



SCHOOL
NUTRITION TEAM

School Nutrition News

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FEATURED STORIES

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant

Through the 2023-24 FFVP Grant, USDA provided funding to 230 schools to receive a fresh fruit or vegetable snack two or more times per week. This school year more than 76,000 Wisconsin children in high-need elementary schools are snacking on fresh fruits and vegetables outside of mealtimes in the hopes of increasing overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce.

Schools awarded the FFVP grant are encouraged to purchase different varieties of fruits and vegetables that students may not otherwise have the opportunity to try. This year schools have offered students fruit and vegetables including lemon, kohlrabi, and rutabaga.

The FFVP application for the 2024-25 school year opens March 14, 2024, and closes April 12, 2024. Application instructions will be available on the [FFVP webpage](#) in February.

[School Nutrition Summer Training](#)

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New! Farm to School Newsletter!

The Farm to School (F2S) team is working on creating a monthly Farm to School Newsletter. It will provide information about resources such as Harvest of the Month recipes and fact sheets, ideas to help SFAs feature F2S ingredients, and upcoming events. It will help share the results of the F2S census and highlight schools that utilize Farm to School in their programs. The F2S team hopes to publish the first edition of the newsletter in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for information on how to subscribe!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 22, 2024
[Wisconsin Chili Lunch](#)

MARCH 4-8, 2024
[National School Breakfast Week](#)

JUNE 24-27, 2024
[SNA-WI Annual Conference](#)

National School Breakfast Week

[National School Breakfast Week](#) is March 4-8, 2024! Eating breakfast is important to help students achieve academic success. The School Breakfast Program plays a vital role in ensuring that all students have access to a nutritious breakfast to start the day. Check out the [National School Breakfast Week webpage](#) for ideas for celebrating school breakfast and do not forget to use the hashtag #NSBW24. For questions and ideas about how to promote your program, contact DPISBP@dpi.wi.gov.



Administrative Review (AR) and You Workshop Recording

In October 2023, the School Nutrition Team offered a virtual Administrative Review (AR) and You Workshop, providing school foodservice professionals a comprehensive overview of the AR, and insights into the SNACS software used to conduct both the offsite and onsite portions of the audit. We appreciate your patience as we refined the [Administrative Review and You 2023-24 Workshop Recording](#) which is now available on YouTube.



School Nutrition Summer Training

The School Nutrition Team is excited to announce the return of our School Nutrition Summer Training (SNST) in Summer 2024. Sessions will be offered both in-person, at the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, WI, and virtually.

Further details and registration information will be posted on the [DPI SNT Summer Training webpage](#) in Spring 2024. We hope you can join us for this enriching experience. See you there!



Wisconsin Local Foods for Schools Program (WI LFS)

We have successfully completed the first year of the WI LFS Program! In only one year, over 150 small and/or socially disadvantaged farmers, producers, and aggregators have benefitted from this program by providing over 110 different unprocessed or minimally processed products to more than 150 school food authorities (SFAs)! We have been granted a one-year extension from the USDA and will be reallocating funds after the first of the year. We appreciate everyone who responded to the survey we sent out in October 2023, as we will use these responses in the reallocation process. We are developing marketing materials for you to promote the use of local foods in your program and creating new resources for procuring from local producers. Thank you to all of you for your work in making this program successful and fueling your students with delicious and nutritious, local foods! Please contact us at DPISNTLFSProgram@dpi.wi.gov if you have any questions or want to share a success story with us!



Feeding Students in Summer 2024

As summer plans take shape, many students experience food insecurity. Schools are encouraged to consider offering one of the meal service programs that would allow for the continuation of healthy school meals during the summer months. The [Summer Program Comparison Chart](#) describes each of the programs available to feed children during the summer months.



We encourage sites that qualify to provide summer meals using the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). This program provides higher reimbursement rates and more meal pattern flexibility than other summer meal programs. To find out more about the SFSP, please visit the Community Nutrition Team's [SFSP webpage](#) or contact [Amy Kolano](#).

GOALS Recipients

Congratulations to the following school food service professionals who have recently earned their GOALS Certificate:

- **Emily Riedler**, Kenosha Unified School District (Director Track)
- **Rhea Burks-White**, Kenosha Unified School District (Director Track)
- **David Koeller**, Neenah Joint School District (Manager Track)



NEW SY 2023-2024 Meal Eligibility Resources

The School Nutrition Team has created new *In a Nutshell* documents to assist school food authorities (SFAs) with the meal eligibility requirements. Click on the links below to review these resources.

