

THE OUTLOOK

Your Guide to School-Based Child Nutrition Programs



November 2012

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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.

- November 20, 2012
- December 18, 2012
- January 15, 2013
- February 19, 2013
- March 19, 2013
- April 16, 2013
- May 21, 2013

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

Claims for Reimbursement - Due Dates

As you start submitting claims for the 2012-13 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 2012**, and October and subsequent claims are **FY 2013**. Be sure you select the correct Program Year when filing your claims online.

All original claims and upward revised claims must be submitted by sponsors within 60 calendar days of the end of the claiming month in order to be paid with program funds. Please refer to the full article regarding this policy change in the September Outlook for complete details.

<u>Claim Month</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
October	December 30
November	January 29
December	March 1 (February 29 if leap year)
January	April 1 (March 31 if leap year)
February	April 29
March	May 30
April	June 29
May	July 30
June	August 29
July	September 29
August	October 30
September	November 29

For question regarding claims, contact Funding and Disbursements Division at 217-782-5256.

Claiming for Reimbursement in WINS – Instructional Manual

Beginning with FY 2013 (October 2012), claims for the following child nutrition programs will be submitted via the State Board of Education's new Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS):

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Programs
- After-School Snack Program
- Special Milk Program

We anticipate activating the claims links in WINS on November 1. A claim instruction manual has been developed and is available on our website at <http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/wins-claim-inst.pdf>. Please share this manual with staff who will be submitting the monthly claims for reimbursement. Note too that although the new WINS system requires daily meal count data for the month, the data does not have to be entered into the system each day. The data may all be entered at the end of the month and submitted at that time.

For questions regarding:

- submission of claims, contact Funding and Disbursements at 217-782-5256.
- submission of your application to participate in these programs, contact Nutrition Programs Division at 217-782-2491.
- technical issues with WINS or access to WINS, contact Help Desk at 217-558-3600.

Is School Breakfast Required at Your School?

Each school year, the board of education of each public school district in this State shall implement and operate a School Breakfast Program (SBP) if a breakfast program does not currently exist, in accordance with federal guidelines in each school building within its district in which at least 40 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches based upon October data from the previous year. Much like the National School Lunch Program, reimbursement for School Breakfast Program is available. (Current rates: \$.27, \$1.25-1.55, and \$1.55-1.85 for each breakfast served to paid, reduced-price and free students, respectively.)

To determine if SBP is required in SY13-14, districts will need to look at data submitted for October 2012.

For further information on determining which sites are mandated to operate a School Breakfast Program, how to petition for an exemption, and the full text of this legislation, please visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/hb_756.htm.

The Scoop on Summer



A school district is required to implement a summer breakfast and/or lunch program for the duration of the summer school program in all schools where 50 percent or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals AND that have a summer school program. This applies to all schools that meet the above criteria, including those schools not currently participating in any federal Child Nutrition Program. There is an opt-out clause in the legislation, but it must be

completed by January 15. The legislation along with questions and answers are accessible at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer_regs_policies.htm (Public Act 96-0734).

Important Dates to Remember for Summer Food Service Program:

January 15

- ❖ Deadline to submit **written** *Opt-Out* Request to your regional superintendent of schools

February 15

- ❖ Deadline to develop and keep on file the district plan to conduct a summer lunch and/or breakfast program for each school where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals **AND** that have a summer school program
- ❖ Sign up for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) training (to be posted in December 2012) if participating in the SFSP. For more information on the SFSP, visit <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm>.

Prior to March 1

- ❖ Regional superintendent of schools must convene a public hearing to hear testimony from the school district and interested community members

March 1

- ❖ Deadline for regional superintendent to:
 - Inform the school district, in writing, of his or her decision, along with the reasons why the exemption was granted or denied
 - Provide a listing to the Nutrition Programs Division of all districts that applied to *opt-out*, along with the affected schools, whether the exemption was *granted* or *denied*, and the reasons for the action

April 1

- ❖ Deadline for the Illinois State Superintendent of Education to hear appeals on the decisions of regional superintendents of schools

