



THE OUTLOOK

A Monthly Newsletter for School Nutrition and Wellness Programs



ADMINISTRATIVE ALERTS

USDA Final Rule Summary Covers Local Wellness Policy Requirements

This month's issue of The Outlook includes a two-page document from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on local wellness policies. Any school that participates in a program authorized under the National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act must establish a local wellness policy.

On July 29, 2016, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service finalized regulations to create a framework and guidelines for written wellness policies. **The final rule requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to begin developing a revised local school policy during the 2016-17 school year.** LEAs must comply with the requirements of the final rule by June 30, 2017. The local wellness policy will be included in Administrative Reviews.

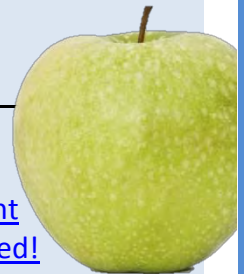
Please read and print pages 10 and 11 of this issue and begin the necessary planning. The "Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010: Summary of the Final Rule" document includes requirements, resources, and a model wellness policy.

Start Off the New School Year By Joining the USDA's Team Nutrition

Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program are invited to sign up as Team Nutrition Schools, and join an important network of schools working towards



WHAT'S NEW ONLINE?



- [SNP SY2016-17 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant – Selected schools announced!](#)
- [Reimbursement Rates](#)
- [Healthier Meals Cooking Classes announced – Register today!](#)
- [CACFP Updated Nutrition Standards for Meals and Snacks](#)
- [SNP SY 2016-2017 Household Eligibility Application Materials](#)
- [FY 2017 Income Eligibility Guidelines](#)

Visit the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at <http://isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm>.

healthier school nutrition and physical activity environments.

[Signing up to be a Team Nutrition School](#) is free and easy. Schools are asked to designate a Team Nutrition Leader and have the support of their school nutrition director and school principal.

By signing up, schools will:

- Affirm their commitment to helping students make healthier food choices and be more physically active.
- Have the opportunity to collaborate with other Team Nutrition Schools.

- Be the first to hear about new nutrition education and training materials developed under the Team Nutrition initiative.
- Receive special [nutrition education and promotion materials](#).
- Be eligible to apply for a HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms award, a voluntary certification of excellence with national recognition.
- Have the opportunity for their Team Nutrition activities to be highlighted on social media and in print publications.

To read more about Team Nutrition, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/join-team-become-team-nutrition-school>.

ATTENTION: All Participants of the DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program

Did your school designate money for the Department of Defense Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program for School Year 2017? If you are not sure, login to ICS, click on DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables under “Annual Order Forms.” The system will default you to SY 17, so just click “Next.” If “Yes” is marked, whoever placed the Annual USDA Foods Order for your school designated the amount to be used in the “Total PAL \$’s to spend on DoD” field. This amount is deducted from your Beginning PAL Balance, which you are entitled to for the USDA Foods program on ICS based on meals claimed in the National School Lunch Program. However, all orders for the DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program must be placed on FFAVORS.



If you do not have a login and password for FFAVORS, or if you are set up, but have trouble logging in, please contact Evan Newpher-Lockard at (215) 737-5373 or e-mail evan.newpher-lockard@dla.mil. His back-up is Deborah Peden at (215) 737-5487, deborah.peden@dla.mil.

The link to FFAVORS is <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/fresh-fruits-and-vegetables-order-receipt-system-ffavors>.

Orders can be placed weekly. There is a \$100 minimum order required for each delivery. (There is no case minimum.)

NEW: A goods receipt is required for ALL orders on FFAVORS within seven days of receipt. After seven days, you are blocked from placing any new orders. Please note you can only receipt full cases. If you do not receipt your order, you not only cannot place another order but you are holding up the vendor getting paid. At the end of each school year, please make a note to go into FFAVORS one last time to make sure all orders have been receipted and to closeout any outstanding issues. The “HELP” button at the top of the page on FFAVORS will take you to the ordering manual. The receipting instructions begin on Page 40.

