

# THE OUTLOOK

*Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs*

**March 2013**

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## Administrative Alerts

### Talk-It-Up Tuesday Webinars!

As a reminder, we continue to offer *Talk It Up Tuesday* Webinars. Please mark your calendar with dates below and join ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff as we discuss hot topics, provide new information, and address frequently asked questions! These webinars will be offered the third Tuesday of each month through May from 2:00-3:00 pm. and are an open forum to hear from schools and to address any questions and/or concerns school may have regarding the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs.

- March 19, 2013
- April 16, 2013
- May 21, 2013

Register monthly at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> (under *Upcoming Webinars*).

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### IMPORTANT PROPOSED RULES: All Foods Sold in Schools

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the USDA published proposed nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The proposed standards, entitled "Smart Snacks in Schools" and required by the Healthy, Hunger- Free Kids Act of 2010, are available for review at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-08/pdf/2013-02584.pdf>. Public comment is being accepted through April 9, 2013 through:

Website at <http://www.regulations.gov>

or

Mail: Julie Brewer, Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch  
Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service,  
P.O. Box 66874  
Saint Louis, MO 63166

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### Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant Application – School Year 2013-2014

Staff with the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division of the Illinois State Board of Education presented a webinar for National School Lunch Program sponsors interested in applying for the FFVP grant for school year 2013-2014. This webinar was recorded and is available for viewing at your convenience [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv\\_program.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ffv_program.htm).

The webinar provides an overview of the FFVP and details about the grant application. The webinar is highly recommended for ALL schools that would like to apply for the FFVP grant. The [FFVP grant application](#) is available online. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2013-2014) is March 15, 2013.

If you have any questions regarding the FFVP, please contact Lindsay Blough ([lblough@isbe.net](mailto:lblough@isbe.net)), Roxanne Ramage ([rramage@isbe.net](mailto:rramage@isbe.net)) or Shawn Backs ([sbacks@isbe.net](mailto:sbacks@isbe.net)) or call (800) 545-7892.

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## What is the Community Eligibility Option (CEO)?

CEO 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. Illinois was one of the first states that were selected to participate in the CEO.

For a LEA to be eligible to use the CEO for next school year, the LEA must have one or more schools that have an **identified student** percentage of 40% or greater in the current school year as of April 1 (SY2012-2013). Just to be clear, Identified Students are different from your free and reduced eligibility numbers.



Identified students include the following:

- Directly certified students (including SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, & Foster Children)
- Extension of benefits through direct certified students
- Homeless, migrant, runaway and headstart students

\*the Identified Student numbers must be from April 1, 2013.

The LEA and school must also agree to offer all students in the school breakfasts and lunches at no cost and to cover any cost above the federal reimbursement received with non-Federal funds for four successive school years. Reimbursement for schools participating in CEO will be based on claiming percentages derived from the percentages of identified students.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will be hosting two webinars related to CEO and it is HIGHLY recommended that those interested in CEO attend:

- March 13, 2013 2:00pm - 3:00pm - This is a CEO Overview for NEW Applicants interested in applying for CEO for next SY (2013-2014). Topics will include:
  - General program overview
  - How to determine Identified Students numbers
  - Information on how to apply and due dates

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/548869576>

- March 21, 2013 2:00pm - 3:00pm - This is for schools that are CURRENTLY approved for and participating in CEO for SY2012-2013. Topics will include:
  - Updating of Identified Student numbers to improve claiming percentages
  - Any changes to school sites/groups participating in CEO for next year
  - Refresher of program information
  - Discussion/Q&A of mplementation of CEO

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/873258545>

For more information about CEO please visit our website at:

[http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp\\_hhfka\\_implementation.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm)

If you have any questions please contact our office via email at [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net) or via telephone at 800/545-7892 and we would be happy to assist with any questions.

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## USDA School Breakfast Nutrition Standards Implementation

Implementation of the new USDA School Breakfast Nutrition Standards begins next school year (SY2013-14). ISBE will host a webinar on March 28 from 1:30-3:00 pm to discuss implementation requirements and timelines. Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> (under *Upcoming Webinars*).

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## Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) Annual Conference



*Save the Date!*  
ILSNA Annual Conference  
June 26 – June 28, 2013  
Tinley Park Convention Center  
Tinley Park, IL

Plan to join school nutrition professionals from across Illinois at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual ILSNA Conference! This conference will feature professional development opportunities for every food service worker. Attendees may want to register for one of several pre-conference opportunities. Options include Healthy Edge Nutrition Course, a tour of a dairy farm, the 5 hour Sanitation Refresher Course, sitting for the School Nutrition Specialist (SNS) Credentialing exam or a Cooking Competition with teams representing Illinois schools.