- [Benefit Issuance List *In a Nutshell*](#)
- [Disclosure *In a Nutshell*](#)
- [Verification *In a Nutshell*](#)
- [Migrant Status and Meal Eligibility *In a Nutshell*](#)

As a reminder, the [Verification](#), [Free and Reduced Meal Applications](#), and [Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility](#) webpages have several additional resources, including template letters, E-learning opportunities, and USDA guidance.

Meal eligibility questions can be directed to DPIMealEligibility@dpi.wi.gov.



2023 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant

The application for the 2023 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant closed on January 12, 2024. We received 169 applications. The Equipment Grant Team will notify all applicants via email whether they have been selected to move forward with Part Two of the application process. Thank you to everyone who applied.



Special Dietary Needs Policy Reminder

All SFAs must have written procedures to inform parents and guardians how to request a meal modification and their right to file a grievance. The School Nutrition Team has created a [Special Dietary Needs Example Policy](#) that can be used to create a policy for your school or district. Visit the [Special Dietary Needs](#) webpage for more information on meal accommodations.



SNT Member Updates

Congrats to...

Angie Swanson, previously the Operations Program Associate, who has transitioned into the role of Nutrition Program Consultant with the School Nutrition Team.

Brittany Zerbe, previously a Public Health Nutritionist-Advanced, who has stepped into the role of Nutrition Education Consultant with the Farm to School Team.

Welcome to...

Jeff Mallegni, *Nutrition Program Consultant*, Farm to School Team

Favorite School Meal: My favorite school meal I prepared as a foodservice director at Kohler School District was Chicken Shawarma.

My favorite school meal growing up was Sloppy Joe Squares.

Hobbies & Interests: I am an avid outdoorsman and I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and gardening.

Favorite Part of Your Job: Developing new relationships with the DPI team and learning all the areas within DPI and other agencies I can make connections to for Farm to School.



Jill Fehler, *Nutrition Program Consultant*, School Nutrition Team

Favorite School Meal: Orange chicken, brown rice, steamed broccoli and Mandarin oranges.

Hobbies & Interests: I love to cook, entertain, boat, golf, travel and read. I love to be surrounded by family and friends doing the things I love.

Favorite Part of Your Job: My favorite part of my position at DPI has been the building of relationships with the School Nutrition Team. The support has been so refreshing and welcoming.



Kaiten Morgan-MacEwen, *Nutrition Program Consultant*,
School Nutrition Team

Favorite School Meal: Pizza Dipper Sticks.

Hobbies & Interests: I enjoy reading, disc golfing, swimming, and camping with my dog.

Favorite Part of Your Job: I love working together with my wonderful School Nutrition Team colleagues to provide support to schools so they can thrive in their goal of providing meals to Wisconsin students.



Nominate a School Nutrition Superhero of the Month!

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team is always looking for food service staff to feature as the “School Nutrition Superhero” each month on the [DPI Facebook Page](#) and in our quarterly newsletter. The goal is to recognize someone who is doing an excellent job in their role. If you know a School Nutrition Superhero nominate them by sending an email to DPIFNS@dpi.wi.gov.



Congrats to the following School Nutrition Superheroes of the Month:

August: Supervisor of School Nutrition Bobbie Guyette and team from the School District of New Richmond

In partnership with DPI, the district served up summer meals with the Summer Food Service Program in June and July. The district utilized rural areas in the community to distribute meals for pick-up. This meal pick-up model extended the Summer Food Service Program beyond summer school to serve more children in need. Under Bobbie’s leadership, the district served children 18 and under at five sites in June and distributed over 1,000 meal box pickups in the month of July.



October: Food Service Assistant Melissa Albers from Ashwaubenon High School in Ashwaubenon

Melissa gave her school’s salad bar a full makeover this fall, using all locally grown items and hydroponic farms in the Ashwaubenon School District. Her dedication to delicious school lunches makes all the difference to students.



November: Food Service Director Amanda Brakke from Cochrane-Fountain City School District

It is a great honor and joy to be working with the Cochrane Fountain-City School District as their Food Service Director. Planning the menu to include scratch cooking has been so exciting. A big thank you to the kitchen team for the preparation, presentation, and serving of these “home cooked” meals. The daily salad bar has been a huge success with all grade levels and is a great way to introduce additional vegetables. The smiling faces of students, the excitement as they share a story, and the appreciation the kitchen team receives make every day special. I am proud of the meals that our kitchen serves, honored to be part of a cohesive team, and love being part of this school and community!