In the event that you find damaged items after receipt, contact your vendor within three days! Keeping the item for pickup is highly encouraged unless otherwise instructed. DoD can only credit a full case, not half. VVP would prefer that you hold the entire case and contact your distributor so that can re-deliver in full or credit in full.

FFAVORS maintains the SFA’s fund balance for this program.

The DoD program is a “use-it-or-lose-it” program. If you put money in the program and do not use it, your school loses it! Near the end of each school year, any unused amount will be used by other schools participating in the program. This program is optional, so if you chose to participate and decide you no longer want to, please notify our office at your earliest convenience and we can make the change for you. After the change is made, you will need to increase your USDA Foods requests.

If you contract with a Food Service Management company, make sure they are aware of this and have a plan to utilize these funds on your behalf.

Vermillion Valley Produce (VVP) of Danville has the bid for delivery of the DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. To be able to service the entire state, VVP uses subcontractors. The subcontractors and their phone numbers are listed below. To find out which of these vendors will be servicing your school, the “DoD Vendor List by City” link is available on the Food Distribution Website and under “Additional Links” on the Start Page of the

Illinois Commodity System (ICS). For direct access copy the following link:

<http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/DoD-FFVP-vendorlist-by-city.pdf>.

Once you determine your vendor, contact the customer service line for your house if you have further questions, concerns or complaints regarding the product or delivery.

- Vermillion Valley Produce, Danville, (800) 397-7638
- Central Illinois Produce, Urbana, (800) 397-8308
- Central Illinois Produce, Morton, (800) 601-7444
- Get Fresh Produce, Bartlett, (630) 665-9665
- Cusumano & Sons, Mt. Vernon, (800) 872-3779

If you need further assistance with a concern or complaint after you have contacted the appropriate house, please contact Kimberly Capagalan or Cristy Davenport through email, vvpdodprogram@gmail.com, or via phone, (800) 397-8308, ext. 104, direct line, (217) 239-9179

FFAVORS Ordering Schedule

The following information was provided by the DoD as a guide to help with ordering on the FFAVORS system.

Delivery sites are scheduled according to pre-established routings on specific days in each part of the state. This means it is necessary to select the appropriate date on the ordering screen when placing orders or risk missing a delivery. The system requires order submission no later than three full business days prior to order day. Orders must be submitted three full business days before delivery day.

- If your delivery day is on a Friday, your order must be submitted on or before the previous Monday.
- If your delivery day is on a Thursday, your order must be submitted on or before the previous Friday.
- If your delivery day is on a Wednesday, your order must be submitted on or before the previous Thursday.

- If your delivery day is on a Tuesday, your order must be submitted on or before the previous Wednesday.
- If your delivery day is on a Monday, your order must be submitted on or before the previous Tuesday.

There is a link on the FDP Website to the DoD Ordering Manual if you need further assistance. Thank you from the Nutrition and Wellness Programs, Food Distribution Program: (800) 545-7892, cmartel@isbe.net, jflentje@isbe.net, ahancock@isbe.net.



Breakfast After the Bell Program Requirement Begins SY 2017-18

Per [PA 99-0850](#), starting School Year 2017-18, every public school in which at least 70 percent of the students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in October of the preceding year must operate a “breakfast after the bell program.” Breakfast after the bell means breakfast is provided to children after the instructional day has officially begun and does not prohibit schools from also providing breakfast before instructional day begins. Schools may choose whatever delivery model that best suits the students. Typical options include:

- **Breakfast in the classroom:** Food is delivered (by staff, students, or volunteers) to each classroom after school begins and students are permitted to eat in the classroom.
- **Grab and go:** Students pick up bagged or boxed breakfast from carts or specified areas and are permitted to eat in either designated areas or the classroom.

- **Second-chance breakfast:** An extended passing or breakfast period is offered in the cafeteria, following the first or second period of the day.
- **Other options include** serving breakfast during an early recess or outdoor lesson. As long as breakfast is offered to all students after the instructional day has begun, schools and districts have great flexibility in serving breakfast after-the-bell.

