

# Monthly Update

## School Nutrition Programs



July 7, 2025

*Distributed to the School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives Listserv and the Food Service Directors Listserv and posted at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, SNP, SNP Monthly Updates*

### Important Updates, Reminders, & Deadlines

#### **PY 2026 Renewal Documents – Due July 15**

Program renewal instructions and guidance can be downloaded from <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, Program Initiation/Renewal. Program renewal documents are due by July 15, 2025. Reimbursement claims for SY 2025-26 cannot be processed until all program renewal documents are approved by KSDE.

#### **2026 Program Agreement**

A new program agreement is required for 2026. The 2026 Program Agreement contains important updates and revisions. It is important that all sponsors read the program agreement and make sure the terms are understood. **Two paper copies of the 2026 Program Agreement must be completed, signed, and mailed to KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness. Original signatures are required.** A signature stamp is acceptable only if it is registered with the Kansas Secretary of State. When the agreement is approved, a copy will be returned to the sponsor.

#### **Reimbursement Rates**

Reimbursement rates for PY 2026 will be posted at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under Key Links, Reimbursement Rates as soon as they are available from USDA. Rates are typically released from USDA in mid to late July.

#### **Claim Reminders – SNP & Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP)**

State Accounting Systems re-opened this week, allowing payments to resume being posted. While SNP claims are typically posted on the first three Tuesdays of each month around 8 am, School Finance will instead be posting on July 8, 15, and 22, still providing three opportunities for payment. Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) Claims in “Approved” status will be processed on July 8 and July 22. Should you have any questions related to claims or reimbursement payments, please contact Dessa Gifford, Public Service Administrator, at (785) 296-4965 or [desa.gifford@ksde.gov](mailto:desa.gifford@ksde.gov).

#### **Indirect Cost Rates**

Indirect Cost Rates for SY 2025-26 will be posted in July at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, What’s New. Food service uses the unrestricted rate in the last column. The rate for private schools is 15%.

#### **Annual Financial Report – Due August 15**

In order to complete the Annual Financial Report (AFR) in KN-CLAIM by August 15, you MUST complete each of the Monthly Financial Reports (MFR) in KN-CLAIM on the MFR/AFR Tab in Program Year 2025. Information from the MFRs will automatically roll-up to create the AFR. When completing the AFR, be sure to enter the End-Of-Year Balance of Uncollected Charges at the bottom of the form. Remember that the AFR must match the Sponsor’s Food Service Fund Account. For help completing the MFR/AFR, contact your area Child Nutrition Consultant.



### Monthly Financial Report – Frequently Asked Question

**Question:** My Monthly Financial Report is giving me an error. Where do I find the information for Reimbursable Sales & Charges (line 33) and Non-Reimbursable Sales & Charges (line 34)?

**Answer:** Reimbursable Sales & Charges comes from the Daily Income Sales & Deposit Report (Form 10-A) Column D. Non-Reimbursable Sales & Charges comes from the Daily Incomes Sales & Deposit Report (Form 10-A) Columns E, I, K, & L. The Daily Income Sales & Deposit Report (Form 10-A) calculates these figures on page 2.

### Excess Cash Balance – Food Service Fund

To maintain the nonprofit status of the Food Service Fund, the fund balance or net cash resources of the fund should not exceed three (3) months' average expenditures. If the balance exceeds this threshold, the sponsor must take steps to reduce the balance or have an acceptable plan for using surplus revenues. The plan must be reviewed and approved by KSDE. Only allowable expenses to the Food Service Fund are approvable. Due to the uncertainty of costs and participation for SY 2025-26, Sponsors that have excess cash balances will be allowed to indicate that higher food and labor costs paired with lower reimbursement rates and uncertain participation may impact the food service fund. This can be used as acceptable reasoning on a spend down plan.

### Wellness Policy Data

In order to submit PY 2026 renewal documents, the Wellness Impact Tool must be completed in PY 2025 in KN-CLAIM. The information submitted in the Wellness Impact Tool helps to accurately reflect the sponsor's status in relation to the current Kansas School Wellness Policy Model Guidelines as of the end of SY 2024-25. School wellness policy data for every school district in Kansas is available to the public on KSDE Data Central at [www.ksde.gov](http://www.ksde.gov) under Data Central, Child Nutrition & Wellness Reports. Be sure to add this link on the Sponsor website or make current Wellness policies available to the public to meet the USDA requirement to make the Wellness Policies available to the public.

### School Breakfast for Morning Preschool Students

All Kansas public schools are required by State law to participate in the School Breakfast Program unless they meet certain criteria and receive an annual waiver from the Kansas State Department of Education. Starting in SY 2025-26, if morning preschool students are counted in the student enrollment count on September 20, schools must offer these students breakfast. This requirement is per Kansas State Statute 72-17,145.

### Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant Funding – Applications Due July 18

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting grant applications for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure program. Grants will be awarded to Kansas food and farm businesses and other eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, local government entities, Tribal governments, and institutions such as schools and hospitals.

A second round of Simplified Equipment-Only Grants is now available, and awards will range in value from a minimum award of \$10,000 and a maximum award of \$50,000 and do not require cost sharing or matching. The Simplified Equipment-Only Grant is a fixed price grant, meaning it will fund only equipment purchases and the amount awarded will be equal to the cost of the equipment up to \$50,000. The Simplified Equipment-Only Grant will operate on an accelerated timeline and all equipment purchases must be made by December 31, 2025.



Applications will be evaluated through a competitive review process in cooperation with the USDA-AMS. Applications will be ranked based on their project's need, proposed outcomes, and feasibility as well as the impact they will have on the local food supply chain and their communities.

Applications are due to KDA no later than 5 pm CT on July 18, 2025. For more information, please download and carefully read the Request for Applications from the KDA website: [agriculture.ks.gov/RFSI](https://agriculture.ks.gov/RFSI).

### **August Town Hall**

Plan now to join the KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team for the August Town Hall on Thursday, August 14 at 2 pm. More details will be provided in the August Monthly Update.

### **Announcing Our 7th Annual Mountain Plains Crunch Off**

Kansas is competing with seven other states to celebrate with crunchable local products any day in October. The state with the most crunches per capita wins!

Kansas Department of Agriculture and KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness are working together to offer a Crunch Off promotion with [From the Land of Kansas](#) members: [Papa Baldy's](#) and [Nu Life Market](#). Plan now to create a crunch event in October. A registration link will be coming soon!

### **Congratulations to the 2025 Farm to School Sub-Grantees!**

The following Child Nutrition Program operators received up to \$9,500 to complete projects to add local foods to their operations. These sub-grants are funded through our USDA Formula Grant: D0292 Wheatland - gardening; D0298 Lincoln - baking equipment; D0312 Haven - gardening & food storage equipment; D0367 Osawatomie - Tower Garden & food storage equipment; D0445 Coffeyville - kitchen equipment; P0024 Positive Bright Start - gardening; P0076 Martin Luther King Jr - kitchen equipment; P0107 Community Action - chicken project; P0132 Day Dare Connections - baking equipment; and P0189 Quality Care Connections - grow kits.

## **USDA Updates**

### **SP 14-2025: Offer versus Serve Flexibilities for the NSLP and SBP**

This policy memo encourages schools to use Offer versus Serve (OVS), giving students more control over their meal choices while boosting participation and limiting food waste. This aligns with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' commitment to clarifying requirements in nutrition programs. FNS commends schools that already utilize OVS each day and invites schools not yet participating in OVS to take advantage of the benefits. The policy memo is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/schoolmeals/enhancing-meal-standards>

### **SP 15-2025: Enhancing Child Nutrition Program Meal Standards**

This policy memo encourages State-level meal standards that put States in the driver's seat as innovative collaborators and policy incubators, ensuring that meals are tailored to meet the nutritional needs and preferences of their students. The policy memo is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/schoolmeals/offer-vs-serve-flexibilities>



## **Reminder for School Meal Programs: Updated Nutrition Standards – Implementation by July 1, 2025**

This is a reminder about updates to the school nutrition standards that will help schools encourage healthy choices that lead to healthy outcomes through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP), which serve around 30 million and 15 million children every school day, respectively. While some changes to the meal pattern requirements are phased in through school year (SY) 2027-2028, several changes are effective July 1, 2025. Please refer to the timeline for more information on updated nutrition requirements in school meals.

The following NSLP and SBP meal pattern changes must be implemented by July 1, 2025:

- Added Sugars – Schools must meet the following product-based added sugar limits:
  - Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce ([7 CFR 210.10\(c\)\(2\)\(iii\)\(B\)](#)).
  - Yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams per ounce) ([7 CFR 210.10\(c\)\(2\)\(iv\)\(C\)](#)).
  - Flavored milk must contain no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces, or 15 grams of added sugars per 12 fluid ounces for flavored milk sold as a competitive beverage for middle and high schools ([7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#)).
- NSLP Afterschool Snacks – Schools serving NSLP afterschool snacks to children in grades K-12 must serve the meal components and quantities found at [7 CFR 210.10\(o\)\(2\)](#). Two highlights include:
  - No more than half of the weekly fruit or vegetable offerings at NSLP snacks may be in the form of juice.
  - At least 80 percent of the grains offered during the week for NSLP snacks must be whole grain-rich.
  - Grain-based desserts, except for sweet crackers such as animal and graham crackers, do not contribute toward the grains requirement.
- Meal Modifications – Schools must accept medical statements from registered dietitians requesting meal modifications on behalf of students with disabilities in the school meal programs. Refer to [7 CFR 210.10\(m\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) for more information.
- Substitution of Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast
  - Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast one day per school week may offer any vegetable, including a starchy vegetable.
  - Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast on two or more days per week are required to offer vegetables from at least two different vegetable subgroups. Refer to [SP 02-2025](#) and [SP 13-2025](#) for more information.
- Sodium – The current sodium limits at breakfast and lunch will remain in place until July 1, 2027. Schools are encouraged to gradually work toward meeting the future sodium requirements ([7 CFR 210.10\(c\)](#)). Visit the following website for more information: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards/sodium-limits>.
- Buy American – Schools' non-domestic food purchases must not exceed 10 percent of total annual commercial food costs as outlined in [7 CFR 210.21\(d\)\(5\)\(ii\)\(A\)](#) and [7 CFR 220.16\(d\)\(5\)\(ii\)\(A\)](#). As outlined in recent guidance, State agencies have the ability to approve a temporary accommodation to those school food authorities that demonstrate they cannot meet the threshold requirement for non-domestic purchases (see [SP 09-2025](#)).



To assist schools in meeting the updated nutrition standards, the following resources are available from Team Nutrition and the Institute of Child Nutrition:

- [Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast](#)
- [Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#)
- [Serving School Meals to Preschoolers](#)
- [The Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs](#)
- [Nutrition Standards for Added Sugars Fact Sheets](#)

## Professional Development & Training

### Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management

As of July 1, the Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management program is being paused, and KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness (CNW) will not be accepting applications until further notice. CNW will begin the process of evaluating the certificate requirements and will develop a revised set of criteria for certificate completion. Please direct any questions to Kelly Chanay at [kelly.chanay@ksde.gov](mailto:kelly.chanay@ksde.gov).

### Training Opportunities

Many opportunities for learning are available to SNP sponsors. Go to <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, Training, CNW Calendar to access the schedule of live classes with dates, times, and links. Upcoming live virtual trainings include:

- **SNP/CACFP Annual Administrative Training** on July 8 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on July 16 from 2-5 pm
- **SNP Determining Eligibility** (*repeat session*) on July 30 from 9-11 am
- **Is This Meal Reimbursable? Breakfast** on August 6 from 8:30-10 am
- **Is This Meal Reimbursable? Lunch** on August 6 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm
- **CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals** on August 6 from 1-2 pm

On-demand training is offered 24/7 on the KSDE Training Portal. Create an account at <https://learning.ksde.org>. For detailed instructions on creating an account, go to <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, Training. **New to the portal:** Buy American Tutorial (25 min), SNP Annual Administrative Training (3 hrs).

If you would like to schedule an in-service, culinary coach session, or have questions about professional development, contact Holly Steinlage at [holly.steinlage@ksde.gov](mailto:holly.steinlage@ksde.gov).

### Culinary Coaches – NEW Training Program!

This training opportunity allows sponsors to request in-person, hands-on culinary training conducted at their site. Sponsors can choose from four training topics: Critical Culinary Skills, Knife Basics, Cooking Basics, and Baking Basics. The sessions will be led by trained culinary coaches and will focus on developing culinary skills that will better enable child nutrition program sponsors to prepare scratch and speed scratch recipes. If interested in scheduling a culinary coach session, please contact Holly Steinlage at [holly.steinlage@ksde.gov](mailto:holly.steinlage@ksde.gov).

### SNP Annual Administrative Training (REQUIRED)

Sponsors should make plans to attend SNP Annual Administrative Training. At least one representative from each sponsor must complete this training annually. The remaining live virtual session is for sponsors that operate both SNP and CACFP. Join SNP/CACFP Annual Administrative Training on July 8 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 283 539 248 463 Passcode: kB37pX2V).



The training is also available on the KSDE Training Portal at <https://learning.ksde.org> under K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: SNP.

### **Menu Planning for School Meals Training**

KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness will be hosting in-person "Menu Planning for School Meals" training sessions this summer. This six-hour training is intended for individuals responsible for menu planning; it will cover the basics of the School Nutrition Program meal pattern then break down how to calculate components. Attendees will practice calculating components through multiple activities with guidance from instructors. The training will be held in the locations listed below from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. To register, email Pam Rosebaugh at [pam.rosebaugh@ksde.gov](mailto:pam.rosebaugh@ksde.gov) with the location you plan to attend.

