



A monthly newsletter for school nutrition and wellness programs...

April 2016

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Participation Application....

Sponsor Applications to Participate in SY16-17 School Nutrition Programs

**** Starting school year 2016-17, School Nutrition Programs applications and claims are moving from a federal fiscal year calendar of October 1–September 30 to a state fiscal year calendar of July 1-June 30! **** This change aligns applications and claims more closely with a typical school year calendar (July to June) and prevents sponsors from having to complete two applications each year, crossing from one fiscal year to another.

The SY2016-17 applications for new or continuing sponsors of school nutrition programs will be **released in April through WINS and are due June 15, 2016**. When application is available, an email alert will go out via email (to emails you have listed in WINS), along with instructions and a webinar link to assist you with completion of the application.

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Meetings/Conferences.....

Register for the 9th Annual Illinois School Wellness Conference!

Register for the 9th Annual IL School Wellness Conference hosted by IL Action for Healthy Kids. The conference will be held on April 28, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Springfield IL. The conference is intended for school administrators, educators, physical education teachers, school food personnel, school nurses, school health/wellness team members, board members and other leaders of health organizations, students and community advocates. [Click here](#) to register. Questions? Contact Illinois State Coordinator, Ryan Monroe at rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org.

Team Up for School Nutrition Success Meeting Planned for April 26, 2016 (Springfield)

You are invited to send one school food service representative from your district to the Team Up for School Nutrition Success meeting planned for Tuesday, April 26, 2016. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) will host this meeting. Registration will begin at 7:30am at the IEA Professional Development Center located at 3440 Liberty Drive, Springfield, IL 62704. A boxed lunch will be provided to registered attendees. The meeting will conclude no later than 5:00pm. The meeting agenda and additional details will be shared in the near future.

Over the past several years, school nutrition professionals across Illinois have made incredible achievements in improving the nutritious options offered in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, as well as in food and beverages outside of the reimbursable meals sold to students in schools, as they are now subject to the USDA Smart Snacks requirements. As a result of changes in both federal regulations and local practices, schools are providing more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, in age-appropriate portion sizes. Students are trying a variety of foods they may be seeing for the first time, and introducing them to healthy habits that they will hopefully adopt for life.

Staff of the USDA as well as the ISBE understand that introducing these changes has not been easy and learning best practices as well as implementation tips from school nutrition professionals helps to improve the programs across the country. Therefore, the USDA, in conjunction with the ICN, have begun hosting Team Up for School Nutrition Success Meetings across the country. This type of

meeting focuses on areas of concern for the participants and brings together groups of school nutrition professionals to discuss and ultimately plan for goals and strategies to improve operations within the programs. Illinois has hosted 2 such meetings and attendees have shared positive feedback regarding their participation.

ISBE and USDA are committed to working closely with you to ensure success. School feedback has been vital to implementation thus far, and your participation and feedback in this meeting will further inform us as we work to help you and all schools succeed at providing nutritious meals and smart snacks that children enjoy.

Thank you again for your dedication and tireless commitment to our children. Ensuring school children receive the nutrition they need to learn, grow, and reach their full potential is one of the most important duties we have as community members, educators, and leaders. We look forward to working with you and your staff to implement the School-based Child Nutrition Programs.

To register for the April 26, 2016 Team Up For School Nutrition Success Meeting (Springfield), please complete the registration survey no later than (Friday) April 8, 2016: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TeamUp42616>

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Roxanne Ramage at rramage@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

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Grants....

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for SY2016-17

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) grant application for School Year 2016-2017 will be available the first week of April under *What's New* at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition>. Carefully review the application 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. The deadline to apply for FFVP (School Year 2016-2017) is April 29, 2016.

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). If you have questions regarding this FFVP grant, contact Roxanne Ramage at rramage@isbe.net or Shawn Backs sbacks@isbe.net.

USDA/ISBE NSLP Equipment Grant

The USDA has announced that Illinois will receive \$1,127,625 for kitchen equipment grants for school year 2016-17! These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, with emphasis on more fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, and expand access. The IL State Board of Education (ISBE) is required to competitively

award equipment assistance grants to eligible school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Higher priority must be given to high need schools (i.e., schools in underserved areas, schools with limited access to other resources, and age of food service equipment) where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

The ISBE plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) mid-April with proposals being due late May. The release will be announced on the [ISBE's RFP website](#), on the [ISBE's Nutrition & Wellness website](#), in the [Superintendent's Weekly Message](#), and via email to NSLP sponsors. If you have questions regarding this USDA/ISBE Equipment Grant, contact Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net.

