

February Monthly Call

February 3, 2026



Today's Agenda

Administrative Reviews and Procurement Reviews

SSO/SFSP Overview

Memos

Upcoming Trainings and Events

Louisiana Tray of the Week



Administrative Reviews and Procurement Reviews



25-26 SY Administrative Reviews and Procurement Reviews

38 Administrative Review and Procurement Reviews

- CNR 30
- LDOE 8

CNR onsite reviews are completed.

CNR contract ends on April 30th, so all CNR reviews will need to be closed by that date.

LDOE has 2 more on site reviews to complete.

LDOE will be completing follow up reviews for those SFAs determined high risk on their 24-25 SY review between March and May.

SFAs will be notified prior to the follow up review.



4

For the 25-26 SY there were 38 scheduled Administrative and Procurement Reviews.

CNR onsite reviews are completed.

CNR contract ends on April 30th, so all CNR reviews will need to be closed by that date.

LDOE has 2 more on site reviews to complete.

LDOE is planning complete the follow up reviews for those SFAs determined high risk on their 24-25 SY review. Those follow up reviews will take place between March - May this school year. SFAs will be notified prior to the follow up review.

Administrative Reviews

- Administrative Review Schedule can be found on the CNP website under School Food Service Resources
- LDOE is approved for the 5 year review cycle
- Targeted follow-up review of any SFA designated as high-risk within 2 years of the initial AR/PR
 - Review modules using a point system based on review findings
 - If the module meets or exceeds the point threshold the SFA will be considered high risk and a follow up review will be required for that module



5

If you are unsure of what year you will receive an Administrative Review, the Administrative Review Schedule can be found on the CNP website under School Food Service Resources.

LDOE has been approved for the 5 year review cycle.

It is required for State agencies who have been approved for the 5 year cycle to conduct a targeted follow-up review of any SFA designated as high-risk within 2 years of the initial Administrative Review.

LDOE will be using Administrative Review modules when determining if an SFA is considered High Risk.

Some findings will automatically identify an SFA as High-Risk. These findings will be given the maximum points required to ensure the SFA is identified as High-Risk in the module where the violation occurred.

Each module will have a high-risk point threshold. If a module meets or exceeds the point threshold, the SFA will be considered High-Risk and a follow up of the failed module will be completed by the LDOE within 2 years of the initial Administrative Review.

High Risk Assessment

Performance Standard 1:

- Meal Access and Reimbursement: Eligibility
- Meal Access and Reimbursement: Verification
- Meal Access and Reimbursement: Counting and Claiming

Performance Standard 2:

- Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality

General Areas:

- School Wellness & Smart Snacks
- Food Safety & Storage
- Hiring and Professional Standards
- General Areas
- Afterschool Snack
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program
- Food Service Management Company
- Seamless Summer Option
- Resource Management

Procurement Review



Upon completion of the Administrative Review, LDOE will perform a risk assessment to determine if the School Food Authority is considered High-Risk. SFAs will receive a administrative review preliminary closure letter and then the SFA will receive a high risk letter if your SFA has been determined as High-Risk in one or more modules. The letter will list what module(s) were determined to be high risk. Analysis of risk will be based on the violations that occurred in the completed Administrative Review and Procurement Review. In order to be deemed high risk in a particular module, you must have a score of 5 or more points in that module.

The Administrative Review is broken down into 13 Modules and the Procurement Review is one module:
Performance Standard 1:

- Meal Access and Reimbursement: Eligibility
- Meal Access and Reimbursement: Verification
- Meal Access and Reimbursement: Counting and Claiming

Performance Standard 2:

- Meal Pattern and Nutritional Quality

General Areas:

- School Wellness & Smart Snacks
- Food Safety & Storage
- Hiring and Professional Standards
- General Areas
- Afterschool Snack
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program
- Food Service Management Company
- Seamless Summer Option
- Resource Management

Procurement Review

Follow-Up Reviews

- Only conducted on areas that flagged as high risk
 - Conducted within 24 months (may be sooner)
- Primarily conducted by LDOE
- Considering a hybrid approach on/off-site
 - Case-by-case basis
- Fiscal Action for repeat findings



7

The follow up reviews will only be conduction on the areas that flagged as high risk. It must be conducted within 24 months (or sooner).

The follow up reviews will be primarily conducted by LDOE.

We are considering a hybrid approach, for the follow up reviews, meaning it may be on and/or off site. It will be on a case by case basis.

For repeated findings, the State Agency has discretion to apply fiscal action. The State Agency may consider withholding program payments, in whole or in part, to any SFA for repeated findings that are not corrected. This will also be on a case by case basis. We will evaluate the cause(s) of the repeat finding to determine the extent of fiscal action.

SSO/SFSP Overview



8

Lets go over again the differences between SSO and SFSP that was discussed at the State Update.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO)



Seamless Summer Option (SSO) - GENERAL

- Available to School Food Authorities (SFAs)
- Enables SFAs to provide free summer meals in low income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods
- Under SSO, meals are reimbursed at the free NSLP/SBP rates.