Assistance with determining whether or not your district meets the 70 percent threshold is available at http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/schools_mandated_operate_sbp.pdf.

State reimbursement to offset a portion of the cost of the meal is available if a site serves a reimbursable meal to a student eligible for a free meal and the site is enrolled in the Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs. Both state and federal reimbursement is available if a site enrolls in the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Schools participating in the School Breakfast Program must inform families of the availability of breakfasts just prior to the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year via routine methods of communicating with families, such as website posting, weekly messages, public address system, etc.

Districts may be relieved from this breakfast after the bell requirement if they demonstrate either:

- 1) they are delivering a school breakfast effectively, as defined by 70 percent or more of the free and reduced-price students participating in the School Breakfast Program, or
- 2) due to circumstances specific to that school district, the expense reimbursement would not fully cover the costs of implementing and operating a breakfast after the bell program. District must submit cost analysis to district's board of education, district board holds public hearing, and district board passes a resolution that district cannot afford to operate a breakfast after the bell program. District must post date, time, place, and subject matter of meeting on its website; notify ISBE by emailing cnp@isbe.net at least 14 days prior to the hearing; and submit final resolution approving the

breakfast after the bell exemption to ISBE by emailing cnp@isbe.net upon passage.



Make Sure You're Up-to-Date on Civil Rights Training Requirements

Training is required on an annual basis as a component of civil rights requirements so that individuals involved in all levels from administration of programs to front line staff understand civil rights related laws, regulations, procedures, and directives. The required topics for training include:

- Collection and use of data
- Effective public notification systems
- Complaint procedures
- Compliance review techniques
- Resolution of noncompliance
- Requirements for reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities
- Requirements for language assistance
- Conflict resolution
- Customer service

Training materials are available on our [website](#). A new recorded training module is available to assist you in completing your requirement for an annual training!

Training Tips:

- Utilize the pamphlet and other materials available on our website.
- Cover the basics and where to locate additional information.
- Provide an understanding of the origin of the requirements.
- Stress recognizing and valuing differences.
- Use relevant examples and situations to illustrate concepts.

On-Site Review Update! Requirement Added for School Breakfast Program

School Nutrition Programs (SNP) regulations require each school food authority (SFA) with more than one site where reimbursable meals are served to annually conduct their own review of each site's meal counting and claiming procedures. ISBE recommends even districts with one site perform an annual on-site review of meal counting and claiming procedures.

In the past SFA's were only required to complete the on-site review for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The USDA has updated the requirement to also include the School Breakfast Program (SBP), therefore, all SFA's with more than one site where reimbursable meals are served are now required to conduct an on-site review of meal counting and claiming procedures by Feb. 1 of each year. Specific to the SBP, a school shall perform on-site reviews at a minimum of 50 percent of their schools that serve breakfast.



Example: A SFA has 12 sites all of which are in SBP and NSLP: all 12 sites must receive on-site reviews of their NSLP and six of those sites must receive on-site reviews of their SBP. The other six SBP sites that did not get on-site reviews would need to receive on-site reviews of their SBP the following year.

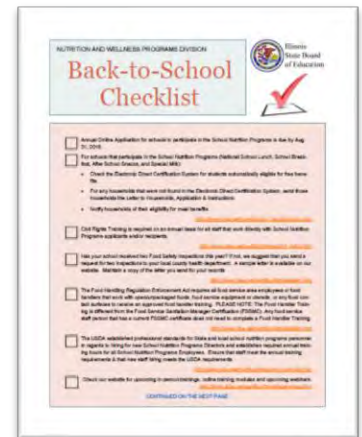
The individual conducting the on-site review should be familiar with program rules and should be outside the daily operations to provide an objective look at the operations. The review must be conducted by SFA personnel and may not be conducted by contracted parties who are providing the meal service. A [sample copy of the On-Site Review Form](#) is available on our website.

