

THE OUTLOOK

Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs



IMPORTANT! Annual Sponsor/Site Applications Due Sept. 15

Sponsor/Site Applications to participate in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, After-School Care Program, and/or IL Free Program during the 2011-12 school year are now available. These online applications, which are due no later than Sept. 15, 2011, are accessible by logging into IWAS (ISBE Web Application Security) and selecting Application and Claim Entry System (ACES). It is highly recommended that you print off the instructions available at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/instructions.htm>.

IMPORTANT! Update Your Sponsor and Site Information

Settling into a new school year, you may realize that you have changes to make to your contact information in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Having the correct contact and site information in your NSLP Sponsor and Site Applications is extremely important to ISBE as we rely on it to convey program information to you quickly and efficiently, most often via e-mail. If your address, contact persons and/or sites participating in the NSLP have changed since last school year (or happen to change at any point throughout this school year), please access our instructions for updating this information at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/instructions.htm>.



Notice of School Breakfast Availability



School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) must inform eligible families of the availability of reimbursable breakfasts served under the SBP. This must be done just prior to or at the beginning of the school year in the informational packets that are sent to each household with free and reduced price meal applications for the new school year, as well as through reminders sent multiple times throughout the school year. Schools can provide reminders to children through their public address systems in schools or through means normally used to communicate with the households of enrolled children. Other acceptable outreach activities may include developing or disseminating printed or electronic material to families and school children. For example, information about the SBP should be posted

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

on the school's Website. We encourage SFAs to use the information in *Expanding Your School Breakfast Program*, the SBP Toolkit found at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Breakfast/expansion/default.htm, as a resource for outreach and expansion activities.

Verification Process Requirements

Verification is the confirmation of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). By Nov. 15 each year, each local educational agency (LEA) must have select and verified a sample of applications from all approved household applications on file as of Oct. 1. The verification process is a requirement for LEAs participating in the NSLP and/or SBP programs.

Verification Timeline

- **Oct. 1** – Count number of **approved household applications** on file.
- **Last Operating of October** – Count number of eligible students by category (Categorically eligible, Free SNAP/TANF, Free Income, and Reduced Income).
- **Nov. 15** – LEA must have completed verification process.
- **Dec. 15** – Submit Verification Summary Report.

The Illinois State Board of Education will be hosting a Webinar on the verification process on Sept. 21. To register, please visit www1.gotomeeting.com/register/247651848.

For additional information, questions or guidance on the verification process, please call (800) 545-7892 or visit our Website at www.isbe.net/nutrition/sbn_handbook/verification.pdf.

Claim Common Cent\$



Funding & Disbursement Services Division
Phone 217/782-5256
Fax 217/782-3910

Calculating the Average Dairy Charge

If you have sites that participate in the Free Milk Program, you are required to report the 'Average dairy cost per ½ pint of all milk purchased this month' on the site claim. To calculate this figure, add together the dairy charge for all ½ pints of milk purchased for the month and divide by the number of ½ pints purchased. Often flavored milk and white milk have different prices of costs. See example below:

Purchased 500 ½ pints of white milk at \$0.20 each = \$100.00
Purchased 1200 ½ pints of chocolate milk at \$0.25 each = \$300.00
Total cost of milk = \$400.00 (\$100 + \$300)
Total ½ pints purchased = 1700 (500 + 1200)
Average Dairy Charge = \$.2352 (\$400/1700)

In the above example, on the monthly site claim, report \$.2352 for the Average Dairy cost. Be sure to keypunch **.2352**. You must type the decimal point and up to four decimal places. You will be reimbursed for the number of free milks multiplied by the dairy charge that you enter. The system will not allow charges over \$.9999.

Reminder-Federal Fiscal Year October through September (Claims)

As you start submitting claims for the 2011-12 school year remember that the programs and claims run on a Federal Fiscal Year of October through September. This means that September and prior claims are **FY 2011** and October and after claims are **FY 2012**. Be sure you select the correct Program Year when filing your claims online.

If you have any claim questions please contact Gladys Rothenberg or Sharon Hopson in Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

USDA foods

Warehouse/Delivery Rates

For School Year 2011-12 the base delivery rates will remain unchanged. In Zone 1, which consists of Jo Davies, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Lake, Carroll, Ogle, DeKalb, Kane, Cook, Whiteside, Lee, LaSalle, Kendall, DuPage, Will and Grundy counties, the delivery rate per 100 pounds is as follows: dry= \$9.41, refrigerated = \$11.73, and frozen = \$12.52. In Zone 2, which is all other counties, the delivery rate per 100 pounds is as follows: dry= \$10.18, refrigerated = \$11.42, and frozen = \$13.51. As in previous years, depending on the price of diesel fuel, you may be subject to a surcharge. The surcharge is based on the average price of diesel fuel as reported by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The surcharge is 1 percent of the delivery charge for every \$.10 increase in diesel fuel over the base rate of \$2.41 per gallon. Currently (as of August 2011) the fuel surcharge is 16 percent.



