

THE OUTLOOK

Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

May 2014

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***The Outlook* – Now Published Year-Round**

To ensure ISBE gets the latest updates and information to you regarding regulations, grants, and events that impact school-based child nutrition programs in a timely manner, *The Outlook* will now be published every month of the year. Please continue to watch for issues in June and July which will also be archived with all other issues at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/newsletters.htm>.

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Equipment Assistance Grant for FY2015 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Sponsors to be released mid-May 2014

With \$9.7M from the FY2013 Agriculture Appropriations Act, \$25M from the FY2014 Agriculture Appropriations Act, and a balance of \$1.25M from the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has been authorized to provide grants to State agencies for providing equipment assistance to school food authorities (SFA) participating in the NSLP. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is making Illinois' award of \$1,318,438 in NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant funds available through an RFP.

These funds should make a significant investment in addressing the unmet need in the state by allowing SFAs to purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier school meals with an emphasis on serving more fresh fruits and vegetables, improving food safety, and expanding access to healthy foods, all of which will improve the quality of school meals.

Each school food authority (SFA) participating in the federally-funded National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is eligible to submit a proposal for schools under their jurisdiction where not less than 50 percent of the enrolled students were eligible for free or reduced-price meals in October 2013. If needed, refer to the FY2014 eligibility listing posted online at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/eligibility_listings.htm. A SFA is defined as a governing body which is responsible for the administration of one or more schools and has the legal authority to operate the NSLP therein.

Priority will be given to eligible SFAs 1) that did not receive equipment assistance grants in any of its schools in FY2009 or FY2010. (If needed, refer to the *SFAs Previously Funded* listing at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_grant.htm.); 2) that demonstrate high need, i.e., are able to show schools for which they are applying are in an underserved area, have limited access to other resources/funding to purchase equipment, current equipment is outdated, non-functioning or non-existent; 3) that commit to using funds to improve the quality and safety of school meals, overall energy efficiency, and/or participation; 4) that commit to implementing strategies for adopting smarter lunchrooms; 5) whose applying schools participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP); 6) whose applying schools are self-operated and/or satellite meals to other schools participating in NSLP; and 7) whose applying schools have high free and reduced-price eligibility rates.

Illinois' RFP for the FY2015 National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant is **expected to be released mid-May 2014** at http://www.isbe.net/funding_opps/htmls/rfp.htm. **with proposals due back in June 2014**

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Training Opportunities for School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

WEBINARS

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a webinar discussing *Special Diets, Accommodations, and Allergies* on May 20, 2014 from 2:00-3:00 with registration available at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/164631233>.

Webinars from this past year have been recorded and is available for viewing at any time at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm> (under 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
- ✓ Implementing the School Breakfast Program
- ✓ Paid Lunch Equity
- ✓ Heart Healthy Month - Focus on Fat and Sodium Reduction in School Meals
- ✓ Local School Wellness Policies

IN-PERSON

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a variety of in-person training opportunities for school nutrition program staff for SY2014-2015. There is no registration fee for these workshops. Beverage service only will be available. Please save the date for the workshop(s) in your area that are applicable to your job duties. Registration is now available [online](#). Locations tend to fill up quickly, so complete registration as soon as announced to secure your space.

School Meals Menu Planning 101

This ½ day workshop will be a hand-on workshop with menu planning activities geared to the school nutrition personnel that plan the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program menus. Meal pattern changes required for SY2014-2015 will be included as well as overall meal pattern information. Each workshop location is limited to 50 attendees, so we request that each school register no more than 2 staff to attend this training.

Dates and Locations

- July 23, 2014 – Arlington Heights (afternoon session)
- July 24, 2014 – Alsip (morning session)
- July 28, 2014 – Bloomington (morning session)
- July 29, 2014 – Carbondale (afternoon session)
- July 30, 2014 – Collinsville (morning session)

Direct Certification, Certification, and Verification

This ½ day workshop will be a training on the overall regulations related to the use of the *Electronic Direct Certification System*, certification of household eligibility applications, and verification efforts. Staff that work directly with the overall certification process at your school district would be the best persons to attend this training session.