A copy of the on-site review forms must be maintained on file at the site or SFA office for three years plus the current year or in the case of an audit or investigation which extends beyond the three years plus current year, documents must be kept until the audit or investigation is completed.

If the review disclosed problems, the SFA must correct problems immediately and conduct a follow-up review within 45 calendar days of the initial review. A follow-up review must be conducted to determine if the corrective action resolved the problem. Written documentation is required to be maintained at the SFA or at the site.

Don't Miss the School Nutrition Program Back-to-School Checklist

Last month's issue of The Outlook featured a Back-to-School Checklist from ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division. In case you missed it, here is a [direct link to the PDF](#) (See pages 9 and 10).



The two-page document serves as an excellent reminder on a variety of topics, including civil rights training, food safety inspections, local school wellness policies, and more. There is also contact information and resources on how to best get the information and answers you need. We encourage you to take a moment to print it out and review.

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act - Prequalification Requirements

Beginning with fiscal year 2017, all entities that receive state or federal grant funds from ISBE or any other agency must register annually with the State of Illinois. This new requirement is to be in compliance with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). Please find important information regarding GATA in the ISBE Weekly Message. Issues can be found online at http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/archive_message.htm or you may find detailed information and resources on GATA at <http://www.isbe.net/GATA/default.htm>.

On an annual basis, entities must register and complete a Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire with the State of Illinois and a Program Risk

Assessment, which is completed via ISBE's IWAS system.

1. **Registration** – Complete on the State of Illinois GATA website at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx.
2. **Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ)** – After completion of the registration process, an automated email will provide a link to access the entity's State of Illinois ICQ form, which must be completed and submitted.
3. **Program Risk Assessment** – Access via the IWAS login portal and choose the GATA Risk Assessment System. A DISTRICT ADMIN-level user must submit the GATA Risk Assessment. The GATA Risk Assessment application link will not be available to all users. Users with district-level accounts should request access to the system internally from their administrator. Technical assistance regarding system access steps can be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

A entity status report has been created and can be accessed at www.isbe.net/GATA/default.htm by clicking on the "GATA Grantee Status Report" under the "Prequalification and Registration Status" tab. Please reference this link to assess your organization's completion of the GATA requirements needed for fiscal year 2017 grant execution. ISBE will update this frequently, so please refer back to this report for the latest information.

Send further questions to gata@isbe.net. Include contact information, including your entity's region-county-district-type code.

FOOD SERVICE

New Dates and Locations Added to Food Handler Training Schedule

The Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act requires all food service area employees or food handlers that work with open or unpackaged foods, food service equipment or utensils, or any food

contact surfaces to receive an approved food handler training.

Attendees that successfully complete this training and the required assessment will satisfy the IDPH's Food Handler Regulation.

This 2½ hour workshop is open to all Child Nutrition Program staff (National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program).

Dates and Locations:

- Sept. 15, 2016 – Springfield (morning session) – **NEW!**
- Oct. 5, 2016 – Mattoon (afternoon session) – **NEW!**
- Oct. 6, 2016 – Carterville (afternoon session) – **NEW!**

There are no registration fees for these workshops. For additional Food Handler Training information and to register, please visit <http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/safety.htm>. Locations tend to fill up quickly, so complete registration as soon as possible to secure your space.

If you have any questions, please contact Chad Martel at cmartel@isbe.net.

New MyPlates Guides to School Lunch and Breakfast Now Available Online

Check out the USDA Food Nutrition Service's new MyPlates Guides to School Lunch and Breakfast! The color, two-page infographics are an excellent tool for parents, classrooms, and the broader school community. We encourage you to use the [MyPlate Guide to School Lunch](#) and the [MyPlate Guide to School Breakfast](#) as part of back-to-school mailings, newsletters, and events. Also available on [the USDA webpage](#) is a helpful "A Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools" and "What You Can Do to Help Prevent Wasted Food" booklet.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

[Public Act 98-0859](#), signed into law on Aug. 4, 2014, created the Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education (SETFPE) comprised of members representing organizations that represent physical education teachers; school officials; principals; health promotion and disease prevention advocates and experts; school health advocates and experts; and other experts with operational and academic expertise in the measurement of fitness.

