

The OUTLOOK

Nutrition Programs

Illinois State Board of Education

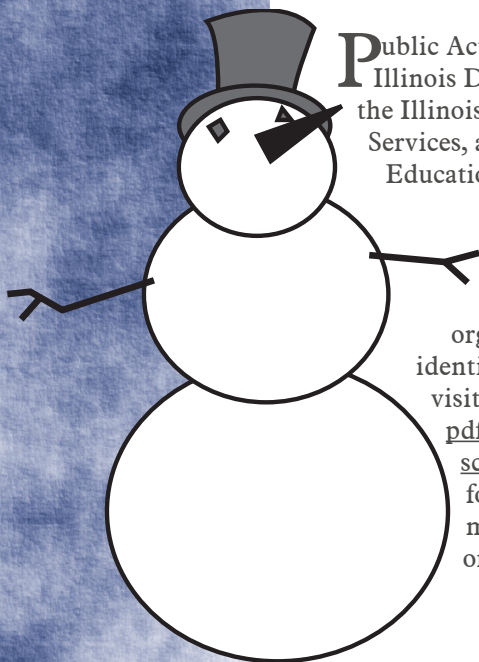
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Proposed Rules Regulating Food Sales in Elementary and Middle Schools—Comment Period

The proposed rules regulating the sale of foods outside of the federal food programs will be published in the Illinois Register on January 6, 2006. The public comment period will run for 45 calendar days. The ending date for public comment is February 20, 2006. Comments about the proposed amendments can be submitted by email to rules@isbe.com or by regular mail to Sally Vogl, Agency Rules Coordinator, 100 North First Street, S-493, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001. Please check the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE's) website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm> for further information.

School Wellness Policy Task Force

Public Act 94-0199 required the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois State Board of Education to form an interagency working group to convene a School Wellness Policy Task Force consisting of members of various organizations and agencies as identified in the legislation. Please visit http://www.isbe.net/news/pdf/school_wellness_task_force.pdf for a complete list of the members and the agencies/organizations they represent.



bulletin board

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REMINDER! Verification Summary Report Due January 18, 2006

For instructions on accessing and completing the Verification Summary Report, go to www.isbe.net/nutrition and in the Resources box, click on *Instructions for Online Applications and Reports*.

Help Fight Hunger This Summer—Utilize the Summer Food Service Program in Your Community

Are there children in your community who will go hungry this summer? Children from low-income families are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. But those programs end when school ends for the summer. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps fill the hunger gap.

Illinois, among other states, has not participated in this program as fully as possible. During summer 2005, Illinois had 115 sponsors and 1,424 sites that participated in SFSP. However, the federal reimbursement dollars declined approximately 10 percent from summer 2004, which means there were less meals served this past summer.

Who can be a sponsor?

- School food authorities
- Local government entities
- Private nonprofit organizations
- Colleges that participate in the National Youth Sports Program
- Non-profit residential camps

SFSP is the single largest federal resource available for local sponsors who want to combine a feeding program with a summer activity program. The above type of organizations may apply to The Illinois State Board of Education, who administers SFSP, to sponsor the program. All sponsors receive training before starting the program to learn how to plan, operate, and monitor a successful food service program.

Why not take advantage of this valuable resource to provide nutritious meals to children in your community? In addition to becoming a sponsor, you can partner with sponsors in your community to *adopt* a site.

Make a difference!!! Make your community leaders aware of the Summer Food Service Program. You can help bring this program into your community and reach those hungry children this summer.

More information may be found at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Bianco at 800/545-7892.

Emergency Care for Choking Poster Coming Soon

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) notified our office that all food service establishments, including school cafeterias, are required to post an *Emergency Care for Choking* poster. Posters are provided at no cost by the Illinois Department of Public Health. ISBE, in partnership with IDPH, will send each school a poster. These posters should arrive in schools shortly. Please ensure this or a similar choking poster is posted in your cafeterias upon receipt.

Claim Common Cent\$

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



Batch Files

For sponsors who submit site claims using a batch file please note the batch file format has been updated to include fields for the area eligible Snack Enrollment and claim contact information (name, phone number, etc.). Please review the instructions/layout for the batch files on our website and update your formats as necessary.

Useful Reminders:

- The federal fiscal (FY) year runs October through September, so be sure you are on the correct fiscal year when submitting claims. For example, September 2005 claims are in FY2005 and October 2005 claims are in FY2006.
- It is recommended claims be submitted by the 10th of each month. We process claims for payment each week, so the sooner you submit your claim, the sooner you will receive reimbursement. Do NOT wait until the last day to submit claims. If you run into problems with the claim or your computer, you may not have time to get the claim submitted by the due date. Claims must be submitted no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the claiming month in order to be paid. Below is a chart detailing when claims are due each month.