Dates and Locations

- August 13, 2014 – Arlington Heights (afternoon session)
- August 14, 2014 – Lisle (morning session)
- August 21, 2014 – Bloomington (morning session)
- August 26, 2014 – Carbondale (afternoon session)

- August 27, 2014 – Fairview Heights (morning session)

Overview of the Administrative Review Process

This ½ day training will provide sponsors an overview of the Administrative Review (AR) including all USDA checklists and resources. The Administrative Review is an assessment conducted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) of the School Food Authority's (SFA) administration of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP) and other school nutrition programs. The objectives of the AR are to determine whether the SFA meets program requirements, provide technical assistance, secure any needed corrective action, and assess fiscal action, if applicable. ISBE must conduct ARs of all SFAs participating in the NSLP and/or SBP at least once during each three-year review cycle period. The first three-year review cycle began SY2013-2014.

Dates and Locations

- October 15, 2014 – Schaumburg (afternoon session)
- October 16, 2014 – Lisle (morning session)
- October 21, 2014 – East Peoria (morning session)
- October 22, 2014 – Fairview Heights (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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Direct Certification with Medicaid - Expansion to Statewide Beginning SY2014-2015

The Illinois State Board of Education will implement direct certification with Income Eligible Medicaid Data **statewide** beginning July 1, 2014 for the school year 2014-2015. Direct Certification with Income Eligible Medicaid Data (DCM) was authorized by Congress in Section 103 of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296).

A webinar on the Electronic Direct Certification System is planned for Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 10:00am. To register, please [click here](#). If you are unable to attend the webinar at this time, it will be recorded and available on our website approximately one week after the live webinar date.

Beginning July 1, 2014, each annual, monthly or sponsor upload file and single child lookup direct certification file may include child(ren) that are coded as eligible based on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Foster Child, and income eligible Medicaid benefits. Although not ALL children receiving Medicaid benefits are eligible for free meals due to the income limitations of the Child Nutrition Programs, those that appear in your direct certification file or found via single child lookup in our Electronic Direct Certification System, are directly certified for free meal benefits. Extension of benefits via direct certification with SNAP, TANF and income eligible Medicaid is allowed to all children within the same household. There is no extension of benefits for foster child status.

LEAs are **NOT** allowed to accept Medicaid case numbers via the household eligibility application process as there is no system available for verifying Medicaid case numbers within the required income guidelines. We believe this will be of great benefit to you as it should lessen the number of applications you would need to process and verify each school year.

For any questions, staff within the Illinois State Board of Education's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division may be reached at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

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WINS Dashboard – New Look!

The next time you log into WINS, you'll notice a more condensed dashboard (see screenshot below). Don't be alarmed; all the same functions are still present, however they are now separated into tabs so information is categorized and easier to access.

Sponsor Tasks		Site Application Tasks	
Batch Daily Meal Counts Batch Participation Detail Add New Site Close Site Terminate Site Deactivate Sponsor		Enroll Site In New Program Edit Site Questionnaire Edit Program Participation Edit Participation Detail	
Reports		Budget	
Waiver Submissions Public/Private Free, Reduced, Eligible Elementary Free, Reduced, Eligible Applications Not Received NSLP Verification Summary Report Direct Certification Deleted Sites		No WINS Budgets required.	

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Updating Days of Operation in WINS

With all the snow Illinois experienced this year, you may need to update your days of operation for lunch (NSLP), breakfast (SBP), after-school snacks and/or milk (SMP).

- If you didn't serve a few days in a month that is already approved (e.g. you were approved to serve February 1-29, but didn't serve on February 4 and 5 due to snow day, simply insert "0" as the count for those days).
- If you served on a day that was not previously approved (e.g. President's Day was marked as a holiday on your school calendar, but school was held to make up snow day), please follow instructions for *Amending Operating Days* at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> (under *What's New*).
- If you served beyond the approved calendar year (e.g. approved through May 30, but school was held through June 6 to make up snow days), please follow instructions for *Extending School Year Operating Days* at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> (under *What's New*).