After the pre-conferences end, the learning will continue! The conference will host a variety of educational sessions, industry exhibits, culinary demonstrations and much more focusing on the key areas of professional development. The key areas include Operations, Nutrition, Administration and Communications/Marketing!

Registration information forthcoming!

Exhibitor application is available on the ILSNA website, [www.ilsna.net](http://www.ilsna.net), meetings/events tab, annual conference.

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## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual School Wellness Conference Slate Announced!

The School Day *Keeps Getting* Healthier



Please join us for the 6th Annual Illinois School Wellness Conference on Friday, May 3, 2013. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) is once again sponsoring this exciting conference. The theme is "The School Day Keeps Getting Healthier". The conference is ideal for school administrators, school nurses, educators, food service staff, wellness committee members, parents, students and anyone else who wants to learn more about encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy food at school.

The conference's two keynote speakers are Action for Healthy Kids CEO Rob Bisceglie, M.A. and Connie Mueller, Former Bloomington School District Food Service Director, who will present the key findings of The Learning Connection report, describe the Every Kid Healthy Week and share an update on the Illinois Action for Healthy Kids. Other topics will include an update on the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, School Health Initiatives, New National Nutrition Education Standards, Free Health and Wellness Programs, Employee Staff Wellness, and more! CPDUs will be available.

**Register now! Win a chance to receive a Do-It-Yourself Health Fair (valued at \$499.00) and other great wellness resources.**

The conference is Friday, May 3, 2013 at the Springfield Hilton located at 700 East Adams Street, Springfield, Illinois.

Registration opens at 8:00 am. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:15 p.m. Space is limited, register today! Register on or before April 19, 2013 for \$45.00 per person rate. After April 19, 2013 the registration fee is \$55.00 per person. Registration includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials. Watch the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division website under What's new for registration information in early March.

We hope to see you on May 3, 2013. On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education and Action for Healthy Kids, thank you!

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## Summer Food Service Program

**Don't miss out!! The workshops for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are HERE!!** The Summer Food Service Program is designed to bridge the "nutrition gap" when school is not in session. Children up to age 18 can eat free nutritious breakfasts, lunches or snacks at summer feeding sites operated by approved sponsors. Sponsors receive federal reimbursement for serving meals that meet USDA nutrition guidelines. The SFSP is targeted to low-income areas where at least 50% of the children qualify for free or reduced price school meals. Many sponsors also offer educational, enrichment, or physical activities or partner with others to do so.

Training workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be held at the following locations for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2013.

### **New Sponsor Orientation**

March 5<sup>th</sup> —Marion at Williamson County Pavillion  
March 13<sup>th</sup> — Alsip at Doubletree Hotel  
March 20<sup>th</sup> — Fairview Heights at Four Points Sheraton  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> —Elgin at Holiday Inn  
April 10<sup>th</sup> — Galesburg at Prairie Inn  
April 17<sup>th</sup> — Springfield at Illinois Education Association  
May 1<sup>st</sup> —Willowbrook at Holiday Inn

## Current Sponsor Orientation

March 21<sup>st</sup> —Fairview Heights at Four Points Sheraton  
April 4<sup>th</sup> —Elgin at Holiday Inn

Sessions are designed to provide a complete overview of SFSP. All first year sponsors and sponsors who were a new sponsor in 2012 are required to attend the New Sponsor's training. Previous year sponsors can attend the Current Sponsor training, but may come to the New Sponsor training as a refresher. It is highly recommended you require attendance by new employees. Check our website below for times. Lunch will be provided at the New Sponsor Orientation.

Reservations are required for the half day and full day workshops and must be made in advance. To register or obtain additional information, please visit our website at: [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp\\_training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm) or contact Amy Bianco or Naomi Greene at 800/545-7892 or [abianco@isbe.net](mailto:abianco@isbe.net) or [ngreene@isbe.net](mailto:ngreene@isbe.net).

## The Melting Pot

### Grant Application to Expand Participation in School Breakfast!

Grants will support schools with the purchase of approved equipment, materials and initiatives facilitating alternative breakfast delivery models (such as in-classroom breakfast, grab-n-go, or second chance breakfast) in an effort to increase student participation in universal school breakfast. Applying schools must either be implementing or be prepared to implement an alternative breakfast delivery model. Grants will be awarded up to \$5,000 on a rolling basis. For more information or to apply, please visit the Illinois No Kid Hungry website at <http://il.nokidhungry.org/grants-school-breakfast>.

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### School Breakfast Challenge 2012-2013

All Illinois schools participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are eligible and are automatically entered to participate in the Illinois Breakfast Challenge. Winners will be announced in April of 2013. **Participation increase will be calculated by comparing the SBP participation rates from January - May of 2012 to August - December of 2012.** Awards will be given to schools with the largest percentage increases in average daily participation rates. There will be four tiers for the Challenge with each tier awarding three prizes: \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000. For more information, please visit [il.nokidhungry.org/](http://il.nokidhungry.org/).