Reprocessed Commodity Product Exhibit

The annual reprocessed commodity product exhibit is right around the corner. If you have never diverted commodities to a processor before or divert every year, this event is a must to learn about all that is available to you in processing commodities. The Illinois School Nutrition Association (ISNA) is sponsoring the event planned for Oct. 12, 2011, at the Peoria Civic Center. Information for this event is posted on the ISNA's Website, www.ilsna.net.

This exhibit is a great place to try different commodities that will be offered for the 2013 school year. There is no cost if you are an ISNA member (\$25 for non-members) and you do not have to divert commodities to a processor to attend. ISBE will give a brief presentation before the taste tests begin explaining the commodity divert process. Please plan on attending this informative and product filled event.

Read the *USDA Foods Update*

The quarterly newsletter, School Programs, USDA Foods Update, provides the latest updates, reminders, and tips on USDA Foods. Go to www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/news/schupdates.htm to download the newsletter.

Spotlight on Schools

Schools Play their Part in Fighting Hunger for Children through the Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program

During the summer of 2011, the *Seamless Summer Option* saw an increase in the number of sites participating in the program. There were 105 sponsors that participated this summer, which remains consistent with last year. However, those districts opened the doors to 585 sites which was a 4.5 percent increase over the 560 sites in 2010.

In addition, 36 school districts participated as sponsors in the *Summer Food Service Program*, a slight decrease from 2010. However, the number of sites increased over 70 sites; a 21.1 percent increase over the prior year.

Together, a total of 141 school districts throughout Illinois served breakfast, lunch or snacks to children at over 1,033 school or community sites; which is a 10 percent increase over the previous year.

Visit the links below for a listing of schools that participated:

- www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/seamless_summer.htm
- www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm

HealthierUS School Challenge News

The HealthierUS School Challenge is U.S. Department of Agriculture's voluntary school nutrition and wellness initiative to improve student health and well-being. HUSSC rewards schools for excellence in promoting nutrition and physical activity. USDA's national goal to certify 1,250 schools by June 30, 2011, has been exceeded by 23 schools; 1,273 achieved this recognition.



Kudos to Illinois' 60 HUSSC certified schools representing five school districts. Schools participating in the challenge are recognized with Gold of Distinction, Gold, Silver or Bronze-level certification. Illinois boasts three Gold of Distinction, 14 gold, four silver, and 39 bronze certified schools. These schools are certified for four years. Challenge certification also includes monetary incentives for schools -- \$2,000 for Gold Award of Distinction, \$1,500 for Gold, \$1,000 for Silver and \$500 for Bronze, a plaque and national recognition and prestige. A special celebration to honor the HUSSC certified schools, effective June 30, 2011, will be held at the White House, South Lawn in October.

Take the *HealthierUS School Challenge* today! Go to <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/healthierUS/index.html> for the application, training and technical assistance, FAQs, tips from award winners, a calculator and more useful information. Contact cnp@isbe.net if you have any questions regarding the application.

To view the locations of schools that have received a HUSSC award by state, region and nationally, use the newly developed tool, Healthy Access Locator at www.healthyaccesslocator.com.



Celebrate First Farm to School Month in October



October marks the first National Farm to School Month. In 2010 Congress passed a bill making October, Farm to School Month; what are your school plans to celebrate? Farm to school can vary from serving local fresh produce in school meals, to school gardens, to education in the classrooms. This year's theme is "Bring a Farmer or Chef to School." Invite a local farmer or master gardener to visit your school and teach children about agriculture or invite a local chef to teach children about cooking with local fresh produce.

Resources:

Visit the following sites for useful information:

- The University of Illinois Extension Office is a great resource for schools. For more information on their services and locations, visit their Website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/>.
- Let's Move Campaign has a Chefs Move to Schools program, in which chefs that are interested in educating children on nutrition and food can sign up to volunteer their time. To view this list visit www.letsmove.gov/chefs-move-schools.
- Another great resource is a farm to school fact sheet, produced by the Farm to School Network, which is available at www.farmentoschoolmonth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/fact-sheet1.pdf.
- General information: www.farmentoschoolmonth.org

Whether your school already implements farm to school or not, October is a great month, to either kick start farm to school or celebrate the accomplishments that your school has already achieved. If you are conducting any great Farm to School events; we would love to hear about them, contact Lindsay Blough at lblough@isbe.net.

Power Panther Pizzazz

Put some pizzazz in a school special event this year with the USDA's Power Panther mascot costume. Power Panther communicates the important message to *Eat Smart. Play Hard*. Reserving the complimentary *Power Panther* costume through Nutrition Programs is simple. Just provide the anticipated date(s) of use, a contact person, your school name/district, the agreement number (XX-XXX-XXXX-XX), a phone number and an e-mail address to Joan Love via e-mail at jlove@isbe.net or

contact us at (217) 782-2491 or (800) 545-7892 with this information. Once we receive the above from your school, we will contact you to schedule the shipping of the costume. Schools may borrow the costume for a two-week period.