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SY 2014-15 Paid Lunch Equity Exemption

Under the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement, school food authorities are required to ensure that there are sufficient funds provided to the nonprofit school food service account for lunches served to students not eligible for free or reduced priced meals. There are two ways to meet this requirement: either through gradually raising the prices charge for paid lunches or through providing equivalent amount of funds from non-Federal sources to the nonprofit school food service account.

The USDA memo as well as a recorded webinar outlining the calculations School Food Authorities must make in order to be in compliance with this requirement for School Year 2014-2015 is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm.

You, as a school food authority (SFA), are required to be non-profit, and you therefore cannot exceed a three-month operating balance on your account. It has been noted during the implementation of PLE that requiring school districts in strong financial positions to increase prices or contribute funds to the food service account may not further the goals of the Act. The goal of the paid lunch equity provision was to bring in new revenue to districts, to strengthen their financial standing and financially support the improvements required by the new meal patterns. However for some SFAs, the additional revenue may not be necessary to achieve that goal.

An SFA may request an exemption from the PLE requirement from their state agency for SY14-15 by December 31, 2014 if it has been certified as meeting the new meal pattern requirements and can demonstrate that the required increase to paid lunch prices or revenue contributions would cause the SFA to exceed the three-month operating balance limit. Please be aware that the USDA may seek additional information on the financial standing of an SFA approved for exemptions in order to inform future policy considerations. This form is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_hhfka_implementation.htm.

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IL School Nutrition Association (ILSNA) Annual Conference – June 2014

This year's theme for the ILSNA 64th Annual Conference is "It Takes a Village" and will be held June 24 - 26, 2014 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, IL. Conference brochure and registration available at http://www.ilsna.net/annual_conference.asp.

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Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) From the Schools' Perspective

The Community Eligibility Option (CEO) is an alternative to collecting household eligibility applications. CEO uses a percentage derived from the number of Identified Students divided by the enrollment and then multiplied by a USDA factor of 1.6. Identified Students are not the same as the free and reduced eligible numbers, Identified Students include those that are located in your electronic direct certification system, extension of those direct certification benefits and those on a homeless, migrant, runaway or head start listing signed off by that coordinator. Illinois was one of three states that was selected to participate in CEO from the first year that it was available and the number of schools participating has increased every year. The CEO program has been very successful in Illinois; however, we know that some schools are tentative to apply for the program. Most schools have the same questions that are holding them back from applying, therefore we would like to go over some of those topics that schools have questions about and we would like to share some feedback from schools currently participating in the CEO.

Information from our CEO Schools:

Jan Miller, Springfield School District

Question: What are the positives to participation in CEO?

Answer:

- Not having to approve free/reduced lunch applications. My assistant does not have to spend the first two months of school approving lunch applications along with spending time on the phone trying to get the correct information from the parents. She now spends that time visiting the schools. My managers at the schools are also saving time because they are not constantly trying to get applications or money from the students and parents.

- Students and Parents don't have to worry about getting the free/reduced applications in or making sure their child has enough money on their account for breakfast/lunch.
- Students go through the serving lines so much faster because there is no stopping the line because either the child has not turned in an application or does not have enough money on their account.
- There is less stress on a student that may have a parent that constantly forgets to send money or doesn't remember to get their application in.
- There is less stress on the Principals and secretaries at the schools because parents are not calling with question about applications or money on their child's account.

Question: What are the negatives of participation in CEP?

Answer: The only real negative problem that we have had is the Title One Director and other groups in the district trying to get grant money and they do not understand what low-income figures to use for their programs.

Question: Have you run into any barriers to participation in CEP?

Answer: Our biggest barrier was working with Title One and trying to helping the coordinator understand how the CEP affects the program.

Question: What is your favorite thing about CEP?

Answer: Being able to spend more time on production and menus instead of approving applications and collecting charges.

Michael McKenzie, Peoria School District 150

Question: What are the positives to participation in CEP?

Answer: The main positive I see is the increased participation in the food service program, especially for breakfast. We also have less administrative things to do at the CEP school. No deposits or collections are required.

Question: What are the negatives of participation in CEP?

