

# School Nutrition News

A Newsletter from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Finance and Management

Vol. 12 No. 1

Fall 2019

## WI School Breakfast Challenge Results

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nutrition Team (SNT) partnered with Hunger Task Force (HTF) and Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry (NKH) to promote breakfast in schools through the Wisconsin School Breakfast Challenge. Schools competed for prizes and recognition by increasing participation in their School Breakfast Program (SBP), or starting a new program if they did not already have one. The winners, listed below, were announced at the School Nutrition Association (SNA) Annual Conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



### ⚡ Highest Breakfast Participation Increase

- Elmwood School District (SD), Elmwood Middle School: 50% increase
- Sheboygan Area SD, George Warnier High School: 36% increase
- Cumberland SD, Cumberland Middle School: 33% increase

### ⚡ Most Improved Breakfast After The Bell

- Cumberland SD, Cumberland High School: 29% increase
- Horicon SD, Van Brunt Elementary: 27% increase

### ⚡ Implementing School Breakfast Program

- Pulaski Community SD, Lannoye Elementary: 42% increase
- Sheboygan Area SD, Sheboygan Leadership Academy: 22% increase

Thank you to all who participated; it was an incredible success!

## Direct Certification (DC)

Mark your calendar to run DC throughout the school year. SNT's updated [DC webpage](#) includes the DC Calendar of Requirements, how to request access for new users, and an informative [FAQ](#). DC electronically matches your student file to a state database of children in families enrolled in FoodShare, W-2 cash benefits, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Medicaid, or the foster care system. Running your student enrollment through the DC system is an important and mandatory back-to-school task. The enrollment should list students with access to at least one meal per day. School food authorities (SFAs) that do not participate in Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or are mixed districts, are required to complete a full enrollment run before the first day of school. SFAs that have 100 percent CEP schools must complete their first run in October. For questions about using the DC program, email [dpifns@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:dpifns@dpi.wi.gov) or call (608) 267-9228.



## Around the WORLD in 80 Trays

This campaign aims to increase international flavors in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) School Meals Programs! The DPI SNT would like to acknowledge that food can do more than just nourish the body; it can also invite students to participate in and explore the many diverse cultures of Wisconsin. Join the SNT and SFAs across the state in this week-long culinary adventure, kicking off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2020. What better way to celebrate the unique cultural backgrounds of students across this great state than by remembering the legacy of King and his dream of equality and inclusion for everyone. Don't miss out on this opportunity to travel "Around the World in 80 Trays." Use the week of January 21 through 24, 2020 to introduce new flavors, create culturally inspired dishes, explore the tantalizing world of herbs and spices, and connect with your students! Visit the International Meals section of the [Menu Planning webpage](#), for ideas and inspiration.

## New GOALS Curriculum

The SNT is excited to announce the release of a new GOALS curriculum! The Goal Oriented Achievement Learning Skills (GOALS) Training Certification Program continues providing training resources and opportunities to educate and equip school nutrition professionals with skills needed for the successful operation of a school nutrition program. The new curriculum has a clearly defined course list while maintaining the hourly requirements for each certification level established under the initial GOALS curriculum. It provides increased flexibility with elective course hours, allowing applicants to focus their coursework in areas of interest and/or related to their specific job duties.



The SNT received a Team Nutrition Training Grant to expand and support the new GOALS curriculum. With this funding, the SNT will offer new resources and trainings throughout the next several years. While individuals interested in applying for GOALS Certification will be required to use the new GOALS curriculum starting January 1, 2020, applicants can start using the new curriculum immediately. The [GOALS webpage](#) has been updated and includes the new curriculum, a Training Track Decision Tree, and a revised Training Tracker.

## AmeriCorps Farm to School Members Can Help Increase Meal Participation



The DPI Wisconsin AmeriCorps Farm to School Program responds to the call to address the obesity epidemic while at the same time stimulating economic development in rural Wisconsin. The project supports the Corporation for

National and Community Service focus area of Health Futures. This program helps schools create healthier food environments while providing career development opportunities for AmeriCorps Members who will serve Wisconsin communities by implementing farm to school strategies. Our goals are to show positive changes in attitudes towards fresh foods as well as measureable shift in participating schools toward healthier school food environments.