Donating Leftover Foods

Schools should plan and prepare meals with the goal of serving one lunch and one breakfast (if applicable) per child per day. However with fluctuations in attendance and participation, leftovers are likely. If a school has leftovers on a frequent basis, menu planning and production practices should be adjusted to reduce leftovers. All alternatives permitted by Program regulations and State and local health and sanitation codes should be exhausted before discarding food. Options may include using leftovers in subsequent meal services, offering "sharing tables," or transferring food to other sites. Where it is not feasible to reuse leftovers, excess food may be donated to a nonprofit organization, such as a community food bank or homeless shelter which is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501 (c)(3), e.g. soup kitchens or homeless shelters. This is called gleaning. The cost of such donated food is an allowable operating cost of the school foods service account. If you choose to donate the leftovers, ensure you document the quantity and costs of the foods that were donated, as well as the name(s) of the receiving organization(s) and follow your local health department rules and regulations.

Sharing tables are carts and/or tables where children can place unconsumed food and beverage items (pre-packaged food and beverages, unopened wrapped food and beverages, or food items with a peel) that they choose not to eat/drink. These tables provide an opportunity for other children to take additional helpings of food or beverages at no cost to them for their consumption at school during the meal period. Any food or beverage that is served to a student as part of a reimbursable meal, may not be returned to the food service inventory and used as a component in a future reimbursable meal. If a school has a large quantity of food being set on the sharing table by the students, they should consider implementing Offer versus Serve. While the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance has permitted the use of both sharing tables and the recycling of food and beverages, including milk, State food safety laws are more restrictive; therefore, **this practice is only acceptable when in compliance with applicable State and local health codes. Check with your county health office.**

SY12-13 Sponsor & Site Applications - Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS)

A new system is being introduced this year for schools to submit their annual applications to participate in school meal programs as well as submit claims for reimbursement. As of October 1, 2012, the Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) will replace the current Application and Claim Entry System (ACES).

If you have already submitted all parts of your sponsor and site questionnaires / applications in WINS, you will know you are in approved status by logging into WINS and checking your WINS Dashboard. If you do not have any sponsor or site ALERTS (maroon box on left of screen), you are in approved status.

If you have not already submitted your sponsor and site questionnaires/applications in WINS, instructions are available at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *What's New*. Sponsor and site application(s) are to be completed by September 28, 2012. Local IWAS Administrators have been granted automatic access to the new WINS system. All other current Child Nutrition - ACES users must sign up for the new WINS system. To sign up for WINS, have your staff log into IWAS, then go to their IWAS System Listing and click the "**Want to sign up for other systems?**" link on the bottom right hand side of the screen. Then click the "sign up now" button next to "Web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS)". After submitting the request to sign up for WINS, the local IWAS Administrator (shown at bottom of the screen) will approve or deny the request.

Please use Application and Claims Entry System (ACES) to complete your July, August, and September 2012 claims. Use WINS starting with October 2012 claims.

If you have questions related to:

- gaining access to IWAS or submitting your WINS application, contact ISBE Helpdesk at **(217)-558-3600**.
 - your school-based child nutrition program, contact ISBE Nutrition and Wellness Programs at **(217)-782-2491** or cnp@isbe.net.
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USDA Required 6 Cents Per Lunch Performance Based Reimbursement Effective for CERTIFIED School Food Authorities October 1, 2012

The HHFKA provides for an [additional 6 cents of reimbursement](#) for each lunch meal served in districts that have been certified. The additional 6 cents of reimbursement is available for lunches claimed beginning October 1, 2012, but cannot be awarded until all sites within the district are certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). **This certification process is REQUIRED for ALL School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program.** The required documentation (menu, menu worksheet, simplified nutrient assessment/nutritional analysis, and attestation statement) must be **electronically** submitted to ISBE (ns16cent@isbe.net) for review and certification.

In order to assist SFAs in Illinois with this process, ISBE, Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division would like to identify the necessary steps and resources for SFAs to be able to achieve this 6 cent certification:

Step One: Plan Menus that Meet the NEW USDA Food Based Meal Pattern.

The USDA Food Based Meal Pattern is now implemented in all participating National School Lunch Program schools. The new meal pattern includes larger portions of whole grain rich grains, fruits and vegetables from a variety of vegetable subgroups. The new meal pattern is based on 3 grade groups: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Visit our website, <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/ns1p-hhfka-fbmp-ns.htm> for meal pattern specific information and marketing materials for parents, students, school administrators as well as school food service professional.