Answer: The only negative I see is the need for a separate Fee Waiver form that can be used to determine waivers of other required fees at a CEP school. It would be much easier to use the standard free/reduced form so that families at CEP and non-CEP schools would use the same form. This would also help with transfers between schools.

Question: Have you run into any barriers to participation in CEP?

Answer: Our percentage of Direct Certified students brought our reimbursement to almost 99% so there was no financial barrier to participation. We have had to work hard to educate the public about the program. We have some schools that are not in the program so it is hard to explain how the rules are different at the different schools. One household may have students in different schools where some get free meals and they may have a sibling that gets reduced or paid meals at another school.

Question: What is your favorite thing about CEP?

Answer: The ability for us to provide services to an increased number of students, knowing that students are fed and ready to learn in the morning.

Georgia Marshall, Murphysboro CUSD 186

Question: What are the positives about CEP?

Answer: The positives to participation are numerous, beginning with ALL students being able to receive a breakfast and lunch at no charge. This is a huge help to all parents in our district. With paper work not having to be submitted and processed, has saved time for

building secretaries and unit office staff. Not having to notify families of lunch balances and tracking this is a huge time saver. Students are being served quicker without having to stop and count change. End of the year balances for lunch charges are a thing of the past!

Question: What are the negatives about CEP?

Answer: Negatives, from my end are none. I'm sure there are some, but how can they outweigh the fact that every student has the opportunity to have a breakfast and lunch?

Question: What are the Barriers to CEP?

Answer: Barriers were mainly from the community not completely understanding this option that Murphysboro CUSD #186 chose. First parents were confused thinking "How can Illinois afford this? How much will our taxes going to go up?". This I heard over and over. Information was provided to students to take home explaining this option, information was presented during back to school events. It definitely took a while for parents to understand. The next issue had to do with parents and the community thinking that by choosing this option for our district, was the reason the NSLP meal options were changing. Local and national media, in my opinion did much to create this confusion. Overtime the community and parents have definitely embraced this program. I know that the cafeteria staff LOVE it.

Common Questions & Answers:

Question: How does participation in CEP impact Title I?

Answer: The total amount of Title I funds should not be impacted, however, participation in CEP may or may not impact your distribution of Title I funds within the district. I highly recommend viewing the United States Department of Education's guidance on this vary subject. The guidance can be found on our [CEP webpage](#).

Question: How does participation in CEP impact other programs such as E-Rate, Supplemental Education Services (SES), and fee waivers?

Answer: The guidance on E-Rate is that you are to use the free and reduced eligibility percentage from the year prior to participation in CEP. As for SES, per guidance from the United State Department of Education and the ISBE we would recommend using an alternative way to gather the low income status of individual students. We do have a sample alternative form that can be used by CEP schools to gather household level data, the form can be found by clicking Demographics at: http://www.isbe.net/sis/html/data_elements.htm. Additionally, for fee waivers the district has a couple of options, they can either waive fees for all students or they can determine eligibility for fee waivers by using the alternative household form mentioned above.

Question: What data do I use to apply for grants?

Answer: In most cases, you will use the individual schools CEP percentage, which is determined by taking the number of Identified Students dividing it by the enrollment and multiplying by 1.6. In CEP, schools have the option of being individual in CEP or grouping schools together and using that group percentage for claiming meals. If schools are grouped they only use that group percentage for claiming meals, grants, Title I and other programs would use the individual schools percentage not the group.

For more information, resources and recorded trainings please visit the [CEP webpage](#) and if you have questions please email Lindsay Blough at lblough@isbe.net or call 800/545-7892. The application to start of implementation of CEP next school year is currently available on the CEP webpage and is due by June 30, 2014.

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Sharing Aggregate Data to Expand Program Access and Services in Child

Nutrition Programs

USDA would like to remind State agencies, school food authorities (SFAs), schools, and sponsoring organizations operating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) about data sharing requirements and opportunities.

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators may disclose student-specific eligibility status to other CNP operators to expedite children's eligibility certification for these programs. Additionally, CNP operators may disclose aggregate information about students eligible for free and reduced price meals to any party without parental notification provided that an individual or group of students' eligibility cannot be identified through release of the aggregate data or by means of deduction. For example, release of data relating to specific classrooms is a very small subset of school data and could lead to identification of individual children.