Fuel up to Play 60 Grant

Midwest Dairy Council is excited to share that USDA is partnering with [Fuel Up to Play 60](#) through a commitment of \$30 million in nutrition-equipment grants that will combine with a \$5 million commitment from America's dairy farmers to improve nutrition at school.

The purpose of these grants is to assist School Nutrition Directors in the purchase of equipment that will enhance the long term implementation of their school breakfast and lunch programs. Funding will support the purchase of new equipment and/or the renovation/replacement of existing equipment. Equipment may include large and small items such as utility carts, utensils, large-capacity food processors, industrial scales, steamers, freezers, etc. Infrastructure elements may include building needs related to physical space, electricity, plumbing, ventilation and other remodeling needs related to school nutrition services.

Schools may apply individually, or districts may apply for multiple schools within their district. More information on the grant and application can be found at <https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/nutrition-equipment-grant>.

If you have questions regarding this Fuel up to Play 60 Grant, contact Midwest Dairy Council at MidwestDairyCouncil@MidwestDairy.com.

School Grants for Healthy Kids

Action for Healthy Kids is accepting School Grants for Healthy Kids applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Schools may apply for School Breakfast grants (\$500 - \$5,000) to pilot or expand their School Breakfast programs or Game On Grants (\$500 - \$2,500) to fund physical activity/nutrition initiatives. The deadline to apply is April 1. For more information, visit <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/grants> or contact Ryan Monroe at 563-419-1931 or rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org.

Nutrition Education in Lunchrooms

If you're a parent, guardian, teacher or lunch lady, you know that it's not always easy convincing kids to eat their vegetables and fruits. USDA school food standards require a serving of fruit or vegetables on every school lunch tray. But what happens when students won't eat it? Nutrition education that includes samplings of fresh fruits and vegetables helps kids accept and enjoy the foods that are key for good health. Project Produce is a grant program designed to help create experiential nutrition education when and where students make their food choices: in the cafeteria. The \$2,500 one-year

grants support food costs to incorporate school-wide fruit and vegetable tastings into the school's nutrition program.

- Any district or independent school participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to apply
- Districts may apply for grants for up to 10 schools
- Applications for schools with 50% or higher free and reduced eligible enrollment are encouraged
- There is no deadline and grants will be administered on a rolling basis.

For more information and to submit an application, contact the Chef Ann Foundation or visit <http://www.chefannfoundation.org/programs-and-grants/project-produce/>.

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Training....

Food Safety - School Nutrition Programs Food Safety Plans and Requirements

Beginning on July 1, 2016 the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is requiring all school food service staff to receive food handler training. This workshop, conducted by IL State Board of Education staff, will meet the requirements set by IDPH. Attendees that pass the required assessment will be certified for 3 years. First 2 hours of workshop.

- April 28th – Chatham
- May 10th – Lombard with Train the Trainer Option
- May 24th – Fairview Heights with Train the Trainer Option

Food Safety - HACCP/School Food Safety Plan Requirements

This workshop, conducted by IL State Board of Education staff, will assist schools in the NSLP and/or SBP programs meet the requirement of having a HACCP based food safety plan in place.

- May 25th – Fairview Heights

Additional dates will be posted at registration link as they are confirmed. Space is limited. Please **register** at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> (under Child Nutrition Program Workshops).

Healthier Meals Cooking Classes - Level 1 and 2

Experience one of our culinary classes to increase your professional skills with hands-on cooking in a state-of-the-art kitchen. You will gain practical experience while preparing and tasting delicious recipes to meet the increasing standards and meal patterns of the Child Nutrition programs. Be ahead in your industry and prepared to take on the challenge of all three levels of Healthier Meals Cooking Classes that will be provided within the next few years. Receive a certificate of completion for each completed course. Classes are free and available at Kendall College Culinary School in Chicago, Lincoln Land Community College Culinary Institute in Springfield, and Kaskaskia College Culinary Arts in Centralia, IL.

Responses about what attendees like most about classes include:

- Learning correct knife skills
- The small class size
- Tasting the food we prepared
- The instructor's simple directions and passion to make the next generation healthy
- The hands-on experience

Classes include scaling and adapting recipes, the "mise en place" concept of efficiently preparing menu items, knife skills, preparing and adapting recipes and local procurement. You will prepare USDA Recipes from main entrees through snacks. The recipes meet the meal pattern requirements while using more whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Space is *limited* so sign up now and bring a co-worker to join in the fun! To register, follow the link, www.isbe.net/nutrition.

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.

Workshops for the Summer Food Service Program will be conducted by IL State Board of Education staff and be held at the locations listed below for organizations interested in sponsoring the SFSP during the summer of 2016. 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

- April 6, 2016 and April 7, 2016 in Chicago
- April 12, 2016 and April 13, 2016 in Fairview Heights
- April 20, 2016 in Peoria
- April 27, 2016 in Woodstock
- May 11, 2016 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

- April 13, 2016 in Fairview Heights

A webinar is also being scheduled for those current sponsors that cannot attend the workshops above. Save the date—April 19, 2016; 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.