Step Two: Select one week (5 day for traditional schools, 7 days for RCCI facilities) School Lunch Menu (and School Breakfast, if you operate SBP) (October 1, 2012 or later) to use for the 6 cent certification process.

Step Three: Gather the necessary materials to complete the 6 cent certification process which includes the following items:

- One 5-Day School Week Menu for Lunch at least October 1, 2012 or later
- One 5-Day School Week Menu for **Breakfast** at least October 1, 2012 or later, if applicable
- Daily Breakfast (if applicable) and Lunch Production Records - Please note that if completing for a week in the future, the production record will NOT be completely filled out, but item name, portion size and projected servings will be available.
- Nutrient Facts Information for Lunch Items
- Standardized Recipes including Nutrient Analysis for Lunch Items

Step Four: Review information related to the completion of the 6 cent certification process.

USDA Worksheet Training Videos: A series of "how to" videos from USDA on how to complete the USDA-developed menu worksheets and simplified nutrient assessment tool are now available. They are posted on [IISBE's 6 cent certification website](#).

Step Five: Complete the 6 cent certification process materials.

In-Person Technical Assistance on 6 Cent Certification Materials: Staff will be available at various locations throughout the state in September and October to provide technical assistance in submission of the required documentation. School staff will be

expected to bring one week of lunch and breakfast, if applicable, menus that meet the meal pattern, production records, nutrient information, and standardized recipes to input into the required menu worksheets. Dates and locations are now available online for [registration](#). A map will be available in the near future to assist schools in locating a in person location close to your school. Once you submit the online registration, we will provide you a specific time for your staff to attend. Please note that this is one on one technical assistance time (generally one hour) for our division staff to provide assistance for the school staff to complete this process. Please register only 1 person per SFA, but please feel free to bring up to a total of 5 staff with you.

Step Six: Electronically submit the menu worksheets, simplified nutrient assessment tool/nutrient analysis, and attestation statement to ISBE at nsl6cent@isbe.net. Once submitted, please allow up to 60 days for staff review.

Verification of Household Eligibility Applications

- October 1—Count number of **approved applications** on file by category, and begin verification process. Applications that were to be counted are those that were approved for free or reduced benefits based on income or a SNAP or TANF ID number being provided on the application. This count should be taken no later than the close of business on October 1.
Prior to doing the application count, it was recommended that all LEAs access the Electronic Direct Certification system to directly certify as many students as possible. LEAs should have also tried to directly certify students whose current eligibility status for free or reduced price meals was based on the use of a household eligibility application. **Any students that can be transferred to direct certification status** should not have had their household eligibility application included in the October 1, application count because they would then be considered to a directly certified student.
- **Last operating day of October—Count number of ALL free and reduced-price eligible students by category.** This information will be needed when the Verification Summary Report (VSR) is completed. **ALL** schools in the National School Lunch Program (including Provision and CEO schools) will need to be prepared to provide student counts.
- November 15—Ensure verification process is complete.
- December 17—Deadline to submit VSR. VSR will be available in early November.

Verification efforts are not required:

- For children certified under the Direct Certification Process including children documented as eligible migrant, runaway, homeless, or Head Start
- For children in residential child care institutions(RCCIs) except for locations that have applications for day students attending the institution
- In schools only participating in the Special Milk Program
- In schools only participating in Illinois Free programs
- In schools in which all students are served with no separate charge for food service and no special cash assistance is claimed; i.e., non-pricing programs claiming only the paid rate of reimbursement
- In LEAs in which all schools participate in Provisions 1, 2, or 3, except in those years in which applications are taken for all students in attendance; i.e., the base year

- In LEAs in which all schools participate in the Community Eligibility Option

For complete step by step instructions on how to complete the verification process please visit http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/forms_sbn.htm.

School District Policy on Outstanding School Food Service Balances

In Illinois, policies on outstanding school food service balances are set at the school district level. Such policies must adhere to USDA regulations and instructions. It is advisable to limit charges per student to a relatively small amount. The term “charging” refers to all forms of exchange of verbal or signed agreement for payment of a meal after the service of the meal. For example, a school could establish \$10 or five meals as the maximum amount that a child can charge to their account.