Schools that participate in farm to school programming see an average increase of nine percent in meal participation. While some wonder how increasing the amount of local foods they purchase will fit in their budgets, many schools are growing food for their school lunch and breakfast programs in their very own school gardens! Sourcing local foods reduces transportation and packaging costs. Participating in various farm to school activities can also introduce new and exciting seasonal foods and recipes to students.

Many organizations across Wisconsin are involved with farm to school. Some of our partners are schools and school foodservice directors, UW-Extension offices, health departments, YMCAs, farmers, master gardeners, Green & Healthy Schools, the Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Community Groundworks, and so many more!

To become an AmeriCorps Farm to School Host Site in service year 2019-20 or to connect with your local AmeriCorps Members, please contact [Kara Ignasiak](mailto:Kara.Ignasiak@dpi.wi.gov) at (715) 214-6080.

## 2019 USDA Equipment Grant Announcement



The SNT is pleased to announce that funding is available to award another round of National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants. The USDA provided Wisconsin with \$405,946 in funding for these

grants. The requested equipment must have a useful life of greater than one year and a cost that exceeds \$5,000, or the applicant SFA's definition of capitalization threshold, whichever is less. The threshold for the purchase of equipment cannot be lower than \$1,000.

**New this year, we will move to a two-step application process. Stay tuned for more details.**

Applications will be available in the fall. More information on this grant opportunity can be found on the [USDA NSLP Equipment Grant webpage](#).

## SNACS and the Administrative Review

The new school year brings a new process to the Administrative Review (AR). Beginning in school year (SY) 2019-20, all SFAs scheduled for ARs will be required to use School Nutrition Accountability Software (SNACS). There are several modules in SNACS, including Student Management, Eligibility Certification, Counting and Claiming, and Reviews. SFAs using SNACS for the purpose of the AR are only required to use the Reviews Module.



Automating the review process will reduce the amount of time reviewers spend on-site at your district and schools, improve communication with SNT, and increase efficiency of the process overall. Forms that SFAs complete prior to the onsite review will be filled in electronically through SNACS. All communication with reviewers, corrective action responses, and any required documentation will be submitted via SNACS. If your SFA was selected for an AR in SY 2019-20, you received notification from the SNT about the AR process in SNACS including next steps. If you have questions or concerns about using SNACS for your upcoming AR or would like information about any of the modules in SNACS, please visit the [SNACS webpage](#) or email [DPI SNACS Support@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:DPISNACSSupport@dpi.wi.gov).

## Determining Eligibility Applications for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

### Carryover Status

Some students may be in an eligibility carryover status for the first 30 operating days of school; however, a new determination by DC or application ends the carryover period, **even if the meal eligibility status is lower than last year**. An "N" code (no match) from DC is **not** considered a new determination. Other qualifying eligibility match codes of S, T, O, E, G, M, or Z are considered a new determination.

### Verification

To maintain the integrity of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs, each SFA must **annually** verify eligibility of children from a sample of household applications approved for free and reduced price meal benefits for that school year. Verification uses a sample pool of all current, approved applications on file as of October 1. Use the verification sample size letter to determine which sample size to use for verification. The verification process must be completed by November 15.

### Verification Collection Report (VCR)

The DPI SNT continues participating in the USDA demonstration project for directly certifying students for free and reduced price meals with Medicaid data. As part of this project, USDA requests a significant amount of data to show the impact of including Medicaid data in DC. To meet this requirement, the VCR has been modified to break out the DC data in section three of the report to separately report the number of students that matched based on the DC code. The VCR instructions have been updated to reflect this. Please be sure to refer to the instructions when completing the report.

## [TA 01-2019: Twenty-second Release of the Child Nutrition Database \(CNDB\)](#)

The CNDB was updated to Release 22 (CN22) and now contains updated data from 13 food manufacturers. Nutrient data for an additional 79 new USDA quantity recipes is also included. No changes were made to the Standard Reference data included in the CNDB. Companies with USDA-approved nutrient analysis software were required to incorporate CN22 by August 16, 2019.