2016 School Wellness

University of Illinois Extension Illinois Nutrition Education Programs (INEP) is back with its free webinar series for the Spring! Please join us **the 1st Wednesday of every month from 3:00-3:30 pm through May** for reliable & practical information about exciting & relevant school wellness topics:

April 6:

Backpack Nutrition Programs: How to Get Started for Success

May 4:

USDA Team Nutrition 101: Navigating & Using Materials Like an Expert!

Participants will understand the benefits of each topic, learn how they can support their school, and what resources are available to help them. Each webinar includes live Q&A and can be accessed using the internet or phone. Plus, this webinar counts toward your Professional Development Standards! To register, please visit http://go.illinois.edu/inep_spr2016.

Farm to School USDA

Curriculum Integration: April 7, 2:00 PM EDT

Experiential education is an important component of successful farm to school programs. This webinar will help you plan for your farm to school educational efforts and brainstorm food, agriculture, and nutrition-related educational activities with which you can engage students.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/aagswcf5mnh&eom>

Program Sustainability: April 28, 2:00 PM EDT

Your farm to school project is blooming! But what will happen if funding levels decrease or community interest lags? With this webinar, plan ahead for these potential scenarios and learn about program sustainability best practices.

Registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/pu0b11ya1fjf&eom>

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Summary of New Rules: Physical Fitness Assessment, Data Collection, & Reporting

Starting with school year 2016-17, schools must:

- Ensure that school personnel administering the assessments participate in training and district maintains evidence of individual school personnel's successful completion of this training.
- Establish procedures and protocols to ensure the confidentiality of individual student assessment results consistent with the requirements of the Illinois School Records Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- Begin administering the following the four required portions of FitnessGram protocols in the second semester (first and second semesters preferred for pre and post results) and annually thereafter.
- By your district's established date, collect and report the required aggregate data.

For detailed information on required assessments, data required, and timelines, please go to the [Q&A on Rules for PE Assessment and Data Collection](#).

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Who's "One in a Melon" in your state?

Now through April 15, USDA is running a contest for school districts to win its coveted "One in a Melon" award. Parents, teachers, community stakeholders and even students can visit the website and nominate their favorite farm to school program to receive this award. One school district from each state with the most nominations will win. "One in a Melon" award winners will be announced before school lets out this year.



Click [here](#) to place your nomination!

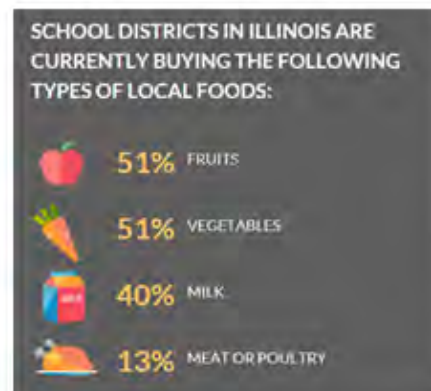
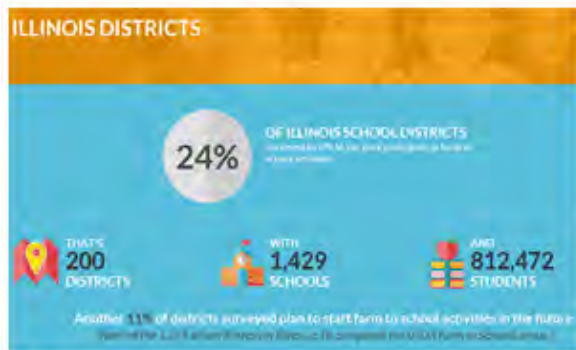
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Farm to School 2015 Census Results are in!

The 2015 USDA Farm to School Census shows that an investment in the health of America's students through farm to school programs is also an investment in local economies.

Illinois Data: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/find-your-school-district/illinois>

National Data: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/home>



For more information on Farm to School please visit the following resources:

ISBE F2S Webpage: http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/farm_school.htm

USDA F2S Webpage (includes very useful F2S webinars):

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/procuring-local-foods>

Calendar of Events

April 2016

- 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
- 13-20 Make changes to next month's USDA Foods order
- 13 ISBE Board Meeting – video conference (Springfield/Chicago)
<http://www.isbe.net/board/default.htm>
- 26 Team Up for School Nutrition Success Meeting -
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TeamUp42616>
- 28 9th Annual School Wellness Conference -
<http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/trainings-and-conferences/event/395>



Nutrition and Wellness Programs

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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