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### Grant Opportunities to Fight Childhood Obesity

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is making \$1.6 million in healthy eating research grants available to improve health through nutrition and physical activity. These funds are available for large-scale changes (such as at state and federal levels) and smaller,





organization-level changes (such as in schools, recreational programs, child-care settings and hospitals).

The award types are: Round 8 grants and RWJF New Connections grants awarded through the Healthy Eating Research program. For more information regarding each type of grant please visit:

<http://www.eatright.org/members/eatrightweekly/article.aspx?folderid=6442452427&mycontentid=6442474638>

### **Key Dates and Deadlines**

Proposals for Round 8 grants:

- February 13, 2013, April 24, 2013 and July 10, 2013 (all by 3 p.m. ET) – Deadlines for receipt of concept papers.
- April 17, 2013, June 26, 2013 and September 11, 2013 (all by 3 p.m. ET) – Deadlines for receipt of invited full proposals, which correspond to the deadline under which the concept paper was submitted.
- September 1, 2013, November 1, 2013 and February 1, 2014 – Awards begin.

Proposals for RWJF New Connections grants awarded through Healthy Eating Research

- March 27, 2013 (3 p.m. ET) – Deadline for receipt of concept papers.
- June 26, 2013 (3 p.m. ET) – Deadline for receipt of invited full proposals.
- November 1, 2013 – awards begin.

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## **Extending the Life of Your Farm to School Produce**

More and more schools in Illinois and all over the United States are participating in various forms of Farm to School activities. A couple of the most popular forms of farm to school include school gardens and purchasing local products to serve as a part of their lunch and/or breakfast meals. One of the barriers that we have here in Illinois is the short growing season of some of our fruits and vegetables. One way to extend the time period in which schools can serve local products would be to freeze fresh fruits and vegetables that they can serve throughout the school year. A recent study by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy looks into freezing local produce specifically for the k-12 schools. Here is a link to their findings: <http://www.iatp.org/documents/frozen-local-strategies-for-freezing-locally-grown-produce-for-the-k-12-marketplace>



A few things to keep in mind if you would like to look into freezing local produce, is to ensure that you are following any and all food safety requirements, contact your local county health department with any questions you may have regarding food safety. Another thing to keep in mind is that some products freeze better than others or the specific freezing method can vary for different fruits and vegetables, so you may want to do some research for the specific product you are working with. Additionally, don't forget that there are local products that can be available all year around like meat products, dairy/milk products, eggs, and even locally made bread products that use local grains.



We know there are many different farm to school activities happening out there in Illinois Schools and would love to hear more about what you are doing at your school. Contact

us anytime to share stories and/or pictures of what you are doing with farm to school, please email Lindsay Blough at [lblough@isbe.net](mailto:lblough@isbe.net) and we look forward to hearing from you and sharing success stories from schools throughout Illinois.

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## **USDA Announces Farm to School Grants!**

Looking for funding for Farm to School (F2S) activities? The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA) provided for \$5 million annually to for grants, technical assistance and the federal administrative costs related to F2S Programs. This year the USDA will be awarding up to \$5 billion in grants. There will be three different types of grants available:

- Planning Grants – intended for schools just getting started on F2S activities.
- Implementation Grants – intended for schools that would like to expand on current F2S activities that they are doing.
- Support Service Grants – intended for non-profit entities, Indian tribal organizations, state & local agencies and agricultural producers or groups of producers for activities such as conducting trainings, creating F2S curriculum, developing supply chains and more!

In order to assist those thinking about applying for one of the three grants listed above, the USDA will be hosting a series of webinars related to the application process:

- March 5, 2013, 1:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST) – Planning Grants
- March 6, 2013, 1:00 EST – Implementation Grants
- March 7, 2013, 1:00 EST – Support Service Grants

The proposals for all grants are due April 24, 2013 (no later than midnight EST) and the awards will be announced in October 2013. For more information related to the USDA F2S grants please visit their website at: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2\\_2013\\_grant\\_program.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/f2_2013_grant_program.htm)  
Good Luck to all schools that apply!!!

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## **Apply for Team Nutrition Training Mini-Grant Due April 1, 2013**

Attention USDA's Team Nutrition Schools! The due date for the Illinois School HealthierUS School Challenge Request for Proposal is Monday, April 1, 2013. Through USDA's 2012 Team Nutrition and Training Grant, the Division of Nutrition and Wellness Programs will be awarding over 40 schools with mini grants of \$940.00 to help them prepare to meet the HealthierUS School Challenge criteria. The Illinois Action for Healthy Kids will assist those grant recipients to prepare to meet the new HUSSC criteria. The Request for Proposal for this competitive grant is posted at [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition), under *What's New* and also is located at [http://www.isbe.net/funding\\_opps/htmls/rfp.htm](http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm). The grant period begins May 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

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## **HealthierUS School Challenge Certified Schools Eligible to Apply for Grants and Other Recognition Programs**

**Attention all HealthierUS School Challenge Certified Schools in Illinois:** The Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation and Discovery Education will be providing rewards and incentives for schools that are trying to reach higher levels of certification.



