

Across the Desk

All Things School Nutrition Administration

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

AI Bot Rules for NDDPI Hosted Meetings/Webinars

Please be advised that due to privacy concerns and potential legal implications, the use of external AI transcription tools is strictly prohibited in NDDPI meetings. If you wish to record a meeting for transcription purposes, please submit your request to the meeting organizer."

Agenda for Today

1. Summer Programs – SFSP and Summer EBT
2. Direct Certification with Medicaid
3. Continuation of ND Extended Eligibility Guidelines
4. CEP
5. FFVP application
6. Buy American Provision & Procurement Reminders
7. More End-of-the-year Reminders
8. Meal Pricing for SY26 & the Nonprogram Revenue Tool
9. Upcoming Training and Events for school nutrition staff
10. School Lunch Hero Day: May 2
11. Farm to School News

Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals)

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL APRIL 30!!

- Annual training links will be emailed to approved sponsors
- 2025 forms and tools are available on the website
- Office Hours on Thursdays at 3 pm CST (April)



mdanderson@nd.gov or 701-328-2263

Looking forward to a successful summer!

Summer EBT

- \$120 EBT Benefit Card per Eligible Student
- Cards to be mailed by May 16th (expected delivery by June 1)
- Additional card issuances will be completed throughout the summer as additional students become eligible through applications
- Benefits can be used just like SNAP benefits
- Benefits expire 122 days from issuance

Summer EBT

40,000 Students are ALREADY eligible through the Streamlined Process

- Direct Certification through SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, Medicaid
- Homeless, Migrant, Foster
- Eligible for Federal Free/Reduced-price meals in SY 24-25 and attending an NSLP school
- State 200 (Exempt – State Benefit) is NOT eligible.

Communications

- Emails Templates, Robo Calls Templates
- One pager to post to your website, hang up, hand out
- Communication on Eligibility sent to parents starting the week of April 14th
- For any questions, please refer to <https://ndsummerebt.nd.gov> or email NDSEBT@nd.gov

Direct Certification through Medicaid

- New in SY 24-25
- Directly certify students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals based on household income through Medicaid
- Same eligibility percentages 130% or less = Free, 131-185% = Reduced-Price
- Notifications in STARS: DHS-MF = Medicaid Free
DHS-MR = Medicaid Reduced

ALL schools need to check DC list at least once per month!

- Cannot qualify for Medicaid from an Application
- Extended Eligibility is allowable
- A Free Application Supersedes a RDC – (Common Review Finding)
- We will continue to make improvements

ND Extended Eligibility Guidelines

State 200? Now State 225?

Year 1 (2023-24) Year 2 (2024-25)

Approximately 1800 students were eligible in 2024-25

SY 25-26 will be on the DPI website by June 2025

Income Guidelines

Application template with Household letter

Consider Online applications

Cannot accept applications until July 1, 2025

Remember: Applications **MUST** be determined within 10 days of receiving them!

Reminder – the State has Primero Edge, online application available for use.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

- **Schools or districts qualify if 25% are “Identified Students”**
 - Households receiving SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, Foster, Homeless or Migrant
- **No Applications are needed**
- **Schools must re-certify every four years**
- **Reimbursement is based on a formula**
 - $\text{ISP} \times 1.6 = \text{Percentage of meals reimbursed at the federal free rate.}$
 - Remaining meals are reimbursed at the federal paid rate

FFVP Application

- **Applications available first part of May**
 - Reapplying Schools in good standing – shortened application
 - No Funding Changes
 - More Training Next Year

ND House Bill 1132

“Whole, pasteurized milk served in bulk milk dispensers.”

Schools may establish a policy allowing a school to serve whole, two percent and flavored pasteurized milk through a bulk milk dispenser.

All NSLP Rules still apply:

- Must offer at least two choices.
- Must be fat free, 1% flavored or unflavored.
- By July 1, 2025, flavored milk must meet added sugar limits:
 - No more than 10 grams of added sugar per 8 ounces.

Guidance will be on our website.