10

School Food Authorities participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program are eligible to apply for the Seamless Summer Option.

In this option, SFAs continue the same meal service rules and claiming procedures used during the regular school year. Meals are reimbursed at the free rates for school lunches and school breakfasts, which are slightly lower than the Summer Food Service Program rates. It has less paperwork, making it easier for schools to feed children during the traditional summer vacation periods. It enables SFAs to provide free summer meals in low income areas during the traditional summer vacation periods.

Reimbursement for SSO Meals

- For sites that normally receive additional reimbursement due to SN breakfast and/or menu certification (performance based reimbursement), these rates will continue to be provided during the SSO.
- Sponsors participating in the SSO in the month of May and/or June will receive the current SY reimbursements.
- Sponsors participating in the SSO in the month of July and/or August will receive the new school year reimbursement.



11

If the site normally receives Severe Needs Breakfast or menu certification (performance based reimbursement) then these rates will continue during SSO operations.

During the months of May and June, sponsors will receive the current SY reimbursement rates.

During the month of July, sponsors will receive the new SY reimbursement rates.

The SSO Meal Pattern

- SFAs **must continue to offer** menus that are in compliance with the current NSLP and/or SBP meal pattern requirements
- Most SSO sponsors continue to offer the same menus as provided during the SY
- OVS is still required for high-school grades for lunch
- OVS is optional for all other grade levels at lunch and is optional for all at breakfast



12

SFAs must continue to offer the menus that are in compliance with the current SBP and NSLP meal pattern requirements. This is different from SFSP that provides flexibility in meal pattern.

Most sponsors choose to continue to offer the same menus they provide during the SY. OVS is still a requirement for high schools grade levels for lunch. It is optional for all other grade levels at lunch and optional for all grade levels at breakfast.

SSO Meal Service

There are designated meal period time frames for SSO sites.

For breakfast, per 7 CFR 220.2(b), meal service must occur in the morning hours. The meal shall be served at or close to the beginning of the child's day at school.

For lunch, per 7 CFR 210.10(f), meal service must occur between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.



13

For SSO, there are designated meal period time frames.

Breakfast meal service must occur in the morning hours close to the beginning of the day.

Lunch meal service must occur between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Counting/Claiming of SSO Meals

- Like with any Child Nutrition Program (CNP) offered by the sponsor, an accurate Point of Service (POS) **must** be provided for each meal service offered.
- SFAs participating in the SSO often continue to utilize the same POS methods used during the SY as to continue the same processes that staff are familiar with.
- There is the option to utilize manual processes, should the SFA choose (i.e. hash mark sheets, rosters, etc.).
- Due to area eligibility, children receive free meals through the SSO.



14

Point of Service **must** be provided for each meal service.

SFAs participating in the SSO often continue to utilize the same POS methods used during the SY as to continue the same processes that staff are familiar with.

However, there is the option to utilize manual processes, should the SFA choose (i.e. hash mark sheets, rosters, etc.).

Due to area eligibility, children receive free meals through the SSO.

SSO Administrative Reviews

- Participating sponsors must receive a SSO review from the state agency no less than once every 5 years
- Reviews of the SSO occur when the SSO is in operation (during the summer months)
- During the onsite portion of the review, SA staff will observe meal service at one (or more) sites
- USDA requires that SSO sponsors receive their SSO review in either the summer immediately preceding or the summer immediately following their scheduled SFS Administrative Review (AR)



15

State agencies must conduct administrative reviews of all school food authorities participating the Seamless Summer Option at least once during a 5-year review cycle. Reviews of the SSO occur when the SSO is in operation (during the summer months). During the onsite portion of the review, SA staff will observe meal service at one (or more) sites.

USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) requires that SSO sponsors receive their SSO review in either the summer immediately preceding or the summer immediately following their scheduled SFS Administrative Review (AR).

Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Training

February 24th at 1:00

Register on LA Fit Kids website

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>



16

If you are planning to operate the Seamless Summer Option please ensure you attend the upcoming training.

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO) training will take place on February 24th at 1:00. Please register for the training on LA Fit Kids.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)



SFAs in Good Standing Planning to Participate in SFSP

School Food Authorities in good standing in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program:

- Are required to submit a management plan; and
- The State agency may request additional evidence of financial and administrative capability sufficient to ensure that the School Food Authority or Institution has the ability and resources to operate the Program.



18

To operate in the Summer Feeding Program, SFAs must currently be in good standing in NSLP/SBP.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

- SFSP reimbursement rates apply (these exceed traditional NSLP/SBP rates). Current NSLP/SBP meal patterns may be followed by SFAs or they may default to the SFSP meal pattern as other sponsor types use.
- Site Types
 - Open
 - Restricted Open
 - Closed Enrolled
 - Residential OR Non-residential Camp
 - National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) Site
 - Migrant or Homeless Site
 - Upward Bound Site
- Sites may be located in a variety of safe and supervised settings, including:
 - Schools
 - Parks
 - Community Centers
 - Churches
 - Camps
 - Migrant Centers



19

SFAs may choose to participate in the traditional Summer Food Service Program. When operating in SFSP, SFAs will be reimbursed at the SFSP rates which exceed NSLP/SBP rates.