## [SP 27-2019: Paid Lunch Equity \(PLE\): Guidance for SY 2019-20](#)

Consistent with the terms of the Appropriations Act, any SFA with a positive or zero balance in its nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2018, is exempt from PLE pricing requirements found at 7 CFR 210.14(e) for SY 2019-20. SFAs that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2018, must follow PLE requirements when establishing prices for paid lunches in SY 2019-20.

## [SP 29-2019: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\): Allocation of Funds for FY 2020](#)

Wisconsin will receive \$3,602,124 for funding the FFVP in fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019- September 30, 2020). This is \$408,297 more than last fiscal year. Schools across the state have been selected, and programs started the first full week of school.

## [SP 30-2019: Reminder: Requirements for Students Transferring from Provision to Non-Provision Schools](#)

Regulations at 7 CFR 245.9(l) require local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide free, reimbursable meals to students who receive free meals at a Provision school and, during the school year, transfer to a school using standard counting and claiming procedures. Schools must provide these students with free, reimbursable meals for up to 10 operating school days or until a new eligibility determination for the current school year is made, whichever comes first. This is an existing requirement for transfer within the same LEA and is required for transfer between LEAs effective July 1, 2019. State agencies have discretion to extend the provision of free meals for up to 30 operating days or until a new eligibility determination for the current school year is made, whichever comes first. **The DPI is requiring up to 30 operating days, or until a new determination is made.** See the “Q&A: Students Transferring from Special Provision Option Schools” on page 4.

## [SP 31-2019: Farm Bill Implementation Memo: Donated Traditional Foods and Civil Liability](#)

On December 20, 2018, Congress passed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334, 2018 Farm Bill). The purpose of this memorandum is to notify Child Nutrition Program operators of the 2018 Farm Bill expansion of the provision stating that certain groups are not liable in civil cases regarding the donation and service of traditional foods. This provision only applies to food service programs at public and nonprofit facilities that primarily serve American Indians, including those operated by American Indian nations and tribal communities.

## [SP 32-2019: Buy American and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#)

The National School Lunch Act requires SFAs to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 specifies that in order to be compliant with the Buy American requirements, agricultural commodities and the products of agricultural commodities shall be processed in the United States. Furthermore, they shall substantially contain meats, vegetables, fruits, fish, and other agricultural commodities produced in the United States or any territory or possession of the United States. The Act provides clarification on the treatment of harvested fish under the Buy American requirements. In order to be compliant:

- farmed fish must be harvested within the United States or any territory or possession of the United States, and
- wild caught fish must be harvested within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States or by a United States flagged vessel.

## [SP 33-2019: Updated Template: Local Agency Procurement Review Tool for School Food Authorities Beginning in school year 2019-20](#)

This memorandum provides information and documents related to the updated Procurement Review (PR) Tool. The memo states DPI may implement the updated Tool or modify our current PR Tool; the DPI will most likely modify our current PR Tool. The DPI will need the Regional Office to review and approve prior to implementation. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) expects state agencies currently conducting PRs using the revised Tool posted on October 6, 2016, to transition to the updated Tool for reviews commencing on or before January 31, 2020.

## [SP 34-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs](#)

This memorandum rescinds and replaces SP 22-2019, CACFP 09-2019, SFSP 08-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Corn Flour in the Child Nutrition Programs. FNS is updating and clarifying crediting guidance for corn masa, masa harina, corn flour, cornmeal and coconut. The corn-based products crediting relies on whether or not the corn ingredient has been through a nixtamalization process, when the dried corn is soaked and cooked in an alkaline (slaked lime) solution. The included Question & Answer (Q&A) memorandum attachment is helpful in understanding more about how to identify this and related crediting information, including how to determine if a product is whole grain. When planning to use a corn-based product, please refer to this guidance memorandum.

Dried coconut is now allowable and credits as a fruit as twice the volume served.

# Q&A: Students Transferring from Special Provision Option Schools

Special Provision Schools, such as CEP and Provision 2 (P2), serve all students free meals, regardless of individual meal eligibility status. Since SY 2016-17, LEAs have been required to provide up to 30 operating days (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first) of free, reimbursable meals to students who transfer from a CEP or P2 school to a standard counting and claiming school within the same LEA.