Buy American Provision

1. Ensure Buy American is communicated to Vendors
2. Document “Exceptions”
 - a. **NEW:** Document Exceptions NOT on FAR List
 - b. Must have documentation on the reason: price or availability
3. **NEW** for SY26: No more than 10% Foods can be Non-Domestic
 - a. All commercial food purchase for school meal programs
 - b. Separate out ALL nondomestic purchase
 - Do not include USDA Foods



FAR 25.104 **Non Available Articles**

**Bananas
Cashew nuts
Coconut
Olive oil
Olives, green
Mandarin
oranges
Pineapple,
canned
Cr of Tartar
Water chestnuts
Yeast**

Buy American Provision

Starting SY 26

- no more than 10% of commercial food purchase can be Foreign Product.

150 Kids					
<u>Item</u>	<u>Case size</u>	<u>Case cost</u>	<u>1cs/wk</u>		
Bananas	150ct	\$ 37.99	\$ 1,481.61		
Mandarin oranges	6 - #10 cans (139 - 1/2c)	\$ 37.99	\$ 1,481.61		
Pineapple, cnd	6 - #10 cans (148- 1/2c)	\$ 64.03	\$ 2,497.17		
Yeast	1 lb cakes	\$ 2.50	\$ 97.48		
			\$ 5,557.87	Total cost	
		10% of	55,578.70	Commercial costs	



NDDPI Back to School Workshop



Please Help

1. Questions/Comments about
 - the Buy American Provision,
 - 'Exceptions',
 - and the NEW 10% Cap.
2. Data – real pricing, usage
 - Waiver for SY 25-26

Procurement Requirements

Ensure compliance with 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, 245, 250; and 2 CFR 200

- **Competitive Procurement when using Federal and State funds**
 - Fair, Open and Competitive
- **Follow the District's Procurement Procedures**
 - Procurement policy is a Roadmap
 - Includes Code of Conduct
 - Purchasing thresholds affect procurement methods
- **Buy American provision**



Procurement Requirements

Ensure compliance with 7 CFR Parts 210, 220, 225, 226, 245, 250; and 2 CFR 200

- **Annual Training – suggested:**
 - Back to School Workshop & Website
- **Institute of Child Nutrition (www.theicn.org)**
 - **April 24th, 2025, 2 pm CST**

This webinar will equip school nutrition professionals with effective strategies for navigating the bid process and vendor selections. Join us to gain insights on securing high-quality food at competitive prices and to learn practical tips for successful procurement.
- **OCTOBER 15th, 2025 – Team Up for Procurement**



Cooperative Food Service Bid with Cooperative Purchasing Connection



Bid Opening was last week!!!

New Participants are allowed

- Participation Agreement
- Data/Logistics Information
- Contact **Lori Mittelstadt**, if interested in joining:
 - info@purchasingconnection.org



Reach Your NDESC Team at
866-337-2005 | info@purchasingconnection.org

End of the Year Reminders

1. School Food Service Account

- Check the Ending balance of the Foodservice account
 - cannot be Negative.
 - cannot have a larger balance than  months of operating.
(Excess Funds)

2. Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

- Same exemption as this year: \$0 or positive balance in FS account
- Request exemption during Renewal process

Setting Meal & Ala Carte Pricing

2025 Average Meal Prices - Statewide

Category	Breakfast	Lunch	After School Snack
Adult	2.93	4.46	1.25
Adult Guest	2.99	4.70	1.25
Elementary	2.11	3.09	.92
High School	2.17	3.26	1.06
Middle School	2.16	3.24	1.02

1. Student Breakfast and Lunch pricing

\$.10 increase each year

2. Adult Meal Pricing

Depends on Reimbursement rates...

a. Pricing schools: Must be at or above

Reimbursement rate for Paid meals + Commodity Value + Highest Student meal Price

This year: Adult breakfast: \$.39 extra Adult lunch: \$.96 higher + Highest Student meal Price

b. NON-pricing schools: Must be at or above

Reimbursement for Free meals + Value of commodities

Reimbursement	Free Eligible	Commodity Value	Adult Meal Price, SY25		
Breakfast	\$2.84*	\$0	\$2.84		
Lunch	\$4.54**	\$0.45	\$4.99		
	*Severe Need	**Especially Needy			