Meals must meet component and portion size requirements as SFAs have the option to utilize either the NSLP/SBP meal pattern or the SFSP meal pattern.

There are multiple site types and sites may be located in a variety of safe and supervised settings that are listed on the slide.

State Agency Approval: Congregate and Non-Congregate Meal Service

- All sites **must** be approved prior to the start of operations.
- If SFAs are approved for **congregate** meal service, meals must be consumed on-site. Meals served away from approved locations, without prior State Agency approval, will be disallowed. If children take meals off-site, meals cannot be claimed.
- SFAs must have approved **non-congregate** feeding sites established and approved within the CNP system before non-congregate meal service begins.



20

For SFSP, there are several things that require state agency approval.

- All sites must be approved prior to the start of operations.
- If SFAs are approved for congregate meal service, meals must be consumed on-site. Meals served away from approved locations, without prior State Agency approval, will be disallowed. If children take meals off-site, meals cannot be claimed.
- SFAs must have approved non-congregate feeding sites established and approved within the CNP system before non-congregate meal service begins.

Summer Food Service Training Sessions

Date	Time	Location	Description
February 20, 2026	8:00am - 1:00pm	LDOE Claiborne Building/In-Person	Prospective New Sponsors - This training is for sponsors who are entirely new to the SFSP or those who last operated prior to summer 2025.
March 3, 2026	8:00am - 1:00pm	LDOE Claiborne Building/In-Person	Returning Sponsors - This training is for SFAs (currently operating NSLP) who plan to operate during the summer months and sponsors who participated in the SFSP during the summer of 2025.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/0?codeId=4>



21

If an SFA is interested in operating the traditional SFSP (congregate and/or non-congregate), please register and attend one of the training sessions listed for more detailed information about the requirements of the summer feeding program, including the non-congregate feeding option.

If you are an SFA currently operating NSLP, even if you never operated SFSP before, you should plan to attend the returning sponsor training.

Please register on LA Fit Kids website.

Memos



Memos

- SFS-26-013 Team Nutrition Leadership Institute 2026
- SFS-26-014 Updated Federal Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds
- SFS-26-015 November SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch
- SFS-26-016 November Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch
- SFS-26-017 REMINDER January 14th 2026 State Update
- SFS-26-018 2025 Turnip the Beet Awards Information
- SFS-26-019 2026 Farm to School Institute
- SFS-26-020 February 2026 Trainings
- SFS-26-021 SP 01-2026 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 - Implementation Requirements for National School Lunch Program
- SFS-26-022 December Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch
- SFS-26-023 December SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch



SFS-26-013 Team Nutrition Leadership Institute 2026



- 3-day training for managers and other rising leaders in school nutrition
- Hands-on culinary & leadership skills
- Recipes, scratch cooking & efficiency tips
- Learn the "teach-it-forward" philosophy also referred to as know, show, do and coach

Baton Rouge • LSU

February 24-26, 2026

Ruston • Louisiana Tech

March 3-5, 2026

Meeting Times

Day 1 9:00am - 4:00pm

Day 2 8:00am - 4:00pm

Day 3 8:00am - 3:00pm

Each session is limited to 30 people.

All participants will be required to attend **all three** days.

The cost is \$60 per person.

Register on LA Fit Kids website
<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>



24

Memo SFS-26-013 Team Nutrition Leadership Institute 2026

The Louisiana Team Nutrition Leadership Institute will have 2 upcoming training opportunities.

This is a 3 day training for managers and other rising leaders in school nutrition. This training will provide hands on culinary and leadership skills training.

It will provide recipes, scratch cooking, and efficiency tips.

Each session is limited to 30 people. All participants will be required to attend all 3 days.

Districts may register a maximum of 3 people per district initially. More spaces may open up depending on availability.

The cost is \$60 per person.

The first training will be February 24-26 in Baton Rouge at LSU.

The second training will be March 3-6 in Ruston at Louisiana Tech.

Register on LA Fit Kids website.

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

If you have any questions about these trainings, please email louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu

SFS-26-014 Updated Federal Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds

This announcement provides notification that procurement thresholds have been updated by the Office of Management and Budget, effective October 1, 2025.

Thresholds administered under Federal awards are referenced in 48 CFR 2.101 (also known as FAR 2.101) and increased to the following starting October 1, 2025:

- Federal micro-purchase threshold - increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and;
- Federal simplified acquisition threshold (formerly known as the Federal small purchase threshold) - increased from \$250,000 to \$350,000.

This update applies to all child nutrition programs including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

State and local agencies continue to possess the authority to set lower micro-purchase and simplified acquisition thresholds, thereby imposing more restrictive procurement requirements.