The SNT has encouraged LEAs to implement this practice since SY 2016-17 to ensure these children do not experience a gap in school meal access and do not accrue negative balances.

Starting July 1, 2019, LEAs are required to provide free meals to students who transfer from a Provision school to a non-Provision school in a different LEA.

[SP 52-2016: Early Implementation of Eligibility Carryover Period for Students Transitioning from Provision Schools: State Agency Extension Option](#)

## Q1. Who does this apply to?

A1. All SFAs operating the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

## Q2. What is the effective date of eligibility for the student(s) transferring from a CEP school to non-CEP school?

A2. Thirty operating days, beginning the first day the student attends class at the new school. This may occur at any time during the school year. The new LEA may claim these meals at the free rate during this time period.

SNT interprets the guidance memorandum SP52-2016 as allowing SFAs to backdate the CEP students' eligibility to when they enroll in the school. The SFA must provide up to 30 operating days of free meals or until a new meal eligibility is determined. However, backdating is only allowed for students transferring from a CEP school to a non-CEP school within the same LEA or to a different LEA. Backdating does not pertain to extension of benefits or other eligibility determination.

## Q3. Who is responsible for communicating that a student is transferring from a CEP or P2 school?

A3. CEP and P2 LEAs are encouraged to initiate communication about continuation of benefits with the household and the new school. The CEP or P2 school should include documentation in the transferring student's file forwarded to the Determining Official at the new school. The new school can validate eligibility from the former CEP LEA by obtaining a copy of the current school year *Wisconsin Schools and Districts Participating in Community Eligibility Provision* list and highlighting the former school's name. This list is updated annually and is available on the [CEP webpage](#). For a list of P2 schools, contact the SNT office.

## Q4. How should the SFA handle the annual rollover for students (between school years) from a CEP school moving up to the next grade in a non-CEP school within the same LEA (e.g. 5<sup>th</sup> grader leaving CEP elementary school and going to the non-CEP middle school)?

A4. Work with your software provider to ensure the carryover period process is occurring and students are provided up to 30 operating days of free meals (or until a new meal eligibility is determined).

## Q5. How should the SFA determine eligibility during the 30 operating day carryover period for a CEP student transferring to a non-CEP school before the school year or mid-year?

A5. First, run DC. Be sure the list includes the transferring student's name. If the student matches as an S, T, O, M, E, G or Z code, the new individual meal eligibility is effective the date DC was run. An N code or failure to match to DC is not considered a new meal eligibility determination and the 30 operating day carryover period continues.

If the student receives a reduced price eligibility (Z code) or does not match (N code), ensure the household receives current Free and Reduced Meal Application information.

If the household submits a meal application and is approved at free or reduced status, the eligibility start date is the date the Determining Official approves the meal application.

If the meal application is denied, the student is changed to paid status effective the date the application was denied – disqualifying the student for free meals the rest of the carryover period.

## Q6. What happens if the household submits an application at the end of the carryover period?

A6. The 30 operating days is intended to be the time it takes the household to submit the application and for the school to process the new status. For example, if the household submits an application on day 29, but the school does not process the application until day 33, the meals are only free through the 30th operating day. On days 31-33, the student reverts to Paid status, and the meal should be claimed as paid.

## Q7. Where can additional resources on Special Provision transfer and carryover period be found?

A7. There are additional resources on the [CEP webpage](#) under the Monitoring and Claiming heading. There is a flow chart to help explain the requirements of transferring students. Additionally, there is a template letter intended to communicate transfers within the same LEA. However, this document may be modified to meet the needs of different situations, including transfers between LEAs.

## Farm to School (F2S) Month

To celebrate F2S Month this **October**, consider registering for the Wisconsin Chili Lunch (see page 7) and the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch (GLGAC) (see page 5), implementing F2S initiatives, and participating in the F2S Census. Share your photos and stories with us at [dpif2s@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:dpif2s@dpi.wi.gov).

## Procurement Reviews (PRs)

For the upcoming SY 2019-20, the SNT will work to complete the remaining PRs from last school year. Therefore, if you have not been contacted to receive a PR, you will not receive one during SY 2019-20. More details regarding next year's PR schedule will be sent out via email in spring 2020.