- De Soto – Thursday, July 17
- Maize – Wednesday, July 30

### **SNP Determining Eligibility Training – July 30**

This training will discuss the various ways in which student eligibility for free and reduced price meals can be established. The two main options, direct certification and applications, will be discussed. Participants will practice determining free and reduced price eligibility through example applications. Join the training on July 30 from 9 to 11 am: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 292 582 905 323 Passcode: GJ2RT9ak).

### **Is This Meal Reimbursable? – August 6**

These trainings cover the food-based meal pattern requirements for school breakfast and lunch. By going through sample menus and choices, the training will allow participants to practice determining which meals are reimbursable. Both sessions can be accessed from the same link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 266 413 332 052 Passcode: kb3GS94Y)

- Is This Meal Reimbursable? Breakfast – August 6 from 8:30 to 10 am
- Is This Meal Reimbursable? Lunch – August 6 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

### **CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Training – August 6**

Sponsors and sites interested in being reimbursed for a supper and/or snack served after the school day can learn more about CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals on Wednesday, August 6 from 1-2 pm: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 230 068 471 573 Passcode: hW6SE7Jp).

### **School Nutrition Association of Kansas (SNA-KS) Annual Conference – October 3-5**

Make plans to attend the SNA-KS Annual Conference & Industry Showcase (Food Show) in Wichita on October 3-5, 2025. More information and a link to register are available at <https://snakansas.com/events/2025conference/>. Scholarships are available to help cover the registration fee for both first-time and returning attendees. Apply for a scholarship by August 4 at this link: [SNA-KS 2025 Conference Scholarship](#).

### **SNA-KS Conference Farm Tour – October 3**

KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness is excited to be part of the SNA-KS Conference with a Farm Tour being offered on Friday, October 3 from 11 am to 5 pm. A lunch will be provided by USD 266 Maize with a local food presentation and tour of the district's local food education opportunities. Afternoon transportation will be provided for the area farm tours. The tour is available for free when you register – more information coming soon!





### **Jump Start for New Directors – October 7 & 8**

A two-day training opportunity for new directors (authorized representatives and/or food service directors) will be held in Manhattan on October 7 and 8, 2025. This orientation training is designed to give an overview of program responsibilities to new directors with less than three years of experience. Participants will receive valuable tips, guidance, and ideas from KSDE child nutrition consultants while also meeting other new directors. For more information or to register, contact Holly Steinlage at [holly.steinlage@ksde.gov](mailto:holly.steinlage@ksde.gov).

## **New Resources**

### **2025 Kansas Local Food Summit – Registration Now Open!**

The Kansas Local Food Summit, hosted by K-State Research and Extension and the Community Resilience Hub at Kansas Wesleyan University, will be held July 29-30 in Salina. Attendees will have a unique opportunity to paint a vibrant future for local food systems in Kansas. Hear stories and connect with people from across the state about strategies for local food system success. The Summit will begin with a day of optional workshops and tours on Tuesday, followed by a full day of speakers, interactive learning sessions, and more opportunities to connect with people from across the state on Wednesday. Registration is now open at this link: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/kansaslocalfoods/local-food-summit/registration.html>

### **Earn a Free Culinary Kit for Your School Kitchen**

Participate in the Local Foods Culinary Training that is available on the KSDE Training Portal and earn a free culinary kit for your school kitchen! Each school kitchen with a staff member completing the training is eligible to receive a culinary toolkit consisting of a dough cutter, wire whisk, digital scale, and blender (1 kit per school kitchen), while supplies last. Instructions for completing the survey to receive the toolkit are posted at the end of the online training. This 2-hour training features Kansas products and producers, gives helpful information on how to implement Farm to Plate in Kansas Child Nutrition Programs, and provides recipes and culinary tips for incorporating the Kansas products featured in the training into local menus. Go to <https://learning.ksde.org>, K12 Staff, Child Nutrition & Wellness: General Classes, Local Foods Culinary Training (2 Hours), to access this training.

### **You are Appreciated!**

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team appreciates each of you and your work to create healthy habits for a lifetime through the SNP. Be sure to share your best practices by using the hashtag #FuelingKSKids! Not on social media? Don't hesitate to email pictures of the great meals and activities being offered in your programs to anyone on the Child Nutrition & Wellness team!

**As always, if you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact your child nutrition consultant or the Topeka office.**

The CNW Team



For more information, contact:

Kelly Chanay  
Director, Child Nutrition & Wellness  
(785) 296-2276  
<https://cnw.ksde.gov>  
[kelly.chanay@ksde.gov](mailto:kelly.chanay@ksde.gov)

Kansas State Department of Education  
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212  
(785) 296-3201  
[www.ksde.gov](http://www.ksde.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.