This notification supersedes and rescinds SP20 CACFP07 SFSP06-2019- Revised.



25

Memo SFS-26-014 Updated Federal Micro-Purchase and Simplified Acquisition Thresholds

This announcement provides notification that procurement thresholds have been updated by the Office of Management and Budget, effective October 1, 2025. The final rule at 90 FR 41872 amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to further implement a statute, which requires an adjustment every five years of statutory acquisition-related thresholds for inflation.

Thresholds administered under Federal awards are referenced in 48 CFR 2.101 (also known as FAR 2.101) and increased to the following starting October 1, 2025:

- Federal micro-purchase threshold - increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and;
- Federal simplified acquisition threshold (formerly known as the Federal small purchase threshold) - increased from \$250,000 to \$350,000.

State agencies and program operators are reminded to continue referencing Federal procurement regulations at 2 CFR 200, which cite the above regulations.

This update applies to all child nutrition programs including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

State and local agencies continue to possess the authority to set lower micro-purchase and simplified acquisition thresholds, thereby imposing more restrictive procurement requirements. If the state has not set a lower threshold, local Program operators may set higher limits in line with regulations found at 2 CFR 200.320(a)(1).

This notification supersedes and rescinds SP20 CACFP07 SFSP06-2019- Revised.

SFS-26-015 November SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch

November SNAP and TANF data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE has run the statewide SNAP and TANF matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- SNAP batch # 12726
- TANF batch # 12728

Non-Public Schools:

- SNAP batch # 12733
- TANF batch # 12729

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov



26

Memo SFS-26-015 November SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch

Please be aware that the November SNAP and TANF data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE has run the statewide SNAP and TANF matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- SNAP batch # 12726
- TANF batch # 12728

Non-Public Schools:

- SNAP batch # 12733
- TANF batch # 12729

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov

SFS-26-016 November Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch

November Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE ran the statewide Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12757
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12758

Non-Public Schools:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12768
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12759

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov



27

Memo SFS-26-016 November Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch

Please be aware that the November Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE ran the statewide Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12757
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12758

Non-Public Schools:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12768
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12759

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov

SFS-26-017 REMINDER January 14th 2026 State Update

This memo was a reminder of the State Update that took place on January 14th at Pennington Biomedical Research Conference Center

Presentation slides can be found on LA Fit Kids website
<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Home/TrainingSlides/>



28

Memo SFS-26-017 REMINDER January 14th 2026 State Update

This memo was a reminder of the State Update that took place on January 14th at Pennington Biomedical Research Conference Center

Presentation slides can be found on LA Fit Kids website
<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Home/TrainingSlides/>

SFS-26-018 2025 Turnip the Beet Awards Information

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service announces the availability of the 2025 Turnip the Beet (TUB) Informational Webinar slide deck.

The presentation provides an overview of the Turnip the Beet Awards, including program background, the application and review process, nomination packet components, timelines, and tips for submitting a strong application.

For additional guidance, please refer to the Turnip the Beet webpage .
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet>

Nominations packets were due to Regional offices by Friday, January 23, 2026



29

Memo SFS-26-018 2025 Turnip the Beet Awards Information

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service announces the availability of the 2025 Turnip the Beet (TUB) Informational Webinar slide deck.

The presentation provides an overview of the Turnip the Beet Awards, including program background, the application and review process, nomination packet components, timelines, and tips for submitting a strong application.

For additional guidance, please refer to the Turnip the Beet webpage.
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet>

Nominations packets were due to Regional offices by Friday, January 23, 2026

SFS-26-019 2026 Farm to School Institute

Call for applicants to the 2026-2027 cohort of the Louisiana Farm to School Institute

What is the Louisiana Farm to School Institute?

The Institute is an intensive, year-long learning opportunity to assist school-community teams strengthen and expand farm to school (F2S) programming.

What does an Institute team do?

Develop a Farm to School Action Plan

Selected teams from across the state attend a planning retreat June 8-11, 2026, to create an individualized F2S action plan for the upcoming school year that focuses on integrating cafeteria, classroom, and community connections to help ensure program sustainability.

Receive Personalized Team Coaching

Each team is paired with an experienced facilitator working side-by-side with a team to coach through creating and carrying out the F2S action plans. From planning and implementation to monitoring progress and making adjustments, coaches are there every step of the way ensuring each team has the support needed to succeed.

Connect and Collaborate with F2S Peers

Individuals and teams attend networking events in order to exchange ideas, tackle challenges together, and share innovative solutions. Through open dialogue and statewide collaboration, participants learn from each other and strengthen F2S efforts across Louisiana.

Build F2S Skills

Participants build their F2S expertise through hands-on experiences! Teams take part in the planning retreat, dive into practical F2S workshops, and collaborate directly with subject matter experts to gain real world insights and strategies.

How does a team apply to the Institute?