SETFPE was tasked with submitting recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on physical fitness assessments as well as the collection and reporting of aggregate student fitness data. SETFPE submitted its recommendations to ISBE and after seeking public comment, ISBE adopted fitness assessment and data collection rules for Illinois schools ([Part 1, Section 1.425](#)) effective SY 2016-17.

Starting with school year 2016-17, schools must:

- Ensure that school personnel administering the assessments participate in **training** related to the proper administration and scoring of each of the four required FitnessGram assessments outlined below. At a minimum, staff must review the required administration manuals and it is recommended that staff also view training videos.
- Ensure district maintains **evidence** of individual school personnel's successful completion of the training and make it available to ISBE upon request.
- Establish procedures and protocols to ensure the **confidentiality** of individual student assessment results consistent with the requirements of the Illinois School Records Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- Begin administering, in the second semester and each year thereafter, the following **four FitnessGram assessments** (first semester assessment is optional and will not be reported):
 - for Aerobic Capacity – the PACER test (recommended) or Mile Run Test (alternate) or Brockport test (any of the

adapted tests for aerobic functioning for students with disabilities) for students in grades 4-12 (Note: If your district chooses the alternate Mile Run Test, student height and weight will need to be collected in order to calculate healthy fitness zones.)

- for Flexibility – the Back-Saver Sit and Reach test (recommended) or Trunk Lift test (alternate), or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for flexibility or range of motion for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12;
 - for Muscular Endurance – the Curl-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12; and
 - for Muscular Strength – the Push-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12.
- By each district's established date, **collect** the second semester aggregate data outlined below from its schools. The district in turn must report results electronically to ISBE through the Student Health Data Section in IWAS by May 1 (possibly June 30*) of each year.
 - * *ISBE has released for public comment, through Oct. 24, [a proposed amendment](#) to Part 1 of Rules that changes reporting deadline to June 30.*
 - number of students tested by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender;
 - number of students that achieved a healthy fitness zone by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender;
 - number of students that were identified as needing improvement by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender; and
 - for aerobic capacity only, number of students that were identified as needing improvement-health risk by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender.

For further assistance, **including links to training manuals and videos**, please visit our [Q & A document](#).

Illinois Public Health Institute and ISBE Team Up for Pump Up P.E. Trainings

The Illinois Public Health Institute, in cooperation with ISBE, is offering [Pump Up P.E.: Promote Health, Learning and Lifelong Fitness](#) trainings for physical educators statewide in the 2016-17 school year. This free one-day training teaches physical educators strategies to increase physical activity levels in P.E. classes, implement the Revised State Learning Standards on Physical Development & Health, and implement fitness testing. See a [video on the project here](#) or [read more here](#).

- There will be nine trainings throughout suburban Cook County. [See the schedule and general locations, and register here](#).
- There will be five trainings in central/southern IL. Locations include Bloomington, the Quad Cities (Rock Island), St. Clair County, Effingham, and Carbondale. [See the schedule and general locations, and register here](#). Please note this set of trainings is geared toward all grade levels (elementary, middle and high) and teach concepts universal to all, however, will provide examples mainly for the elementary and middle levels.

Notes: This is the same training that was offered last year so if you've already come, no need to come again unless you want a refresher. The training offers 6.5 professional development hours.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois to Receive Funding From USDA for Kitchen Equipment Grants

The USDA has awarded Illinois with \$1,127,625 for kitchen equipment grants for school year 2016-17! These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, with emphasis on more fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, and expand access.