Per USDA guidance, students eligible for *reduced-price or paid* meals must be provided a meal if they have money at the point of sale to pay for the current meal. Schools may deny a reduced-price or paid student if the student does not provide the required payment for that meal. Students eligible for *free* meals must be provided a reimbursable meal even if the student owes money for a la carte items or second meals purchased.

In cases of meals being charged, a written notice must be sent to households regarding account balance (i.e. \$11), school policy (provide information regarding the policy), and date (i.e., January 10, XXXX) on which adverse actions will go into effect (i.e. meals/food/beverages will no longer be able to be charged). The date provided should allow the household sufficient time to pay the balance due.

Any collection procedures or resources available to the SFA may be used for collection of debt including collection agencies. Just a reminder, per the USDA, students eligible for free meals sometimes accrue debt due to purchasing a la carte items and those students must receive their reimbursable meal; however, a la carte items should be handled according to the school’s policy on student accounts.

Finally, policies must be implemented and followed consistently. To ensure there is no overt identification of free or reduced-price eligible students, schools are encouraged to use the same procedures for all students, including full-price paid students, when dealing with benefit issuance documentation, outstanding food service account and discipline.

Denying, Delaying or Changing Meals as Discipline

Per USDA regulation, denial of meals and milk as a disciplinary action against any child enrolled in a school participating in a federal Child Nutrition Program is prohibited. If the withholding of meals or milk is the disciplinary action or the disciplinary action *directly* results in the loss of meals or milk, it is not allowable e.g., a student is suspended from school during the meal or milk periods only. However, if the disciplinary action *indirectly* results in the loss of meals or milk, it is allowable; e.g., a student is suspended from school.

Additionally, as long as there is no consequent discrimination against persons with disabilities or other protected groups, schools may delay meal/milk service or change meal components as a form of discipline. Delaying meal/milk service as a disciplinary action may involve serving outside the normally designated period or serving in an unusual location, such as a classroom or detention area. Changing meal components as a disciplinary action often takes the form of

substituting peanut butter or cheese sandwiches for the normal entrée. This is not recommended by USDA or ISBE, although it is permitted.

However, when changing meal components, the required components must still be served, and in Offer versus Serve situations, the full range of component choices must still be offered. This means that Food-Based Menu Planning Approach schools may not provide only a three-item bag lunch. The State Agency does not encourage substitution of meal components. The menu planning process is designed to meet overall nutrition guidelines over a week. Adding, deleting or replacing food components may result in the menu planning process not meeting weekly nutritional guidelines.

The Melting Pot

Illinois School Breakfast Week & American Education Week - November 11-17, 2012

The School Breakfast Program (SBP), permanently established in 1975, is celebrated during Illinois School Breakfast Week (ISBW), November 11 to 17, 2012, to acknowledge this Child Nutrition program's contribution to the nutritional needs of Illinois students.

ISBW is celebrated with American Education Week, to demonstrate the demonstrated relationship of nutrition with academic performance. Visit this site for further information on American Education Week <http://www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm>

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's recently published letter to the education community encourages schools to increase the participation of students in breakfast. at www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/usde-bkfst-letter0912.pdf.

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn's promotion of School Breakfast Challenge:
<http://www.nokidhungry.org/blog/news/2012/10/governor-quinn-encourages-schools-participate-illinois-school-breakfast-challenge>

To learn more about expanding breakfast and alternative delivery methods:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/expansion/default.htm>
<http://www.livestrong.com/article/460499-does-eating-breakfast-help-students-in-school/>
<http://school.fueluptoplay60.com/tools/nutrition-education/view.php?id=23445377>

To read about Illinois' mandate requiring public schools with 40% or greater free and reduced-price population to offer school breakfast and what funding is available:
http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/national_school_lunch.htm.

To learn about earning cash prizes for increased school breakfast participation:
<http://il.nokidhungry.org/school-breakfast>.

Summer Food Service Summit – November 9, 2012 – Tinley Park, IL

The goal of the Summer Food Summit is to connect sponsors from around the state with each other and the resources necessary to reach more children and their families.

Summit presentations will include:

- The latest participation data from summer of 2012
- Information on free outreach materials for all sponsors and sites
- Community collaboration models and ideas
- Grant opportunities for summer of 2013

This will be your chance to network with fellow sponsors from around Illinois to discuss ideas and problem-solve challenges and learn about exciting new developments for Illinois for Summer of 2013. Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/sfsp-summit-flyer12.pdf>.