<u>Fiscal Year 2006</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
November 2005	January 29, 2006
December 2005	March 1, 2006
January 2006	April 1, 2006
February 2006	April 29, 2006
March 2006	May 30, 2006
April 2006	June 29, 2006
May 2006	July 30, 2006
June 2006*	August 29, 2006
July 2006	September 29, 2006
August 2006	October 30, 2006
September 2006	November 29, 2006

*June 2006 claims are due August 29, 2006, for federal funding. If you wish to receive full funding for the Illinois Free Breakfast/Lunch Program, please submit your claim by July 31, 2006.

Food Distribution

Illinois Commodity System Updated

In January you will notice a different look to the Illinois Commodity System (ICS). The system has been updated, but the functionality is the same. The *Illinois Commodity System Instruction Manual* has been updated as well. The manual is available on the Food Distribution Program website at www.isbe.net/business.htm.

School Year 2007 Annual Commodity Order

It is that time of year again! Beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2006, ICS is available for you to place your Annual Commodity Order for school year (SY) 2007. The deadline to place your Annual Commodity Order for SY07 is **Friday, February 3**.

Food Service and Nutrition

Plan to Take the HealthierUS Challenge

Calling all elementary Team Nutrition Schools in Illinois! The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the HealthierUS Challenge in 2004 to recognize schools taking leadership roles in helping students learn to

make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices. The HealthierUS Challenge encourages schools to apply for recognition for achieving results in positive directions with quality meals, nutritious environments, promoting physical activity, and more! Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.html> for the application, recognition information, submittal procedures, and more!

National School Breakfast Week—Go Places With School Breakfast

Mark your calendars for March 6-10, 2006, for National School Breakfast Week (NSBW). Visit the School Nutrition Association's website at www.schoolnutrition.org for materials, recipes, menus, informational flyer, promotion ideas, student activity sheets, and a fact sheet about breakfast. The theme is *Go Places With School Breakfast*. Have fun and be creative. Celebrate NSBW in your schools this year.

Promoting Fruits and Vegetables in Schools

The Produce for Better Health Foundation (PBH) has developed a document entitled *Promoting Fruits and Vegetables in Schools: Wellness Policy Opportunities* to help schools increase opportunities for their students to eat more fruits and vegetables as part of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act's Wellness Policy requirement.

Some recommended policies to promote consumption of fruits and vegetable include the following:

- Encourage salad bars
- Market fruits and vegetables
- Offer different fruits and vegetables during the week (fresh, canned, frozen, and dried)
- Provide nutrition education
- Serve fruit and vegetables as snacks

The document is available at <http://www.pbhfoundation.org/pulse/policy/programs/>.



Grants, Awards, and Honors

Funding Still Available for State School Breakfast Start-Up Grants

Have you started a New School Breakfast Program this year or plan to start a program? If so, you are eligible to receive up to \$3,500 per school in state funds to cover start-up costs. Grant funds may be used to purchase materials, supplies, and equipment as well as other costs associated with program planning and promotion. To view the grant application, go to http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/breakfast_state.htm. Simply print and complete the forms and mail to Illinois State Board of Education, Nutrition Programs Division, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777. If you have any questions or need additional information, contact Sandy Dunkel at 800/545-7892 or via email at sdunkel@isbe.net.

Training, Tips and Tools

New Training for School Food Authorities Who Contract for Meal Services

The Nutrition Programs Division is offering a new workshop: *Contracting for School Meal Services in the National School Lunch Program: The Invitation for Bid and Contract Process*. This informative workshop is designed to assist school food authorities (SFAs) who contract for meal services with a food service management company or meal vendor in meeting all requirements associated with the Invitation for Bid and Contract process. Attendees will better understand the new three-step document submission and review process and receive hands-on training in developing Invitation for Bid and Contract documents to help meet federal and state regulations and statutes.

All SFAs conducting a new procurement for school meal services for the 2006-2007 school year are highly encouraged to attend. SFAs considering contracting for school meal services should also attend. Attendees must be employees of SFA (school or district). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and workshops will be held from 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Preregistration is required. To preregister, go to <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm>.

