

Monthly Update



School Nutrition Programs

March 5, 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

Town Hall Thursday at 2 – March 13

Agenda items for the March Town Hall include Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) renewal training and administrative updates. Join the meeting on March 13 at 2 pm at this Microsoft Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#) (Meeting ID: 241 814 717 448 Passcode: hW7Wy3Ax).

Please note that Town Hall meetings will now be held on Microsoft Teams (not Zoom). The previous Zoom link will not work for Town Hall meetings moving forward. Instructions for joining a Microsoft Teams meeting are available at <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/join-a-teams-meeting-078e9868-f1aa-4414-8bb9-ee88e9236ee4>

Disrupted Phone Services for Field Staff

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness team has experienced disrupted phone service for field staff over the past week. Most phone lines have been restored, but our IT department is still working to resolve issues for a few staff. We apologize for any delay this has caused in our ability to respond to phone messages or return calls. If you are ever unable to contact your consultant and need immediate assistance, please contact our office at 785-296-2276. Thank you for your patience!

Important! Community Eligibility Provision Notification Reporting Required

Using **April 1** data, **ALL SPONSORS** except RCCLs are **required** to:

- Go to <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, KN-CLAIM, SNP, Program Year 2025, Forms, Community Eligibility Provision Notification to enter the required data.
- Enter the total number of students Directly Certified for the entire Sponsor (include Food Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Families, Foster, and Medicaid Free from the Direct Certification list as well as students certified as Migrant, Homeless, Runaway, Head Start or Even Start, and non-applicants approved by local officials. **Do not include Medicaid Reduced.**
- Enter the number enrolled with access to school meals for the entire Sponsor. Do not include virtual students or students that attend a half day without access to a meal.
- After entering the Sponsor information, click "Save" to calculate and display the percentage of Identified Students. The appropriate checkbox will indicate if the Sponsor is eligible or potentially eligible to participate.
- Next, enter each site's number of Directly Certified and enrollment with access to school meals by clicking on the edit pencil next to each site's name.
- Click the blue save icon to calculate, display the percentage of Identified Students, and SAVE the site information. The appropriate checkboxes will indicate the eligibility status for each site.
- Data must be entered by **April 15** so that a list of Sponsors and sites eligible to participate can be provided to USDA.
- Sponsors with at least one site eligible to elect participation in the Community Eligibility Provision will be notified and provided detailed information.
- The current deadline to elect the Community Eligibility Provision is June 30, 2025.



Updates to KN-CLAIM

On Thursday, March 13, KN-CLAIM will be updated to include a new dashboard feature. After clicking to enter KN-CLAIM, users will be directed to a dashboard that includes information for all programs the sponsor operates. To access the Sponsor Summary page for each program, users can select 2025 next to “Jump to Program Year” on the right side of the page. This update will also merge the direct certification list into KN-CLAIM. Once merged, access to the direct certification list will be through KN-CLAIM and not the KSDE Authentication System. A link to the direct certification system will be on the dashboard.

Ramadan Meal Service Waiver

USDA has authorized KSDE to approve waiver requests to allow local Program operators to offer non-congregate meals when participants observing Ramadan are fasting during typical meal service times. The waiver application is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, SNP What's New, Ramadan Meal Service Waiver Application.

Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) Site Reviews

Sponsors participating in the ASP must review each site two (2) times per year. The first review must occur during the first four (4) weeks that the site is in operation each school year and the second review must be completed at some point during the school year. Use the Afterschool Snack Program On-Site Monitoring Form for documenting ASP site reviews. The form can be found at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, SNP, Food Service Facts, Chapter 26, Related Forms.

School Breakfast Waivers

Eating breakfast is one of the best ways to ensure students are healthy and able to achieve their full potential. 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. Waiver Request forms for SY 2025-26 can be requested by contacting Arleen Anderson at Arleen.Anderson@ksde.gov or 785-296-2276 and are due by April 18.

School Breakfast for Morning Preschool Students

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. Again, this requirement for preschool students will be effective in SY 2025-26.