Recipes for Healthy Kids Available Online



Let's Move in Association with USDA has announced that the *Recipes for Healthy Kids* are available online and that hard copies will be available to Child Nutrition Programs soon. Students and chefs developed these recipes through the national Recipe for Healthy Kids contest. The standardized recipes are for use in schools, day care homes and child care centers. Kudos to the Grand Prize winner and Midwest Region recipe "porcupine sliders" which features ground turkey from a school in Richfield, Minnesota, near the Twin Cities.

Download the recipes at <http://www.teamnutrition.usda.gov>.

Grants Galore!

Champions for Healthy Kids Grant: December 3, 2012

General Mills announced its *Champions for Healthy Kids* Grant of \$10,000 to 50 organizations working to improve nutrition and physical fitness behaviors for youth (ages 2-18). Schools, after school programs, daycares, community-based organizations and governmental agencies are the target audiences. The awards will be announced in May 2013. For more information, visit http://www.generalmills.com/Responsibility/Community_Engagement/Grants/Champions_for_healthy_kids.aspx.

Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP60): January 15, 2013

Fuel Up to Play 60 is a program founded by the National Dairy Council and National Football League, in collaboration with the USDA, which empowers students to take charge in making small, everyday changes at school. Fuel Up to Play 60 has issued a call for applications for grant funds to local schools to receive up to \$4,000 to increase:

- student awareness of the importance of healthy eating and increased physical activity;
- student access to and consumption of nutrient-rich foods, including low-fat and fat-free dairy, fruits, vegetables and whole grains;
- student opportunities for and participation in physical activity in school;
- sustainable changes in making schools a healthier place.

These funds can be used to expand existing initiatives in a school or to roll out a new program. Schools must participate in the National School Lunch Program and be enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to apply. For further information about applying for the grant see <http://beyondbreakfast.org/fuel-play-60-funds-october-1-2012-application-deadline/>.

Illinois Association for Health, PE, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) Program Enhancement Grant: February 15, 2013

Grants up to \$4,000, for IAHPERD members only, for a proposed project that will enhance, initiate, or continue an educational HPERD program. For details, go to <http://www.iahperd.org/>

Let's Move to School Salad Bars-ongoing

Consider applying for a salad bar through the Let's Move to school Salad Bars at <https://saladbars2schools.org/apply>. Schools that are HealthierUS School Challenge certified receive top priority for this grant.

Illinois Breakfast Challenge 2012-2013

Breakfast is not just for testing week. Children who eat a nutritious breakfast tend to perform better in school, have a better attendance record, and exhibit fewer behavior problems. Therefore, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Midwest Dairy Council, and the Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign are proud to sponsor the 2012-2013 Illinois School Breakfast Challenge.

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 <http://il.nokidhungry.org/school-breakfast>.

Annual Green Ribbon Schools Award Program – December 17

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>.

For the second year, Illinois is proud to be participating in the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools program. The program recognizes schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening. A comprehensive approach incorporates environmental learning with improving environment and health impacts.

Participating schools will be scored on their high achievement in the following three pillars:

- Reduce environmental impact and costs; and
- Improve the health and wellness of students and staff; and

- Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Schools demonstrating exemplary achievement in all three pillars will receive the highest rankings.

Applications are available at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/green_ribbon and are due at the Illinois State Board of Education by Dec. 17. **Please note:** If you close the application without completing it you will not be able to go back and finish. For your convenience we suggest you use the materials at this link : http://web-dev.isbe.state.il.us/green_ribbon/ as your draft copy so you can return to it and continue working on it.

For more information, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html>.

Where to Locate Wellness Grant Opportunities

Action for Healthy Kids, Resources are posted at: <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/schools/>.

Center for Health and Health Care in Schools-grant opportunities for schools are posted at: www.healthinschools.org.

The SPARK Grant Finder, is a great resource for locating national and state specific grants for your Physical Education, After school, Early Childhood, or Coordinated School Health program. Grants can be used for curriculum, teacher training, or equipment. www.sparkpe.org/grants/grantfunding-resources/.