1. Build a F2S Planning Team of 4 to 6 members that includes school administrators, child nutrition staff, and classroom teachers. Teams can represent a single school, multiple sites, or an entire district.
2. Download and review the [F2S rubric and application worksheet](#) before you begin the online application.
3. Complete the [online application](#) by Friday, February 13, 2026.

Application period will close Friday, February 13, 2026.
Selected teams will be announced in March 2026.



30

Memo SFS-26-019 2026 Farm to School Institute

Call for applicants to the 2026-2027 cohort of the Louisiana Farm to School Institute
The Louisiana Farm to School Institute is an intensive, year-long learning opportunity to assist school-community teams strengthen and expand farm to school (F2S) programming.

How does a team apply to the Institute?

1. Build a F2S Planning Team of 4 to 6 members that includes school administrators, child nutrition staff, and classroom teachers. Teams can represent a single school, multiple sites, or an entire district.
2. Download and review the F2S rubric and application worksheet before you begin the online application.
3. Complete the online application by Friday, February 13, 2026.

Application period will close Friday, February 13, 2026.

Selected teams will be announced in March 2026.

For more information: Refer to the Louisiana Farm to School website
<https://seedstosuccess.com/> or contact f2sinstiute@agcenter.lsu.edu

SFS-26-020 February 2026 Trainings

CNP Monthly Call

- Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Seamless Summer Option

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Please register for each on LA Fit Kids website

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

All training recordings and slides are posted within a week after the live presentation at <https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Home/TrainingSlides>



31

Memo SFS-26-020 February 2026 Trainings

CNP Monthly Call

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Seamless Summer Option

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Please register for each on LA Fit Kids website.

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

All training recordings and slides are posted within a week after the live presentation at

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Home/TrainingSlides>

SFS-26-021 SP 01-2026 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 - Implementation Requirements for National School Lunch Program

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 modifies restrictions and permits schools to offer students expanded fluid milk options.

- This amendment applies only to the NSLP.
- Effective immediately, schools participating in the NSLP may offer students at lunch the following fluid milk options:
 - whole, reduced-fat (2%), low-fat (1%), and fat-free fluid milk and lactose-free fluid milk, and nondairy beverages that are nutritionally equivalent to fluid milk and meet the USDA nutritional standards for fluid milk substitutes.
- Milk varieties may be unflavored or flavored, provided that unflavored milk is offered at each meal service and that flavored milk does not exceed the added sugars limit.
- Modifies the requirement to exclude fluid milk only from the weekly limit for saturated fat.
 - All other dietary specifications (including calories, sodium, and added sugars) still apply to the entire reimbursable meal, and the contribution from fluid milk must be included in those calculations.

FNS will update regulations through the rulemaking process to reflect these statutory changes. Additional technical assistance and guidance will be provided and updated as needed.



32

Memo SFS-26-021 SP 01-2026 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 - Implementation Requirements for National School Lunch Program

On January 14, 2026, President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025. This law amends Section 9(a)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act revising requirements for milk provided through the National School Lunch Program.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 modifies restrictions and permits schools to offer students expanded fluid milk options.

This amendment applies only to the NSLP.

Effective immediately, schools participating in the NSLP may offer students at lunch the following fluid milk options:

- whole, reduced-fat (2%), low-fat (1%), and fat-free fluid milk and lactose-free fluid milk, and nondairy beverages that are nutritionally equivalent to fluid milk and meet the USDA nutritional standards for fluid milk substitutes.

Milk varieties may be unflavored or flavored, provided that unflavored milk is offered at each meal service and that flavored milk does not exceed the added sugars limit.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 modifies the requirement to exclude fluid milk only from the weekly limit for saturated fat. Therefore, effective immediately, schools may exclude the saturated fat from fluid milk only when calculating the weekly average saturated fat requirement for lunch.

All other dietary specifications (including calories, sodium, and beginning July 1, 2027, added sugars) still apply to the entire reimbursable meal, and the contribution from fluid milk must be included in those calculations.

FNS will update regulations through the rulemaking process to reflect these statutory changes. Additional technical assistance and guidance will be provided and updated as needed.

SFS-26-022 December Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch

December Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE ran the statewide Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12837
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12832

Non-Public Schools:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12869
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12833

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov



33

Memo SFS-26-022 December Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch

Please be aware that the December Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE ran the statewide Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12837
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12832

Non-Public Schools:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 12869
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 12833

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov

SFS-26-023 December SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch

December SNAP and TANF data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE has run the statewide SNAP and TANF matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- SNAP batch # 12868
- TANF batch # 12848

Non-Public Schools:

- SNAP batch # 12870
- TANF batch # 12849

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov



34

Memo SFS-26-023 December SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch

Please be aware that the December SNAP and TANF data have been loaded to eScholar DirectMatch.

The LDOE has run the statewide SNAP and TANF matches for all school districts (public and non-public).