Setting Meal & Ala Carte Pricing

3. A la Carte Pricing (Seconds; Snacks)

a. Nonprogram Food Revenue Tool

b. Ala carte: ICN recommends 30%

Round down for healthy things, i.e. apples, water

Round up for less healthy, i.e. chips, cookies

4 Numbers from Food Service Account

1 Nonprogram Food Costs

2 Total Food Costs

3 Nonprogram Food Sales Revenue

4 Total Revenue

<u>Snack</u>	<u>Food Cost</u>	<u>Mark Up</u>	<u>Rounded Price</u>
Apple	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.50
Bag of Baked chips	\$ 0.34	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.50
8oz Carton of milk	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.45
12 oz Water	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.50
2 ounce WG Cookie	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.75

Meal Pricing

PLEASE!!



POS to make sure that Reduced-price breakfast and lunch are set to \$0!
These meals should be free for students because of reimbursement from the STATE of ND



The Letters of Notification to Households about their Eligibility.

-These should not be One-Liners. Access the DPI templates.



Your Procedure for addressing Unpaid Meal Charges = Bad Debt.

- Schools cannot simply zero out negative balances when they are no longer collectible.

- A non-Federal source (usually the General Fund) must be used to pay off those negative balances.

Upcoming Training/Events

- **Serv Safe – in person**
 - June 3rd at the Capitol Building in Bismarck
 - OR Complete online at will: www.theicn.org
- **New Kitchen Manager/Food Service director**
 - June 4th- 5th at the Capitol Building in Bismarck
- **NDDPI-CNFD Back to School Workshops**
July 29th – Fargo July 31st– Minot Aug 4th – Bismarck
- **Team UP Procurement Workshop with Urban Food Alliance**
Wednesday, October 15th at the Capitol Building in Bismarck
- **NDSNA –**
 - October 16-17th in Bismarck at the Bismarck Event Center (formerly Ramkota)
Website: Northdakotasna.com



Registration
in the last
newsletter
or on the
website



Jarrett J Krosoczka's 'Lunch Lady'

April Kitchen Counter Conversation

Tuesday, April 15th, 2025
– 2 p.m. Central

Team Nutrition training

Boost Your Kitchen's Potential: Webinar on Efficiency & Menu Strategies

School Lunch Hero Day

FRIDAY, May 2nd, 2025

Resources can be found here:

- [Schoolnutrition.org](https://www.schoolnutrition.org)
- [#SLHD24 Student Activities – School Nutrition Association](#)



Beef Month Lunch Promo



ND School Food Service Beef Lunch Promotion

This is an opportunity to showcase ND's most abundant protein product, BEEF, by highlighting beef in a meal during the month of May. We also want to recognize and celebrate all school food service employees and their hard work throughout the school year!

This opportunity is available to a limited number of schools, so act fast!

Sign up at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScw7xN79p-vcOR1keXMk8qwc1QlIFoq9ux0g2ISklKSIAB7A/viewform?usp=dialog>

- You do not need to use locally sourced beef to participate. It can be sourced from your distributor or USDA Foods.
- **Sign up from April 1st – April 18th.**

Take photos and tag @ndbeefcommission on social media for chance to win a cooler!

School and Childcare Gardens

Webinar: Thursday April 24, 2:30-3:30 PM (Central).

Topics: planting/harvesting tips, food safety, activities for students, benefits for participants, and more. The session will be recorded, and possibly more webinars to come depending on demand and interest in topics and technical assistance needed.

Link to register will be dropped in the chat.

[School and Childcare Garden Webinar](#)



Next Year! Monthly Across the Desk

Across the Desk

Office Hours in August and September –

Approving Applications (State 200 or State 225, etc.,)

Medicaid Direct Certification

Any other new regulations that arise

Contact us:
Call: 701-328-2294
Email: dpicnfd@nd.gov



USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1.mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2.fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3.email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.