### Checklists



Looking for the test, before the test? Checklists used to evaluate each procurement conducted by SFAs during a PR are located on the [Procurement Review webpage](#).

When requesting procurement information and corresponding documentation, your Procurement Reviewer will answer the questions covered within each corresponding checklist to review compliance.

If you have questions about the PR, please contact [Randall Jones](#) at (608) 267-2277 or [Claire Nagel](#) at (608) 267-9283.

# School Nutrition Skills Development Courses (SNSDC)

Thank you to those who attended summer trainings! We hope these classes provided you with the knowledge and skills necessary to better serve nutritious and compliant meals to Wisconsin students. Thank you also to those that completed the SNSDC evaluation surveys. Participant input is valuable in helping the SNT provide quality presentations in the future. Check out this year's class stats and participant feedback below.



**Total attendees:** 798

**Total number of classes offered:** 23

**Total hours of training:** 402

**Participant quotes about classes:**

- **AR & You (Admin Focus):** "So very thankful for this class. My first admin review is coming up and I have been stressed over it. This was nice to know what to expect so I can start gathering information that is needed now."
- **Crediting using the Food Buying Guide:** "I'm glad this class was offered and the presenter did a great job explaining the information. I now understand how to approach the Food Buying Guide."
- **Free, Reduced, and Verification:** "I've been doing this for a few years and I learn something new every time I go."
- **Production Records:** "I think this class should be a must for food service staff."
- **Social Media:** "Very informative. Best social media class that I have attended."
- **Child Nutrition Program Basics:** "The speakers were excellent. Very helpful! I would recommend this class to everyone."
- **Offer versus Serve:** "Best class, thank you for having this!!"
- **Special Dietary Needs:** "Best educational class I've taken yet."
- **Managing the School Nutrition Budget:** "I did learn a lot from this class. Presenters did a very good job. Very happy I made the time to come to this class."
- **Nutrition 101:** "The instructors made the class not only informative but also fun."
- **Procurement:** "Excellent class, I feel better prepared to do my job after taking it."

## Small Victories

The [Small Victories Training Workshop](#) will be offered October 14 through 16, and 21 through 23, 2019. The featured topic will be "Marketing with Diversity." This interactive, hands-on training will review effective marketing strategies geared towards increasing participation. Creative marketing strategies will be discussed to raise awareness of the positive opportunities your program(s) can provide to students. Additionally, the workshop will include ideas and creative ways to market a variety of ethnic options on your menu for students. Please go to the [SNT Training webpage](#) for more information on locations and registration.

## Coffee Sales in Schools



Coffee drinks have soared in popularity among today's youth, and you have likely noticed students arriving to school with coffee cups in hand. These coffee drinks are often purchased from local coffee shops or gas stations, but what if students could buy coffee from you instead of from your competitors?

As described in the [May 2019 edition of School Nutrition magazine](#), coffee sales can be a benefit to school food service when implemented correctly. Benefits include attracting students to the meal service area, increasing breakfast participation, and increasing revenue. If you decide to start selling coffee, carefully consider the location of your sales, the type of products you will sell, and the price point that will be successful. Consider partnering with an art or graphic design class to market this new opportunity to your customers. Finally, ask for feedback from students, and be responsive to their requests.

### How to Sell Coffee under the Smart Snacks Rule

Schools may sell coffee to high school students as long as the beverages meet the Smart Snacks standards.

### Brewed Coffee

Brewed coffee served with cream/milk and/or sweetener may be sold as long as the total volume of the beverage is no more than 12 fluid ounces and the beverage contains no more than five calories per fluid ounce. Ensure that the volume of coffee, cream/milk, and sweetener combined is no more than 12 fluid ounces. Evaluate the calories from the coffee, cream/milk, and sweetener. This may be done either by determining the average amount of cream/milk and sweetener each student uses, or by planning for a specific amount of individual packets of cream/milk and sweetener to go with each beverage. Note that calories from allowable milk types (low-fat or fat-free flavored or unflavored) do **not** count towards the calorie limit. Black coffee is considered a no-calorie beverage and may be sold in up to a 20 fluid ounce portion.