Districts should resolve the near matches in the batches below:

Public School Districts:

- SNAP batch # 12868
- TANF batch # 12848

Non-Public Schools:

- SNAP batch # 12870
- TANF batch # 12849

For assistance, please email Wanggan.Yang@la.gov

Trainings and Events



Upcoming LDOE Trainings

February

Monthly Call - February 3rd
SSO - February 24th

Register on LA Fit Kids website
<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

March

Monthly Call - March 3rd
CEP Population - March 10th



April

Monthly Call - April 7th
State Update - April 22nd (in person)

May

Monthly Call - May 5th
CEP Elections - May 12th



36

Let's go over some upcoming LDOE trainings.

Today is the February Monthly Call.

On February 24th we will have the SSO training.

On March 3rd will be the March Monthly Call.

Then on March 10th will be the training on CEP Population.

In April we will have the monthly call on April 7th. This may fall on some SFAs Easter/Spring Break. As a reminder the recording and slides will be posted to the LA Fit Kids website.

On April 22nd will be our next in person State Update. We plan to focus heavily on the Administrative Review for this State Update.

On May 3rd will be our May Monthly Call.

Then on May 12th will be the CEP Elections training.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

Upcoming LDOE Trainings

LDOE Division on Nutrition Support trainings will be switching meeting platforms

Starting in March LDOE trainings will be conducted via Microsoft Teams

You will still register for trainings on LA Fit Kids website



37

LDOE Division on Nutrition Support trainings will be switching meeting platforms.

Starting in March LDOE trainings will be conducted via Microsoft Teams instead of Zoom.

You will still register for trainings on LA Fit Kids website.

Summer Food Service Training Sessions

Date	Time	Location	Description
February 20, 2026	8:00am - 1:00pm	LDOE Claiborne Building/In-Person	Prospective New Sponsors - This training is for sponsors who are entirely new to the SFSP or those who last operated prior to summer 2025.
March 3, 2026	8:00am - 1:00pm	LDOE Claiborne Building/In-Person	Returning Sponsors - This training is for SFAs (currently operating NSLP) who plan to operate during the summer months and sponsors who participated in the SFSP during the summer of 2025.



38

If an SFA is interested in operating the traditional SFSP (congregate and/or non-congregate), please register and attend one of the training sessions listed above for more detailed information about the requirements of the summer feeding program, including the non-congregate feeding option.

National School Breakfast Week

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) celebrates the importance of a nutritious school breakfast in fueling students for success.

This special observance during the first week of March celebrates the national School Breakfast Program and the many ways it gives kids a great start every day.

Refer to the School Nutrition Association website for more information.

<https://schoolnutrition.org/about-school-meals/national-school-breakfast-week/>



39

National School Breakfast Week is March 2-6, 2026.

This year's theme is: "The Quest for School Breakfast!"

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) celebrates the importance of a nutritious school breakfast in fueling students for success. This special observance during the first week of March celebrates the national School Breakfast Program and the many ways it gives kids a great start every day.

Refer to the School Nutrition Association website for more information.

<https://schoolnutrition.org/about-school-meals/national-school-breakfast-week/>

Louisiana School Lunch Week 2026

March 16-20, 2026

The theme is “Magic of School Lunch!”

This is a way to celebrate the magic in every school lunch, the power of nutrition, and the amazing professionals that make it happen.

Refer to the School Nutrition Association of Louisiana website for more information.
<https://snal.memberclicks.net/lslw-2026>



**MAGIC OF
SCHOOL LUNCH**
LOUISIANA SCHOOL
LUNCH WEEK 2026



40

The Louisiana School Lunch week is March 16-20, 2026. The theme is “Magic of School Lunch!” This is a way to celebrate the magic in every school lunch, the power of nutrition, and the amazing professionals that make it happen.

SNAL has Louisiana School Lunch Week 2026 Media Kit that includes:

Letter to Families

Louisiana School Lunch Week 2026 Logos

Printable Flyers

Ready-to-Use Social Media Graphics (To be posted before Louisiana School Lunch Week)

Ready-to-Use Social Media Graphics (To be posted during Louisiana School Lunch Week)

Ready-to-Use Captions for Social Media

For more information, please refer to the SNAL website

<https://snal.memberclicks.net/lslw-2026>

Virtual Manager Training

June 22-24, 2026

8:00 am – 4:30 pm (June 22 & 23, 2026)

8:30 am – 12:00 pm (June 24, 2026)

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm (June 24, 2026 – Assessment)



To register for this training, the following criteria must be met:

- Participants must have their own email address.
- Participants must have a computer and reliable internet service at the training location. The computer must have both audio and video capability so that participants will be able to see, hear and participate in the training.
- The Assessment will be computerized. Participants are required to be proctored by the CNP director or designee. SFAs may wish to host the assessment in a computer lab onsite.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>



41

The virtual manager training will be held June 22nd-24th.

8:00 am – 4:30 pm (June 22 & 23, 2026)

8:30 am – 12:00 pm (June 24, 2026)

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm (June 24, 2026 – Assessment)

To register for this training, the following criteria must be met:

- Participants must have their own email address.
- Participants must have a computer and reliable internet service at the training location. The computer must have both audio and video capability so that participants will be able to see, hear and participate in the training.
- The Assessment will be computerized. Participants are required to be proctored by the CNP director or designee. SFAs may wish to host the assessment in a computer lab onsite.