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Date	Location
January 12, 2006	Holiday Inn Express Palatine/ Arlington Heights 1550 East Dundee Road Palatine, IL 60074
January 13, 2006	Holiday Inn Select Hotel & Convention Center 18501 South Harlem Avenue Tinley Park, IL 60477
January 20, 2006	Illinois Education Association Professional Development Center 3440 Liberty Drive Springfield, IL 62704

Get Ready for WOW (Windows of Wellness) Workshops!

Windows of Wellness (WOW) will be the theme of this year's annual school-based Child Nutrition Programs administrative workshops scheduled throughout Illinois during June 2006. Workshop topics will include Local Wellness Policies, the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, recent changes in USDA Civil Rights requirements, food safety and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), what to expect during an Administrative Review, and much more.

The workshops will be held at the following locations from 8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. A light lunch will also be served.

June 6, 2006—Effingham
June 7, 2006—Carbondale
June 8, 2006—Fairview Heights
June 13, 2006—Jacksonville
June 14, 2006—Rock Island
June 15, 2006—Bloomington
June 27, 2006—Rockford
June 28, 2006—Arlington Heights
June 29, 2006—Oak Lawn

So mark your calendars and check the Nutrition Programs website for specific workshop information and to preregister (required) at <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/workshops.htm>. These workshops are guaranteed to WOW all who attend!

Action for Healthy Kids Reports Free to Download

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) recently posted two reports related to school wellness practices and nutrition and physical activity. A brief summary of each report is below and full reports are available at www.actionforhealthykids.org.

The Learning Connection: The Value of Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity in Our School—Action for Healthy Kids' exclusive landmark report documents how the excessive rise in poor nutrition, inactivity, and weight problems is adversely affecting academic achievement and possibly costing schools millions of dollars each year. The report calls on schools to work with partners to take immediate action to address the issue, and points to current best practices in schools, school districts, and states.

An Action for Healthy Kids Report: Parents' Views on School Wellness Practices—AFHK conducted a national survey with parents of school-aged children to learn the views parents have on the issues of nutrition and physical activity. A gap exists between what parents believe is happening and what is actually happening with nutrition and physical activity in schools.

Public Service Website Stresses Handwashing

In this season of colds and flu, it is especially important to be vigilant about handwashing. Help educate your school community and students with this new website (www.scrubclub.org). The website is designed to focus on handwashing as a simple, yet highly effective way of fighting infectious and foodborne illness.

Free Poster Available on Weights of Commercially Prepared Grains/Breads

The National Food Service Management Institute has the *Weights of Commercially Prepared Grains/Breads* poster available. The poster is available for a free download at www.nfsmi.org.



Top Ten Places Germs Lurk in Schools

The National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) has released a list of the top ten places where germs lurk in two Michigan schools and the results may surprise you. It was **not** on student's hands.

Bacterial samples were collected directly from actual classrooms and cafeterias. The scientific report indicates a classroom drinking water fountain spigot contains over 2 million colony forming units (CFUs) while a student's hands contained 1,500.

The following are the published results of the *Top Ten Places Germs Lurk in Schools*:

Number	Sample Location	Total Aerobic Bacteria Per Square Inch (colony forming units/in ²)
1	Classroom Water Fountain Spigot	2,700,000 CFU/in ²
2	Cafeteria Water Fountain Spigot	62,000 CFU/in ²
3	Plastic Reusable Cafeteria Tray	33,800 CFU/in ²
4	Cold Water Faucet Handle	32,000 CFU/in ²
5	Hot Water Faucet Handle	18,000 CFU/in ²
6	Cafeteria Plate	15,800 CFU/in ²
7	Keyboard (classroom)	3,300 CFU/in ²
8	Toilet Seat	3,200 CFU/in ²
9	Student's Hand	1,500 CFU/in ²
10	Animal Cage	1,200 CFU/in ²

Visit http://www.nsf.org/business/newsroom/press_release.asp?p_id=11781 for more information.

Newly Refreshed National Agriculture Library Website Launched

USDA's Agriculture Research Service's National Agriculture Library (NAL) invites users to visit their refreshed and newly designed website at <http://www.nal.usda.gov>. The site offers information focused on the needs of specific audiences, including kids and teens, librarians, and USDA employees. New search features will also be included.

February

- Complete the Meal Count Edit prior to submission of the Claim for Reimbursement
- 1 Onsite review completion deadline
- 3 Annual Commodity Order Form deadline
- 5 Submit Claim for Reimbursement
- 13 Lincoln's Birthday—ISBE office Closed
- 13–20 Make changes, if needed, for March commodity deliveries
- 20 Washington's Birthday—ISBE office Closed