### Espresso Drinks

Espresso drinks, such as lattes, may be sold as long as the total volume of the beverage is no more than 12 fluid ounces and the beverage contains no more than five calories per fluid ounce. Again, calories from allowable milk types (low-fat or fat-free flavored or unflavored) do **not** count towards the calorie limit. Calories from espresso/coffee, added sweeteners, and accompaniments (e.g. whipped cream, caramel sauce, etc.) do count towards the calorie limit.



Visit our [Smart Snacks](#) webpage for more information. A new [flowchart](#) has been posted to assist schools in selling compliant coffee drinks!

## Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch



Are you registered for the GLGAC? All schools, hospitals, agencies, and other institutions are encouraged to [register](#) as early as possible to receive free stickers for their participants. DPI is registered as a part of the 2019 Partners in Giving Campaign. Hope to crunch with you all at **noon on October 10!**

## Professional Standards



The Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs rule requires minimum hiring requirements for new food service directors and ongoing training hours for school nutrition professionals, whether the SFA operates the school nutrition program or contracts with a food service management company (FSMC). Each SFA must have someone designated as the food service director.

- **New!** USDA published a new final rule, [Hiring Flexibility Under Professional Standards](#), on March 1, 2019. This final rule adds four flexibilities to the hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors in small LEAs (student enrollment of 2,499 or less) as established under the professional standards regulations for the NSLP and SBP. These changes are expected to expand the pool of candidates qualified to serve as leaders in the school nutrition programs while continuing to ensure school nutrition professionals are able to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. The most notable change is the experience requirement for hiring a new food service director after April 29, 2019. A candidate may possess relevant food service experience rather than school nutrition experience. Please [contact a Nutrition Program Consultant](#) (NPC) with questions.
- **Reminder for SFAs with a FSMC**  
Beginning in SY 2019-20, the person designated as the food service director, and who is directly responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of school nutrition programs, is required to meet the hiring standards and required annual training. This person can be a FSMC employee or SFA employee. The Authorized Representative listed on the school nutrition online contract **must** be a SFA employee. The Authorized Representative does not need to meet the hiring standards or the eight hours of food safety training, **but he or she does need to meet the annual training requirements for a food service director of 12 hours per year.**
- The [Professional Standards webpage](#) is a great resource! There will be two new summary resources, *Hiring a Food Service Director In A Nutshell* and *Training Requirements In A Nutshell*, posted to this webpage soon.

## SNT Member Updates

### Farewell and Best Wishes to...

**Dana Colla**, who moved back to Chicago and took a new job with an Illinois SFA after two years as a Public Health Nutritionist and FFVP Specialist with the SNT. We are all going to miss you so much, Dana!

**Erin Ogenorth**, who ventured west and took a new position with the Colorado Department of Education after two and a half years as a Public Health Nutritionist with the SNT. All the best as you move to higher heights, Erin!

**Alex Zitske**, who moved to Milwaukee and took a new procurement position in the private sector after three years as a USDA Foods Contract Specialist on our USDA Foods Team. Stay awesome, Alex!

**Laura Sime**, Contract Specialist on our USDA Foods Team, who will leave in October after 20 years with the DPI. She looks forward to exploring a new state with her family. Thank you, Laura!

## Buy American *In a Nutshell*

The DPI SNT recently developed a new resource to help SFAs comply with the Buy American Provision. This resource, [Buy American In A Nutshell](#), illustrates how to document exceptions (non-domestic items), describes contract management best practices, and includes a non-exhaustive list of non-domestic items commonly found in schools. The Nutshell is available on the [Buy American Provision webpage](#).



## Nutrition and Academic Performance

Eating healthfully in early childhood has been shown to have a lifelong beneficial impact on health status, physical development, and academic performance. There is abundant evidence suggesting food insecure children, or those who do not get enough food or adequate nutritious food, tend to have lower academic performance and are more prone to illness than food secure children. This underscores the important role that the NSLP and SBP play in helping all students reach their fullest potential. These programs, in alignment with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA), provide nutritious foods in the proper proportions for each age/grade group. School meals emphasize fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean meats; limit saturated fat, calories, and sodium; and eliminate trans-fat. As new research emerges on the impact of school meals, we have additional data to support the positive effects these programs have on students nationwide. Multiple studies show increased test scores in science and English, improved concentration and alertness, and reduced absenteeism. A diet rich in nutrient-dense foods is important for a student's physical growth as well as academic performance, and these programs – and YOU – help to create strong, healthy learners.

