

- one photograph per class/program that promotes healthy eating, physical activity and wellness,
- a written description of your program, including information related to program goals, activities or education, and impact of the program (limit to one page),
- name of program,
- contact person name, email address and phone number, and
- age of those served by your program

Deadline is March 20, 2015.

Only 1 submission per school district will be accepted.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

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Equipment Grant for SNA Members

Baxter Equipment for Education Grant

The Baxter Equipment for Education Grant will award equipment to one school in need of improving its school meal kitchen facilities through a competitive grant process.

What equipment does the winner receive?

Equipment received from this award will consist of one (1) OV310 Mini Rotating Rack Convection Oven (Electric or Gas), as well as:

- Stand base
- 2-year parts & labor warranty
- Delivery & installation by Hobart Service
- Training/demonstration with sales representative

Baxter Manufacturing will work closely with the grant winner to ensure the proper unit is supplied for the utilities available, arrange delivery of the equipment to the district and ensure staff are trained to use the equipment.

Who can apply?

To apply, you must:

- Be an active SNA member, who has been a member of SNA for at least one year, as of December 16, 2014 (since at least December 16, 2013)
- Be the person responsible for directing the school nutrition program of the school district

How can I apply?

The online application for this equipment grant will open on January 6, 2015. When available, please preview the form before creating an account and completing the form. Please note that only the first 50 applicants will be considered for this equipment grant. For more information, visit

<http://www.schoolnutrition.org/EquipmentGrants/>

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Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to provide nutritious meals during the summer months to children from areas where at least 50 percent are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the school year through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. **Does your area meet this criterion?** If so, consider becoming a sponsor to help bridge the gap for the children in your community. All sponsors will be required to submit the program application and monthly claims for reimbursement via the internet.



If the responsibilities of sponsorship of the SFSP are not possible, you can still participate in the program by operating a site, being a vendor, or volunteering your time. Visit our website at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm> to learn more about this vital program and how you can help.

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the locations listed below for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2015. All current sponsors must attend a state training prior to the beginning of their program. Visit our web site at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm> for workshop details, locations, times, and registration.

SFSP New Sponsor Training Schedule

- March 4, 2015 in Marion
- March 18 & 19, 2015 in Alsip
- April 2, 2015 in Fairview Heights
- April 14, 2015 in Chicago (Midway)
- April 16, 2015 in Peoria
- May 6, 2015 in Schaumburg
- May 13, 2015 in Springfield

The training sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of the SFSP including ISBE's internet-based program application and claim system. All **new** sponsors and sponsors who were new to the program last year are required to attend one of the trainings above.

SFSP Current Sponsor Training Schedule

- March 19, 2015 in Alsip
- May 14, 2015 in Springfield

A webinar is also being scheduled for those current sponsors that cannot attend the workshops above. As soon as a date is set, it will be posted on the SFSP website under *Workshop Information* - <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm>.

Note: **SCHOOLS** should cooperate with SFSP sponsors to inform families of the availability and location of free summer meals for students when school is not in session.

For additional information, contact Amy Bianco or Naomi Greene at 800/545-7892 or email abianco@isbe.net or ngreene@isbe.net.

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The 2015 Illinois School Nutrition Association School Nutrition Industry Conference

- Tuesday February 24, 2015 at 8:30 AM – Springfield, IL
- Wednesday February 25, 2015 at 3:00 PM – Lisle, IL

Register today to attend the 2015 ILSNA School Nutrition Industry Conference. This conference will be offered in two locations. Please select the appropriate location when registering at <http://www.ilsna.net/calendar.asp>.

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Calendar of Events

February 2015

- 3 SNP Smart Snacks and USDA Foods—Palatine
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> under *Upcoming Workshops*
- 4 SNP Smart Snacks and USDA Foods—Kankakee
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> under *Upcoming Workshops*
- 10 Begin submitting last month's child nutrition claims for reimbursement in WINS through IWAS. ALL child nutrition program claims (original and revised) must be received by ISBE no later than 60 days from the last day of the month you are claiming. Due dates for reimbursement claims are listed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/nutrition_claim_due_dates.pdf
- 11 ISBE Board Meeting via video-conference (Springfield and Chicago Offices)
<http://www.isbe.net/board/default.htm>
- 12 ISBE closed - Lincoln's Birthday
- 13-20 Make changes to next month's USDA Foods order
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 ISBE closed - President's Day
- 24 ILSNA 2015 SNIC Annual Conference—Springfield Crowne Plaza
Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eaaatexq0e883f451>
- 25 ILSNA 2015 SNIC Annual Conference—Hilton Lisle/Naperville
Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eaaatexq0e883f451>
- 28 Annual USDA Foods Order Due



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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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