Whole Grain Council Kicks Off 6th Annual Whole Grains Challenge

Starting today, “Veteran” and “Rookie” schools are invited to step up to the plate to compete in the Whole Grains Challenge, an initiative of Boston-based 501(c)3 educational non-profit Oldways and its Whole Grains Council (WGC). With new USDA school food rules requiring at least half the grains served be “whole grain-rich,” this year’s Challenge will encourage K-12 schools to share their success stories for promoting whole grain consumption. The grand prize, awarded to two schools, will be a visit from a guest chef to hold a staff workshop on making whole grain kid-friendly dishes.

Any U.S. school participating in the National School Lunch Program can compete in one of two categories. “Veteran” schools are those that jumped into the whole grain game long before the new rules came out and are trailblazers in the cafeteria. “Rookies” are schools that have ramped up quickly to meet the July 1 requirements, are motivated to learn but could use some help finding the best ways to cook and serve whole grains. All are encouraged to compete in the Challenge.

“Our 2012 Whole Grains Challenge encourages Veterans and Rookies alike to share their tips, stories and recipes to help guide hungry kids toward delicious whole grain choices from pizza and pilaf to sandwiches and salads,” said Cynthia Harriman, Director of Food and Nutrition Strategies for the Whole Grains Council and Oldways. “Now is the time for schools to show off their creativity in the cafeteria and inspire others to get an A+ when it comes to

meeting the new school lunch regulations and keeping students happy and satisfied.”

Five winners will be chosen from each of our categories: Veterans and Rookies. From these winners a grand prize recipient will be chosen in each category to receive a guest chef workshop on making whole grain kid-friendly dishes. Entries will be judged according to their potential for helping improve understanding of how to bring more whole grains to schools. Entries should detail a school's successes with whole grains, and any remaining barriers. The Whole Grains Council will comb through all entries, pick the best ones, and then share them in a booklet of Whole Grain School Success Strategies – a booklet that will benefit schools and kids everywhere.

Schools can take part in this year's Challenge by visiting the Whole Grains Challenge page from October 1st to November 1st and submitting their entry via the online entry form. 2012 winners will be announced in mid-November.

The Challenge comes on the heels of this year's Whole Grains Month in September when consumers celebrated with a Whole Grain Deal of the Day. This fun-filled month-long calendar was chock full of whole grain daily deals – from contests and coupons to free samples and more. Whole Grains Month was created by the Whole Grains Council to build awareness of these healthy, delicious whole grains.

As an added bonus, to help schools contend with the new school rules and to inspire more whole grain recipes, the Whole Grains Council created a new foodservice recipe collection based on the successes of past Whole Grains Challenge entrants. The Whole Grains Recipes for Foodservice 2012 Edition is a free, downloadable resource; with dishes like Saffron Farro Risotto and classics like Brown Rice Pilaf it is sure to encourage even more whole grain recipes and happy, healthy kids.

For more information about the Whole Grains Challenge, please visit:
<http://wholegrainscouncil.org/get-involved/2012-whole-grains-challenge>

Professional Development

6th Annual Illinois School Wellness and Recognition Conference Slated for May 3, 2013

Save the date of Friday, May 3, 2013, for the 6th Annual Illinois School Wellness and Recognition Conference at the Springfield Hilton. Watch the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division website at www.isbe.net/nutrition for speaker and session announcements, registration information and more after the New Year.

Calendar of Events

November 2012

Submit Sponsor and Site Applications for SY12-13 using WINS

Register for NSLP 6 Cent Menu Certification Technical Assistance Clinic – held throughout state in November - <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cns/calendar/asp/eventlist.asp>

8 Summer Food Service Summit – Tinley Park
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/sfsp-summit-flyer12.pdf>.

10 Submit monthly claim for reimbursement
<http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/wins-claim-inst.pdf>

12-16 IL School Breakfast Week
<http://www.il.nokidhungry.org/files/library/files/marketing-pr-presentation.ppt>

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

20 ISBE’s “Talk It Up Tuesday” Webinar – 2:00–3:00 pm
Register at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition> under *Upcoming Webinars*

27 HealthierUS School Challenge Grant/Team Nutrition Training 12 Webinar - Watch for registration information after November 15 at www.isbe.net/nutrition



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