ISBE is required to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program. Higher priority must be given to high-need schools (i.e., schools in underserved areas, schools with limited access to other resources, and age of food service equipment)



ILLINOIS HAPPENINGS

- ❖ The [Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children](#) will hold its fall quarterly meeting on Sept. 7 at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. [Registration](#) will close at 5 p.m. on Sept. 6.
- ❖ The [Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity](#) will hold its annual in-person coalition meeting from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 28 at the Illinois State University Alumni Center in Normal. [Register online](#).
- ❖ Save the date! The Alliance to End Hunger is planning the national [2016 National Hunger Free Communities Summit](#) for Oct. 5-6 in Indianapolis.

where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

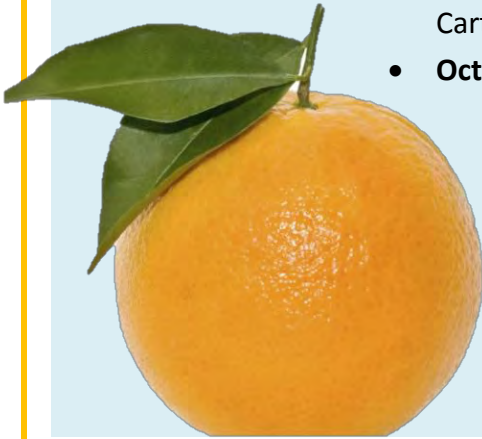
ISBE plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in September with proposals being due in late October. The release will be announced on the ISBE's [RFP website](#), via email to NSLP sponsors, and in next month's Outlook newsletter. If you have questions regarding this USDA/ISBE Equipment Grant, contact Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net.

School Grants for Healthy Kids Application Deadline is Sept. 16

Are you looking for funding to support school physical activity projects and nutrition initiatives for this school year? Action for Healthy Kids is accepting School Grants for Healthy Kids applications from Illinois schools with active parents and PTAs for the 2016-17 school year. Funding can be used to support initiatives such as recess; Play space/gymnasium refurbishing; Physical education equipment; Classroom physical activity breaks; Nutrition education; School gardens; Healthy celebrations; and more! Visit actionforhealthykids.org/grants for more information. Deadline: Sept. 16, 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS & DEADLINES

- **Sept. 5** – Labor Day, ISBE offices closed
- **Sept. 15** – [Food Handler Training](#) in Springfield
 - **Oct. 5** – [Food Handler Training](#) in Mattoon
 - **Oct. 6** – [Food Handler Training](#) in Carterville
 - **Oct. 10** – Columbus Day, ISBE offices closed



Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491.

Timeline for School Nutrition Programs, Sept. 13-20

- Submit AUGUST Claim for Reimbursement (if applicable).
- Obtain at least two school food safety inspections this school year
- Continue processing/certifying Household Eligibility Applications
- Make adjustments (if needed) for OCTOBER food commodity deliveries through the Illinois Commodity System.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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



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School Nutrition Training

Satisfies USDA Professional Standards Requirements

the ABCs of school nutrition

Professional Standards Portal for Illinois School Nutrition Employees

NEW SCHOOL FOOD PHOTO CONTEST starts SEPTEMBER – Like us on Facebook to participate!



MEAL OF THE MONTH CLUB Photo Contest - Post your school meal photos on our [Facebook page](#) every month to enter the photo contest. Winning photos will be shared on Facebook and Twitter for all to see! Win recognition and prizes for your school nutrition program, e.g. posters, aprons, fruit baskets, and other small prizes. Contest instructions are posted on our Facebook page. Questions about the contest? Email schoolnutrition@illinois.edu.

Team Up for School Nutrition Success ILLINOIS

Like the [Team Up for School Nutrition Success ILLINOIS Facebook page](#) and get tips, advice, school nutrition news, training and webinar opportunities, and upcoming grant information right at your fingertips! Join a motivated & inspired network of Illinois school nutrition professionals, see what other schools are doing in Illinois, and share what you're doing at your school.



Join the Movement – the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement, that is!