## Wisconsin School Day Milk Program (WSDMP) Statute

**Under Section 1425f. of 2019 Wisconsin Act 9 (Wis. Stat. Sec. 115.343)**

The DPI SNT is pleased to announce that those SFAs participating in the WSDMP may see an increase in reimbursement due to changes under 2019 Wisconsin Act 9 (the 2019-21 State Biennial Budget) pertaining to this program. Changes include:

- Increases in funding from \$617,100 in SY 2018-19, to \$1,000,000 annually, beginning in SY 2019-20, and
- Expansion of eligibility to include additional LEAs, specifically independent charter schools; the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (School for the Deaf); the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (School for the Blind); and residential care centers for children and youth (licensed child welfare agencies).

Newly eligible LEAs can apply to participate in the WSDMP by contacting the SNT at (608) 267-9228. Agencies will need to submit [WSDMP applications \(PI-1464\)](#) and update their SY 2019-20 School Nutrition online contracts.

Direct questions and concerns about program operational requirements to the WSDMP specialists, [Loriann Knapton](#) at (608) 266-1046 or [Jessica Oele](#) at (608) 266-3296.

The WSDMP statute (115.343) will be amended to reflect the language of [2019 Wisconsin Act 9 under SECTION 1425f](#).

# Mark Your Calendar!

National F2S Month – October 2019

[farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month](http://farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month)



National School Lunch Week

October 14-18, 2019

School Lunch: What's on Your Playlist?

[schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSLW/2019/](http://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSLW/2019/)

DPI Direct Diversion and SNA-WI Fall Conference

November 5-6, 2019

Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI

[sna-wi.org/event/sna-wifall2019](http://sna-wi.org/event/sna-wifall2019)

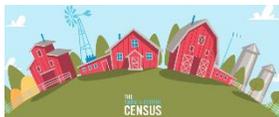


## Wisconsin Chili Lunch

Join us on **November 14** for the second annual Wisconsin Chili Lunch! [Register and learn more](#) about this fun and creative F2S event that promotes local foods in your school and community.

## F2S Census

All schools are encouraged to take part in the third F2S Census, which launched in September 2019. The F2S Census is the only national survey that examines school districts throughout all 50 states and their F2S activities. A strong response rate creates helpful new resources, tools, and policies to strengthen and grow F2S programs nationwide. It is important for all schools to answer the census, even if they do not think they participate in F2S activities. The census primarily focuses on activities that occurred in SY 2018-19.



Not a school? You can help by urging your school's nutrition department to complete the census this fall. Educate your schools on why it is important that their efforts are represented in this national survey, and make your district aware of any gardens and agricultural education happening in each school. See if your school participated in the 2015 census on the [F2S Census website](#).

## FFVP in Wisconsin



This school year, elementary students in 202 Wisconsin schools will enjoy fresh fruit and vegetable snacks at least two days per week! FFVP funding provides schools the opportunity to offer students unique produce that they may not have been able to try elsewhere. Last school year, Wisconsin students snacked on mango, kiwi, sugar snap peas, kumquat, and radishes, among many others. One school reports, "Kids are more willing to take the fruits and veggies at lunch and breakfast because of this experience." Another said, "Many [students] commented that they hadn't ever tried a particular food before it was served as part of the FFVP." Schools that operate the FFVP consistently demonstrate the program's positive effects on nutrition and wellness throughout the school.

The Wisconsin [FFVP webpage](#) includes information about the program, eligibility, requirements, and helpful resources for schools participating in the program.

Grant funds from USDA make the FFVP possible nationwide. Wisconsin's funding varies from year to year, so if your school applied this school year and was not awarded, please consider

applying next school year. FFVP grant application information for SY 2020-21 will be available in early 2020.

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- (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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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