Use the Power Panther character costume to interact with your audiences through images in materials (stories, activity sheets, comics, songs) and as a walk-about character. Some of our Illinois Team Nutrition schools have successfully used it with nutrition education, health, wellness and Body Walk events.



McHenry County Annual Children's Health & Safety Fair, Crystal Lake

Fuel Up to Play 60 Funding Available to Help Schools Make Healthy Changes!

Fuel Up to Play 60, the in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council, Midwest and St. Louis Dairy Councils and the National Football League, in collaboration with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is helping to make wellness part of the game plan in Illinois schools. Funding opportunities (up to \$4,000) for **Fuel Up to Play 60** are available to K-12 schools enrolled in the program. The competitive, nationwide funding program is designed to help schools jumpstart and sustain healthy nutrition and physical activity improvements.

Mark your calendar now for upcoming application deadlines: Oct. 1, 2011; Dec. 1, 2011; Feb. 1, 2012; and June 1, 2012.

To learn more, download a step-by-step application worksheet and apply for funding; visit www.FuelUpToPlay60.com.

What's Cooking

Temperature, Not Color, Important Determinate of Ground Beef Safety

What You Need to Know About Safely Preparing Hamburgers

Here is an annual reminder of the importance of taking temperatures and not relying on the internal color of hamburger patties.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) continues to advise consumers to use a meat thermometer when cooking hamburger and not rely on the internal color of the meat to be sure it is safe to eat. Visual testing for clear juices is no longer sufficient.

Research indicates some ground meat may prematurely brown before a safe internal temperature of 160°F has been reached. Also, some lean ground beef, or ground beef that contains approved seasonings or flavorings such as spices and spice extractives, may remain pink at temperatures well above the 160°F final cooking temperature recommended for consumers.

To accurately measure the internal temperature of a ground beef patty, a food preparer must insert the thermometer through the side of the patty to the center. For more information about this subject or other food safety articles, visit the FSIS Website at www.fsis.usda.gov.

Recipes for Healthy Kids Available

The 15 semi-finalist recipes (five from each of the three categories of legumes, grains, and vegetables) which were selected through the USDA's Team Nutrition, Recipes for Healthy Kids contest, are available online at www.recipesforkidschallenge.com/submissions. Each of the standardized recipes includes a photo, and recipes with yields of six servings and 50 servings.

Watch Team Nutrition's Website at www.fns.usda.gov/TN/ this fall for an announcement on a new Recipe Book, featuring the 15 semi-final contest recipes as well.

The Melting Pot

Shortcuts to Successful Health and Fitness Fairs

Is your school(s) planning a health and fitness fair this year? As you begin to plan for the event, consider the following useful resources:

- A Guide to Organizing and Promoting Your Health Fair, www.aap.org/family/healthfairkit.htm (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- Eat Smart. Play Hard. Campaign, www.fns.usda.gov/eatsmartplayhard/default.htm
- Team Nutrition, <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/team.html>

Remember to start early, recruit volunteers, and have fun!

America Recycles Day in November



Does your school foodservice operation recycle, reuse and/or reduce? "America Recycles Day", planned on or near Nov. 15, 2011, is a national day to celebrate recycling program efforts. Whether it is cardboard, glass, plastic, trays or composting, school foodservice operations are key areas to implement recycling programs. Plan your recycling, reuse, reduce project and culminate them with a special event. Go to www.americarecyclesday.org. For further information, visit www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ARD_Overview.

Join The Outlook Newsletter List Serve

To receive monthly notices of *The Outlook* newsletter link, join *The Outlook* List Serve. Email: Outlook10-join@list.isbe.net and type only the e-mail address to be added in the message section. A confirmation will be sent to the e-mail address provided. School staff listed as the contact person on NSLP site and/or sponsor applications are already on *The Outlook* List Serve. For questions regarding *The Outlook* newsletter or list serve, please e-mail Joan Love at jlove@isbe.net or call 800/545-7892 (in Illinois) or 217/782-2491.

Calendar of Events – October 2011

National Farm to School Month

Complete the meal count edit prior to submission of the Claim for Reimbursement

Select verification sample size and begin confirmation and verification process

Begin On-Site Reviews (required for all multi-site sponsors) must be done annually-due February 11

Record number of *approved applications* (by category) for the Verification Summary Report; select sample size and begin verification process

5 International Walk to School Day (www.walktoschool.org)



10 Submit Claim for Reimbursement

10 Columbus Day—ISBE office closed



10–14 National School Lunch Week—*School Lunch-Let's Grow Healthy*



13–20 Make changes, if needed, for October commodity deliveries

16 World Food Day (www.worldfooddayusa.org/)

Last operating day in October—Record the number of *approved students* by ALL categories for the Verification Summary Report

The Outlook is published ten times per year, September through May, for those participating in School Nutrition Programs, by the Nutrition Programs, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001. FAX number 217/524-6124; TOLL FREE number 800/545-7892, <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/>, Christine Schmitt, Division Administrator.

Share this newsletter link with staff in your school.

www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/newsletters.htm.



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