Smarter Lunchrooms shows school nutrition staff how to upgrade their cafeteria environment to highlight healthy food choices, increase meal participation, and lower food waste using no-cost or low-cost strategies. U of I Extension professionals have conducted 100's of assessments so far, and we look forward to helping many more Illinois schools! If you're curious about how these research-based strategies could help your school, you can connect with us through the [ABCs of School Nutrition](#) website, email schoolnutrition@illinois.edu, or contact your local Extension office.



FREE Fall Training Available!

August was a popular month for Illinois on-site training! Trainers are available for **free** face-to-face training all year long! All training meets the USDA Professional Standards. To inquire about training in your area, contact us via schoolnutrition@illinois.edu, through the [ABCs of School Nutrition](#) website, or contact your local Extension office.

Local School Wellness Policy Implementation Under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010: Summary of the Final Rule

What is a local school wellness policy?

A local school wellness policy (“wellness policy”) is a written document that guides a local educational agency’s (LEA) or school district’s efforts to establish a school environment that promotes students’ health, well-being, and ability to learn.

The wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 and further strengthened by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). It requires each LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to develop a wellness policy. The final rule expands the requirements to strengthen policies and increase transparency. The responsibility for developing, implementing, and evaluating a wellness policy is placed at the local level, so the unique needs of each school under the LEA’s jurisdiction can be addressed.

Provisions of the Final Rule

On July 29, 2016, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) finalized regulations to create a framework and guidelines for written wellness policies established by LEAs. The final rule requires LEAs to begin developing a revised local school wellness policy during School Year 2016-2017. LEAs must fully comply with the requirements of the final rule by June 30, 2017.

Content of the Wellness Policy

At a minimum, policies are required to include:

- **Specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.** LEAs are required to review and consider evidence-based strategies in determining these goals.
- **Standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students on the school campus during the school day that are consistent with Federal regulations for:**
 - School meal nutrition standards, and the
 - Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- **Standards for all foods and beverages provided, but not sold, to students during the school day (e.g., in classroom parties, classroom snacks brought by parents, or other foods given as incentives).**
- **Policies for food and beverage marketing that allow marketing and advertising of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.**
- **Description of public involvement, public updates, policy leadership, and evaluation plan.**

Wellness Leadership

LEAs must establish **wellness policy leadership** of one or more LEA and/or school official(s) who have the authority and responsibility to ensure each school complies with the policy.

Public Involvement

At a minimum, LEAs must:

- **Permit participation** by the general public and the school community (including parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, and school administrators) in the wellness policy process.



Triennial Assessments

The final rule requires State agencies to assess compliance with the wellness policy requirements as a part of the general areas of the administrative review every 3 years.

LEAs must conduct an assessment of the wellness policy every 3 years, at a minimum. This assessment will determine:

- Compliance with the wellness policy,
- How the wellness policy compares to model wellness policies, and
- Progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.



Regulation

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register, and the 60-day public comment period closed on April 28, 2014. FNS received 57,838 public comments that were considered in developing the final rule.

The final rule was published on July 29, 2016 and can be found online at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/local-school-wellness-policy>.

Resources

USDA Food and Nutrition Service's "School Nutrition Environment and Wellness Resources" Web site has information and resources on:

- Local school wellness policy process,
- Wellness policy elements,
- Success stories,
- Grants/funding opportunities, and
- Trainings.

Check it out! <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/school-wellness-resources>

Documentation

The State agency will examine records during the Administrative Review, including:

- Copy of the current wellness policy,
- Documentation on how the policy and assessments are made available to the public,
- The most recent assessment of implementation of the policy, and
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the policy, including who was involved in the process and how stakeholders were made aware of their ability to participate.

Updates to the Wellness Policy

The final rule requires that LEAs update or modify the wellness policy as appropriate.

Public Updates

The rule requires that LEAs must make available to the public:

- The wellness policy, including any updates to and about the wellness policy, on an annual basis, at a minimum, and
- The Triennial Assessment, including progress toward meeting the goals of the policy.