Generally, aggregate data on the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals is considered public information. Often the aggregate data also may be posted on the school or district website. Examples of aggregate data include: average daily participation, number of meals served, site and sponsor information, aggregate free and reduced-price eligibility percentages and aggregate enrollment data.

Although sharing of aggregate data is always at the discretion of the CNP operators, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) encourages operators to share aggregate data with partners, such as anti-hunger advocacy organizations. The sharing of aggregate data will assist partnering organizations in targeting underserved areas and expanding participation in the Programs. For example, the sharing of aggregate data is especially helpful to FNS partners seeking to increase access to summer meals served through the SFSP. Partner organizations have duties that range from recruitment of new program operators and sites, technical assistance, outreach, analyzing program trends and conducting research. These activities are vital to increasing participation and strengthening the integrity of all the CNPs. Providing partners with aggregate data can assist them in effectively targeting their efforts in unserved and underserved areas.

Please note, however, that under the CNPs, data relating to individual children is strictly regulated. For a discussion of the statutory and regulatory requirements for disclosure of information concerning individual children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals in any of the CNPs, please refer to the *Confidentiality/Disclosure* information in the *Certification of Eligibility* section of our *School-based Child Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook* at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/sbn_handbook/toc.htm.

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Smart Snacks Calculator Available

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation has launched a Smart Snacks Product Calculator which can now assess beverages too. The tool takes the guesswork out of evaluating products based on the new USDA Smart Snacks in School Guidelines and can be found via this link:

www.healthiergeneration.org/calculator. Simply enter the product information, answer a few questions, and determine whether your snack, side or entrée item meets the new USDA Smart Snacks in School Guidelines. Results from this calculator have been determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be accurate in assessing product compliance with the federal requirements for Smart Snacks in School. Click [Read USDA's memo here](#) to review USDA's memo.

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Interagency Nutrition Council March Nutrition Month Robin A Orr Partnership Awardees 2014

The Interagency Nutrition Council (INC) accepts nominations annually for the March Nutrition Month Robin A Orr Partnership award and this year the theme was school wellness. We received 17 amazing nominations this year and selected three awardees and three honorable mentions. The awardees included:

Sterling School District 5:

All four of Sterling School Districts schools participate in the CATCH program, which contains 4 pillars of support for a school wellness curriculum, including nutrition, physical education, classroom instruction and parent involvement. They have a wide array of activities both during the school day and after school to involve the parents to integrate wellness into each students daily lives. They also have formed partnerships with the Uofl Extention Nutrition Education program, with their local hospital, and with community members.

Paris CUSD 4 – Crestwood Elementary and Jr. High Schools:

Crestwood School set a goal for the 2013-2014 school year to promote healthy lifestyles throughout our classrooms and community. A committee composed of our food service director, school nurse, teachers, parents, University of Illinois Extension Wellness Educator, and school administration set goals to increase awareness and educate our students and families on the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Staff discussed the importance of keeping students active throughout the school day, and activity breaks became part of the school day. We also made sure our schedule allowed for all students to have a minimum of 150 minutes of physical education each week. In addition, a list of healthy snacks was developed, healthy snacks are now available through the concession stands and the use of non-food rewards is the norm.

CHSD 218

The district Certified School Nurses decided to make a difference with their students and staff by changing a few key components of their local wellness policy. Vending machines, fundraising, intramurals, and staff wellness were the four components targeted for change. They made healthy food choices more available in all district vending machines and removed the unhealthy food choices that were not meeting the Alliance for a Healthier Generation guidelines. They also included the elimination of the sale of unhealthy food, and setting strict guidelines for club and activity fundraising. Another change was to offer non-athletes an opportunity to participate in healthy activities after school, including weight training, open gym, a walking and bike club, aerobics, and yoga. And in the evenings they offered workshops in the evening for the staff in wellness education, cooking classes, yoga, zumba, workout sessions, and swimming.