Administrative Review Results Available

The results from Administrative Reviews are posted at www.ksde.gov, Data Central, Child Nutrition & Wellness Reports, Administrative Review Findings, and Administrative Review Commendations.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

Summer meal programs are designed to fill the nutrition gap that occurs in summer and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. For questions about SFSP or SSO, a Summer 2025 Comparison Chart has been developed to explain options and is posted at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, SFSP, SFSP What's New. Contact our office at 785-296-2276 or your area KSDE child nutrition consultant to discuss options for summer 2025 and determine the right fit for your Sponsorship. Multiple summer meal training opportunities are available – see details under the “Professional Development & Training” section below.



New Body Venture Exhibit – Apply Now for SY 2025-26

Body Venture is KSDE's traveling health education exhibit for students in grades K-5. This exciting exhibit can visit approximately 100 schools next school year. The Body Venture experience helps students learn why it is important to "Eat Smart. Play Hard." The Request to Schedule Body Venture form for SY 2025-26 is available at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, SNP, SNP What's New.

2025 Farm to Plate Subgrant

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Sponsors may request up to \$9,500 to support Farm to Plate initiatives that will increase the local foods served as part of Child Nutrition Program snacks and meals. Subgrants will be utilized by CNP operators to advance eligible local foods programming activities. Subgrants will be available to School Nutrition Program (SNP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors. The application is anticipated to be available at the end of March at <https://cnw.ksde.gov>, Farm to Plate, What's New. Contact Eryn Davis at Eryn.Davis@ksde.gov with questions.

Congratulations! Farm to School Superstars

These Kansas Child Nutrition Programs were recognized in the 2023 Farm to School Census as a district with Farm to School "intensity". This was a calculated metric based on participation in local procurement and education/garden activities, as well as commitment to dedicating staff time to Farm to School.

- USD 473 Chapman
- USD 268 Cheney
- USD 283 Elk Valley
- USD 200 Greeley County
- USD 291 Grinnell Public Schools
- USD 497 Lawrence
- USD 444 Little River
- USD 386 Madison-Virgil
- X0761 Manhattan Catholic Schools
- USD 246 Northeast
- USD507 Satanta
- USD 230 Spring Hill
- X0736 St Patrick Elementary
- USD 432 Victoria
- USD 320 Wamego

Find your Child Nutrition Program at this link <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/census-results/states/ks>

Professional Development & Training

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 trainings include:

- **Gluten-Free Diets** on March 5 from 2-3 pm
- **Introduction to SFSP** on March 6 from 2-3 pm
- **Food Safety Basics** on March 12 from 2-5 pm
- **SFSP Annual Administrative Training** on March 26 from 1-4 pm
- **Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas** on March 27 from 2-3 pm
- **FSMC Renewal Training** on April 1 from 9-10 am
- **Sodium Savvy** on April 2 from 2-3 pm

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.



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:** Wellness Wednesdays: Improving & Maintain Heart Health in Children, Wellness Wednesdays: Tobacco & Nicotine Use & Prevention, and Wellness Wednesdays: Nutrition & Cardiovascular Health.

Culinary Coaches – NEW Training Program!

KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness is excited to be launching a Culinary Coaches Program in SY 2025! 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.

Calling All Bakers!

Do you have a passion for scratch baking and yeast breads? Do you want to share that passion with other Kansas sponsors? KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness is looking for individuals like YOU to serve as baking coaches. If interested in sharing your knowledge with other Kansas sponsors through training and technical assistance, please contact Holly Steinlage at Holly.Steinlage@ksde.gov for an application.

Introduction to SFSP Training – March 6

KSDE will be hosting an Introduction to SFSP training on Thursday, March 6 from 2-3 pm. The training will provide a high-level overview of SFSP operations including sponsor responsibilities, meal planning and documentation, claiming and reimbursement, and resources available. Join the training at <https://ksde.zoom.us/j/89379675724?pwd=ILFJBsv28Sf7Rklr9E9XDaYfBLzMyW.1> Passcode: 146195

SFSP Annual Administrative Training – March 26

Are you planning to offer meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer? If so, join KSDE on Wednesday, March 26 from 1-4 pm for SFSP Administrative Training. The training will be offered live via Zoom at the following link:
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/85406961050?pwd=inGc7bnw2PzvVbOrpzBUfymJET9odP.1> Passcode: 435352

For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date. All new and returning sponsors must have at least one representative complete this training in order to operate the SFSP in summer 2025.

Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Training – March 27

If your sponsor is planning to offer non-congregate meals through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in summer 2025, at least one sponsor representative must attend the Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas Training on Thursday, March 27 from 2-3 pm. The training will be offered live via Zoom at the following link:
<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/85352333398?pwd=ptlrOZbRaCHxTv7yjsLYk99IXgoLv.1> Passcode: 239026

Non-congregate meal service is defined by USDA as “a food service at which meals are provided for children to consume all of the components off site”. This training will explain requirements for operating non-congregate meal service sites based on USDA guidance. For those unable to attend the live training, a recording will be available on the KSDE Training Portal at a later date.



FSMC Renewal Training – April 1

Sponsors that are planning to renew their FSMC contract for the 2025-26 school year should plan to attend the FSMC Renewal Training scheduled for Tuesday, April 1 from 9-10 am. This training will discuss the contract renewal process as well as remind sponsors of their contract monitoring responsibilities. [Click this Teams link to join the meeting](#) Meeting ID: 242 335 658 401 Passcode: uy2f53vs. A recording of the training will be made available for sponsors unable to attend the live virtual training.

USDA Updates

SP 09-2025: Buy American Accommodation Process for School Year 2025-2026

This memorandum provides the State agency the ability to approve temporary relief for school food authorities that demonstrate they cannot meet the thresholds for non-domestic food purchases established in regulations [7 CFR 210.21\(d\)\(5\)](#) and [7 CFR 220.16\(d\)\(5\)](#) for school year 2025-2026. The policy memo is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/schoolmeals/buy-american-accomodation>

Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requests comments from the public. The request for information was issued on December 26, 2024, to obtain input to help inform future policymaking, guidance, and technical assistance related to grain-based desserts and high-protein yogurt crediting in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). The public is invited to submit comments to www.regulations.gov through March 26, 2025.

FNS hosted an informational Webinar for State Agencies, Local Operators, and the Public on January 28 on the Zoom platform. The [webinar recording](#) and [PDF of slides](#) are now available.

More information about the request for information can be found on the FNS website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>. Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. For more information on submitting comments, please see [Tips for Submitting Effective Comments](#) here: [Tips-For-Submitting-Effective-Comments.pdf](#). (Please note this is a Federal Register resource and not an FNS resource.)

New Resources

Shop KS Farms is Coming to Douglas County!

Shop Kansas Farms Market of Farms will be in Lawrence on March 29 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Flory Meeting Hall on the Douglas County Fairgrounds. Vendors from across the state will be selling beef, pork, poultry, eggs, honey, jams and jellies, and more! More information is available here: <https://shopkansasfarms.com/douglas-county-market-of-farms>

National School Breakfast Week: March 3-7

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) takes place March 3-7, 2025! This year's theme, "Clue In to School Breakfast," brings the fun and excitement of mystery-solving into the cafeteria. Get ready to don your detective hats and start unraveling the mysteries of National School Breakfast Week with SNA resources available at <https://schoolnutrition.org/about-school-meals/national-school-breakfast-week/>.



Celebrate National Nutrition Month in March!

National Nutrition Month®, celebrated each year during March, focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. This year's theme is "Food Connects Us." Food is a connecting factor for many of us. Food connects us to our cultures, our families, and our friends. Check out a list of ideas to celebrate during each week of March at <https://cnw.ksde.gov> under SNP, SNP What's New.

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.

Working Well Conference – April 8 in Wichita

The Health & Wellness Coalition of Wichita invites you to join them at their 20th Annual Working Well Conference on Tuesday, April 8 from 8 am to 4 pm in Wichita. This year's conference focuses on being "Bold & Balanced," and attendees will learn how bold thinking helps create workplaces where innovation and well-being thrive. For more information and to register, please visit the conference website at <https://hwcwichita.org/worksite-wellness/working-well-conference/>.

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:

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