Schools with the Gold award level can vie for a \$10,000 grand prize to enhance wellness programs. Schools with the Silver level certification can apply for a \$2,000 grant for physical education or the foodservice program. Bronze award level schools have the opportunity to win a \$1,000 grant for professional development from the National Food Service Management Institute.

Enter at <http://www.togethercounts.com> by March 15. Official rules are available at <http://tinyurl.com/incentives-rules>.

In addition, HUSSC certified schools may be interested in applying for recognition in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation- Healthy Schools Program. The application is streamlined for HUSSC certified schools. For further information, visit <https://schools.healthiergeneration.org/>.

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## Having Trouble Keeping Up with School Wellness News?

The [KidsEatWell.org](http://KidsEatWell.org) website and the *Illinois Schools Can!* eNewsletter will help you keep your finger on the pulse of Illinois school wellness news. Don't miss out on these two valuable resources.

### Make KidsEatWell.org Your Go-To Link!

- Click on [What's New](#) to check for the latest school wellness news and resources, training events, and grant opportunities.
- Click on [School Meals](#) (under Healthy Schools on the left-hand navigation bar) to access resources that will help you implement the new meal standards.
  - Under [Meal Planning](#) there are quick links to USDA's menu planning web resources for fruits and vegetables, whole grains, beans and sodium reduction as well as sample cycle menus that meet the new standards.
  - Click on [Staff Training](#) to connect with sources of online training you can use to earn CEUs and provide ready-to-go training for your staff.
  - Toot your own horn by extending nutrition education to the classroom and/or community, and use the promotional resources on the [Promotion/Nutrition Education](#) web page to make sure healthier food items are well received.

### Seal Your Status as a School Wellness Expert with the *Illinois Schools Can!* eNewsletter!

This quarterly *Illinois Schools Can!* eNewsletter is a one-stop source for new resources, training and grants that support school wellness policies. This newsletter goes out to almost 4,000 subscribers and school wellness stakeholders in Illinois.

The eNewsletter keeps you up-to-date on new resources and available training for school foodservice staff, teachers and school wellness staff. It also keeps you posted on loads of opportunities for winning grants to support all sorts of school wellness programs like Farm to School, salad bars and school gardens. Pick up tips from other Illinois schools that are making positive changes that support healthy students too.

To view past issues of the eNewsletter, visit the [eNewsletter page](#) on the KidsEatWell.org website. Don't miss out on receiving the next issue! Subscribe to this great resource by emailing [jlove@isbe.net](mailto:jlove@isbe.net) today.

## Calendar of Events

### March 2013

- 3-6 School Nutrition Association's Legislative Action Conference—Washington, DC
- 4-8 National School Breakfast Week, *Be a Star with School Breakfast*
- 5 SFSP New Sponsor Training-Marion  
Register at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp\\_training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm)
- 8 Inaugural International School Meals Day
- 10 Submit monthly claim for reimbursement  
<http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/wins-claim-inst.pdf>  
  
Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 13 SFSP New Sponsor Training-Alsip  
Register at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp\\_training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm)
- 13 Webinar: NSLP Introduction to the Community Eligibility Option (CEO)  
2:00-3:00 pm Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *Upcoming Webinars*
- 13–20 Make changes, if needed, for next month's commodity deliveries
- 15 Deadline for submitting Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Application\
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 17-23/19 National Agriculture Week/Day
- 19 ISBE's "Talk It Up Tuesday" Webinar – 2:00–3:00 pm  
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *Upcoming Webinars*
- 20 SFSP New Sponsor Training—Fairview Heights  
Register at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp\\_training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm)  
  
First Day of Spring
- 21 Webinar: NSLP Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for Current Participants –  
2:00-3:00 pm  
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *Upcoming Webinars*
- 21 SFSP Current Sponsor Training—Fairview Heights  
Register at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp\\_training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm)
- 27 Webinar: NSLP SY2013-13 Paid Lunch Equity Requirement – 9:00-10:30 am  
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *Upcoming Webinars*
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Webinar: NSLP USDA School Breakfast Program Nutrition Standards  
Implementation Timeline 1:30 – 3:00 pm  
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *Upcoming Webinars*

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street, W-270

Springfield, IL 62777

Phone: 800/545-7892 or 217/782-2491

Fax: 217/524-6124

Email: [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net)