USDA Guidance Memo Summaries

[USDA Policy Memorandum SP 03-2024: Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule: Administrative Review and Food Service Management Company Review Cycles](#)



The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) final rule titled [Child Nutrition Program Integrity](#) established the option for state agencies (SAs) to implement a five-year Administrative Review (AR) review cycle. (Wisconsin has already been operating a five-year AR cycle under a USDA waiver). This final rule also allows SAs to conduct Food Service Management Company reviews on a five-year cycle to align with the AR review cycle.

Additionally, if a school food authority has been designated as high-risk based on the initial AR, SAs must conduct a targeted follow-up review within two years. The memo outlines what is considered high risk. The SA must submit a plan to the Midwest Regional Office that outlines the criteria that will be used to designate an SFA as high-risk, though the SA may include additional criteria in their plan.

[USDA Policy Memorandum SP 04-2024: Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule: State Agency Discretion for Repeat Meal Pattern Violations Fiscal Action](#)

Related to the Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule, USDA Policy Memorandum SP 04-2024 gives state agencies discretion for repeat meal pattern violations in the form of fiscal action. Required fiscal action will be assessed for missing food components and missing production records.

State agencies have discretion to take fiscal action for the following repeat violations:

- Food quantities
- Whole grain-rich foods
- Milk types
- Vegetable subgroups
- Dietary specifications (calories, saturated fat, and trans-fat)

This provision was effective on September 24, 2023, thus it is applicable to administrative reviews that are conducted during the school year (SY) 2023-24.

USDA Guidance Memos (cont'd)

[SP 02-2024: Revised: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meals Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program](#)



This memorandum explains how to credit tofu and soy yogurt in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Food, and Summer Food Service Programs. This memorandum supersedes SP 53-2016, CACFP 21-2016 *Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meal Programs, Child and Adult Care Food Program, August 8, 2016*.

[TA 01-2024: Crediting Traditional Indigenous Foods in Child Nutrition Programs](#)

FNS, in collaboration with the USDA Office of Tribal Relations, is providing this guidance to clarify how traditional Indigenous foods credit in the Child Nutrition Programs. Included in this memo is a list of traditional Indigenous foods that are similar to foods in the Food Buying Guide (FBG) for child nutrition programs, and thus would credit the same. This is not an exhaustive list, but rather aims to showcase how to credit some traditional Indigenous foods not in the FBG by using similar foods in the FBG.

[SP 01-2016: Procuring Local Meat, Poultry, Game, and Eggs for Child Nutrition Programs – REVISED](#)

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has received several questions related to buying local meat, poultry, seafood, game, and eggs; this memorandum seeks to clarify the regulatory requirements related to food safety and answer specific questions related to these products with a series of questions and answers included as an attachment.

[SP 22-2023: Community Eligibility Provision: Implementing the New Minimum Identified Student Percentage](#)

This policy memorandum provides information and guidance on the final rule, [Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision - Increasing Options for Schools](#), which amends Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) regulations by lowering the minimum identified student percentage (ISP) from 40 percent to 25 percent. See the [October 4, 2023 SNT Bulletin](#) and the [CEP webpage](#) for additional information.

USDA Guidance Memos (cont'd)

[SP 01-2024: Clarification of Allowable Flexibilities for Child Nutrition Programs Experiencing Milk Supply Shortages](#)



USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is aware that schools in multiple states are experiencing milk supply chain challenges related to packaging issues. Under current Program regulations found at [7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(2\)](#), [220.8\(d\)](#), [225.16\(f\)\(6\)](#), and [226.20\(e\)\(1\)](#), state agencies may allow program operators experiencing milk supply shortages to serve meals during an emergency period with an alternate form of fluid milk or without fluid milk. Although program operators are expected to meet the fluid milk requirements to the greatest extent possible, supply chain disruptions, including disruptions that limit milk variety or affect serving size, would be considered a temporary emergency condition for purposes of this flexibility.

If your SFA cannot get a supply of fluid milk due to an emergency, please submit an [Inadequate Fluid Milk Supply Request](#) to the School Nutrition Team within two business days. With approval, meals served without the required fluid milk component may be claimed for reimbursement. Meals served without the fluid milk component and without DPI approval are non-reimbursable. For more information about this Federal Regulation, please review [7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(2\)](#).

[SP 21-2023: Initial Implementation Memorandum: Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule](#)

This is the initial implementation guidance for the Child Nutrition Program Integrity Final Rule. This final rule aims to help the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and state agencies reduce program errors of all types, resulting in more efficient operations and improved compliance with program requirements.

Attached to the memorandum is a chart of the provision changes by program and the date compliance needs to be achieved by.

About Us

School Nutrition News is published three times per year by the Department of Public Instruction.



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- 1. mail:**
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