The link to the virtual site will be sent to each participant, SFA, and proctor approximately one week prior to the start of the training.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

In Person Manager Training

July 6-8, 2026

This in person training will be held at Pennington.

There is a limit of 40 people for the in person training.

Registration Cost is \$80.

Registration is anticipated to be open on LA Fit Kids website sometime in April.

More information to come!



The in-person manager training will be held on July 6th-8th.

This in person training will be held at Pennington.

There is a limit of 40 people for the in person training.

Registration cost is \$80.

Registration is anticipated to be open on LA Fit Kids website sometime in April.

More information to come!

New Director Training

July 21-22, 2026

This in person training will be held at Pennington.

This training will be specific for new directors with less than 2 years but up to 5 years of experience.

Registration will be posted on LA Fit Kids website in the upcoming months.

More information to come!



43

If you are new director, please save the date for our upcoming New Director training. It will be held July 21st-22nd at Pennington.

We are in the process of developing a New Director Training similar to the Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership training that ICN offers.

This training will be specific for new directors with less than 2 years but up to 5 years of experience.

Registration will be posted on LA Fit Kids website in the upcoming months.

More information to come!



Louisiana Team Nutrition Leadership Institute



- 3-day training for managers and other rising leaders in school nutrition
- Hands-on culinary & leadership skills
- Recipes, scratch cooking & efficiency tips
- Learn the “teach-it-forward” philosophy also referred to as know, show, do and coach

Baton Rouge • LSU

Ruston • Louisiana Tech

February 24–26, 2026

March 3–5, 2026

Meeting Times

Day 1 9:00am - 4:00pm
Day 2 8:00am - 4:00pm
Day 3 8:00am - 3:00pm

Each session is limited to 30 people.

All participants will be required to attend all three days.

The cost is \$60 per person.

Register at: www.louisianafitkids.com
Questions? Email: louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu



44

The Louisiana Team Nutrition Leadership Institute will have 2 upcoming training opportunities.

This is a 3 day training for managers and other rising leaders in school nutrition.

This training will provide hands on culinary and leadership skills training.

It will provide recipes, scratch cooking, and efficiency tips.

Each session is limited to 30 people. All participants will be required to attend all 3 days.

Districts may register a maximum of 3 people per district initially. More spaces may open up depending on availability.

The cost is \$60 per person.

The first training will be February 24-26 in Baton Rouge at LSU.

The second training will be March 3-6 in Ruston at Louisiana Tech.

Register on LA Fit Kids website.

<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Meetings/Home/MeetingRegistration/>

If you have any questions about these trainings, please email louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu

Need to Update or Cancel Training Registration

If you register for a training and are unable to attend, you can update or cancel your registration at any time.

Refer back to the email confirmation you received when registering.

Click on Update/Cancel Meeting Registration.

Thank you for registering for LDOE - SFS - State Update, In-Person at Pennington Biomedical Research Center.
The meeting will be held on **January 14** in person at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, **6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808**, C.B. Pennington Jr. Conference Center Auditorium.
The registration fee for this meeting is **\$0.00**.
Please pay in advance for this meeting if at all possible.
If paying by check, payment may be made prior to the meeting or on-site. Checks should be made out to Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and mailed to the following address:
Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Attention: Catherine Chastang
6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Payment via credit card is available at <https://commerce.cashnet.com/LSFPRC>.
We do not take cash on-site, unless this is absolutely necessary.

You may update or cancel this registration by clicking the link below.

[Update/Cancel Meeting Registration](#)

LDOE - SFS - State Update, In-Person at Pennington Biomedical Research Center Details

LDOE and LouisianaFitKids have scheduled LDOE - SFS - State Update, In-Person at Pennington Biomedical Research Center. Training will be conducted at C.B. Pennington Jr. Conference Center, Auditorium on Wednesday, January 14th 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

[Click here for the agenda.](#)

There will be a \$30.00 registration fee for the training. Following registration you will receive an email with payment options.

Please register below.

Edit LDOE - SFS - State Update, In-Person at Pennington Biomedical Research Center Registration

Attendee Information

Name: [REDACTED] Last Name: [REDACTED]
Organization/School/District: [REDACTED] Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Confirm Email Address: [REDACTED]

Lunch Information

Lunch Options: Meat
Other Dietary Restrictions:

[Update](#) [Cancel Registration](#)



If you registered for a training and are now unable to attend, you can update or cancel your registration at any time.

Refer back to the email confirmation you received when registering.