Honorable Mentions:

Addison SD 4, Army Trail Elementary School
Carrier Mills-Stonefort CUSD 2, Carrier Mills-Stonefort Elementary School
Howard Area Community Center – SHARP Program

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FY2014 School Breakfast Program Expansion Grant Awardees

Illinois was one of five states to receive funds for the FY2014 School Breakfast Program (SBP) Expansion Grant. In March 2014, Illinois awarded sub-grants of up to \$10,000 each to the following School Food Authorities on a competitive basis to establish, maintain, or expand their SBP!

- ▶ Aurora West SD 129
- ▶ Belleville Area Special Services Cooperative (BASSC)
- ▶ Berkeley SD 87
- ▶ Betty Shabazz International Charter School
- ▶ Champaign CUSD 4
- ▶ Community Unit School District 300
- ▶ Co-Ordinated Youth Services
- ▶ Crystal Lake SD 47
- ▶ DHS / IL School for the Visually Impaired
- ▶ Earlville CUSD 9
- ▶ Hillside SD 93
- ▶ Lyons Elementary SD 103
- ▶ Matteson SD 162
- ▶ Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89
- ▶ Plano CUSD 88
- ▶ Polo CUSD 222
- ▶ Prairie Hills SD 144
- ▶ Proviso Township High Schools District 209
- ▶ Quest Charter Academy
- ▶ Round Lake Area Schools Community Unit District 116
- ▶ Steger SD 194

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It Starts With School Breakfast

Midwest Dairy Council, National Dairy Council and [Fuel Up to Play 60](#), With Support From Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign and Dean Foods, Launches National Efforts to Help Make School Breakfast Accessible for All Students. Fuel Up to Play 60—the nation's largest in-school wellness program—along with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign and Dean Foods, launched the *It Starts With School Breakfast* campaign to increase school breakfast participation nationwide. Research demonstrates that good nutrition, including daily breakfast, and increased physical activity can lead to improved academic performance, but according to one study, more than 60 percent of students do not eat breakfast each day. Many kids are showing up to school hungry, and hungry kids may not be able to succeed in the classroom.

Locally, the Midwest Dairy Council and J S Morton East High School in Cicero kicked off the campaign and celebrated National School Breakfast Week (March 3-7) and National Nutrition Month with an in-school breakfast event on March 6, hosted by Chicago Bears #98 Defensive End Corey Wootton and former Chicago Bears Wide Receiver Anthony Morgan. They spoke with students about how school breakfast can help them reach their full potential.

Kids skip breakfast for a variety of reasons, including habit, hectic mornings, lack of food at home and the social stigma associated with arriving at school early to eat breakfast in the cafeteria without the rest of their classmates. Only half of the 21 million American kids who eat free or reduced price school lunch eat school breakfast as well, even though they're eligible, leaving a gap of more than 10 million children who could benefit from school breakfast.ⁱ

Finding new ways to serve breakfast in school can make a difference. Two out of three educators whose students eat "breakfast after the bell" are fans of the program.ⁱⁱ Alternative breakfast models, like breakfast in the classroom and grab-and-go carts, can help provide all students with the nutrition they need to fuel their full potential.

Get Involved

To learn more and become part of the breakfast solution, visit StartWithSchoolBreakfast.com. Here, supporters can:

- Learn more about why school breakfast matters and see how celebrities, NFL stars and others are supporting the campaign.
- Access resources to help encourage local schools to start a breakfast program.
- Find ways to help schools enroll in Fuel Up to Play 60 or further their involvement in the program.
- See what others are saying about school breakfast, and join the conversation on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using #SchoolBreakfast.

Share Our Strength, Deloitte, *Hunger In Our Schools: Teacher's Report 2013*. August 2013.

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Curricula Grant Available to Help Schools Achieve HUSSC Criteria Extended

The Illinois HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Curricula Grant, funded through a USDA Team Nutrition Grant has been extended. The Request for Application (RFA) is located at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sos.htm#hussc> under New Grant Opportunities. Fifty schools will be awarded grants of up to \$650.00 to purchase approved nutrition, physical education, or wellness related curricula to help them to achieve the HUSSC criteria.

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School Nutrition Employee Week- May 5-9, 2014

*School Nutrition
Employee Week
May 5-9, 2014*

School Nutrition Employee Week has arrived. Celebrate and recognize the hard work of the food service and nutrition staff in your school(s) this week. The School Nutrition Association offers resources, such as a proclamation at http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Level2_SNEW2013.aspx?id=18422.

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Take 10 Minutes to Join Team Nutrition

Over 1,700 schools in Illinois have joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service's Team Nutrition Initiative. The November 2011, Bridging the Gap, Research Brief, *Improving School Foods through the Team Nutrition Program*, findings suggest that Team Nutrition has strong potential to help elementary schools improve children's eating habits. The study researchers evaluated data from 2006-2007 to 2009-2010. To read more about the impact of Team Nutrition, visit www.bridgingthegapresearch.org/research/elementary_school_survey. To join Team Nutrition, go to <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/join-team>.

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REMINDER: Fuel Up to Play 60 Funding Available for SY15

The first deadline for the Fuel Up to Play 60 is approaching. It's June 4, 2014. The second and final opportunity to apply for the FUTP60 grant is November 5, 2014.

<http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/funds/introduction.php>. Do not delay; apply now to kick start healthy changes in your school.

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New Gardening Guide Resource



Feeling inspired to grow fruits and vegetables? Then, check out the new gardening resource located at <http://www.letsmove.gov/gardening-guide>, developed through the Let's Move Initiative, USDA's Peoples Garden Initiative. Whether you are considering planting a kitchen, school or community garden; this one-stop shopping new gardening resource covers it all.

Checklists are included for the following:

- How to plant a kitchen garden
- How to plant a school garden
- How to plant a community garden

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Consider Taking No Cost Online Courses through the National Food Service Management Institute

If you have a few hours to spare this summer; here is an easy way to earn some Continuing Education Units (CEUs)! Log into the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) website at www.nfsmi.org/onlinecourses to read about their online training courses. These self-paced courses are available at no cost to child nutrition program personnel at all levels. The courses are categorized under these topics: Child Care, Child Nutrition, Food Safety, Special Needs, Wellness, and Webinars.

NFSMI TRAINERS LOG-IN | STATE AGENCIES LOG-IN | SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS | CONTACT US | HELP DESK | DOCUMENT LIBRARY

ABOUT NFSMI | RESOURCE CENTER | ONLINE COURSES | CHILD NUTRITION ARCHIVES | SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS | CHILD & ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM | CENTER FOR TRAINERS | TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES | RESEARCH

Online Course Catalog

Online Courses | Child Care | Child Nutrition | Food Safety | Special Needs | Wellness | Webinars

NFSMI's Online Training

Continuing education courses offered online at NFSMI support the professional development and training of child nutrition program personnel at all levels of responsibility. The NFSMI's online course system supports the research-based competencies, knowledge, and skills needed for excellence in child nutrition program management.

NFSMI online training provides self-paced online courses that may be completed over multiple sessions. Once a course has been completed, a certificate of completion is provided and may be used to satisfy certain certification and credentialing requirements. Additionally, NFSMI online courses are offered free of charge. [Click the link to learn more about NFSMI Online Training Features.](#)

Need to log back into an online course? [Click Here](#)

About CEUs | Continuing Education Policies

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Calendar of Events

May 2014

- 2 School Lunch Superhero Day - <http://www.schoollunchsuperheroday.com/> or http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Level2_SNEW2013.aspx?id=18422
- 5-9 School Nutrition Employee Week - http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Level2_SNEW2013.aspx?id=18422
- 10 Begin submitting April claims for reimbursement. ALL May child nutrition program claims (original and revised) must be received by ISBE no later than June 29, 2014
- 13 NSLP Webinar: Electronic Direct Certification
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> under *Webinars*
- 14 ISBE Board Meeting—Springfield <http://www.isbe.net/board/default.htm>
- 14 SFSP Current New Sponsor Orientation
Springfield, Illinois Education Association Office
Register at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/sfsp_training.htm
- 13-20 Make changes to next month's USDA Foods order
- 20 NSLP Webinar: Special Diets/Accommodations/Allergies
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/> under *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

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Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

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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