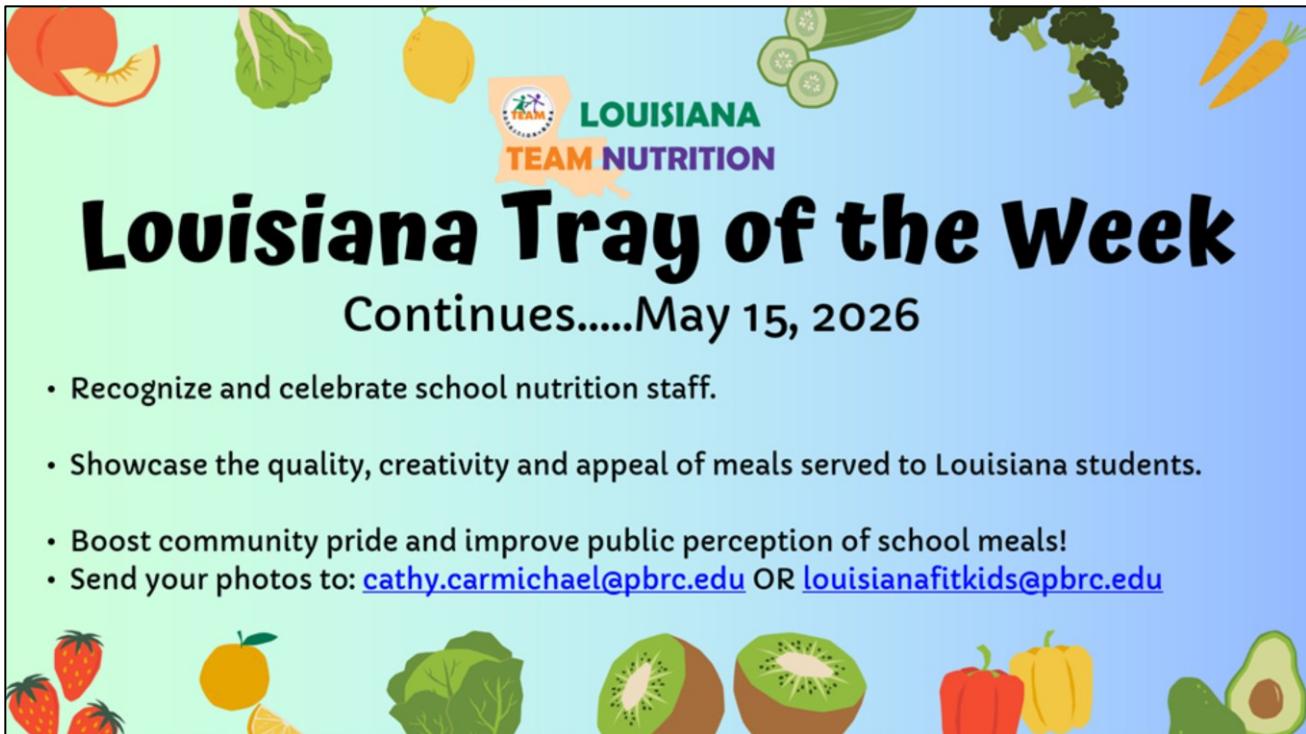
Click on Update/Cancel Meeting Registration. It will then take you to LA Fit Kids website where you update or cancel your registration.

You will then receive another email confirmation of the update or cancellation.

Louisiana Tray of the Week

Louisiana Team Nutrition





- Recognize and celebrate school nutrition staff.
- Showcase the quality, creativity and appeal of meals served to Louisiana students.
- Boost community pride and improve public perception of school meals!
- Send your photos to: cathy.carmichael@pbrc.edu OR louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu

Louisiana Team Nutrition Louisiana Tray of the Week continues through May 15th 2026.

It's a way to recognize and celebrate school nutrition staff by showcasing the quality, creativity and appeal of meal served to students. It's also a way to boost community pride and improve public perception of school meals.

Send your photos to cathy.carmichael@pbrc.edu or louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu

Schools and districts across Louisiana are invited to participate.

Each week the selected trays will be featured on the Louisiana social media platforms.

Submit your tray photos to: louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu **or**

cathy.carmichael@pbrc.edu

- Meet the USDA National School Breakfast or National School Lunch Meal Patterns, clearly showing all components (i.e., including Fruit, Vegetables, Grains, Meat/Meat Alternate and Fluid Milk as applicable).

- Include a **short description** of the menu items.
- Indicate the **school** where the meal was served.
- Provide the **date** of service.
- Food should be attractively plated on the tray and photographed.
- Be an accurate representation of what your students selected or could select.



So what do you need to do to take part in this campaign?

Submit your tray photos to louisianafitkids@pbrc.edu or cathy.carmichael@pbrc.edu

Make sure your tray meets the USDA meal pattern requirements by clearly showing all components offered.

Include a short description of the menu items.

Indicate the school where the meal was served.

Provide the date of service.

As a reminder, the food should be attractively plated on the tray and photographed.

The tray must be an accurate representation of what your students selected or could select.



Too Close



Too High



Just Right



Here are some tips when photographing your trays.



Contact the
LDOE Division of Nutrition Support
(225) 342-9661
ChildNutritionPrograms@LA.GOV