

March Monthly Call



March 3, 2026

Today's Agenda

Administrative Reviews and Procurement Reviews

SSO Overview

SFSP Overview

FSMC Overview

Health Inspections

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 1 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.



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 1 more on site review 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



If you are unsure of what year you will be 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



6

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 (or sooner)
- Primarily conducted by LDOE
- Using a hybrid approach on/off-site
 - Case-by-case basis
- Fiscal Action for repeat findings
 - State Agency may consider withholding program payments, in whole or in part, for repeat findings that are not corrected
 - Case-by-case basis
 - Will evaluate the cause(s) of the repeat finding to determine the extent of fiscal action



The follow up reviews will only be conducted 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 using 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 repeat 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 repeat 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.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Overview



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.



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.

What Site Types are available under the SSO?

Site eligibility requirements for the SSO are the same as for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The site types may be offered at schools or non-school facilities, as well as parks or other outdoor locations and mobile feeding sites.

Site Types:

- Open
- Restricted Open
- Closed Enrolled
- Camps
- Migrant



Sites types available under SSO include:

- Open
- Restricted Open
- Closed Enrolled
- Camps
- Migrant

Site eligibility requirements for the SSO are the same as for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

The site types may be offered at schools or non-school facilities, as well as parks or other outdoor locations and mobile feeding sites.

The SSO Waiver Application Process

- Submitted annually by the SFA through the online CNP website
- The application is available under the green “School Food Service” tab under the subheading “Seamless Waiver”.
- One application is to be completed (and submitted for approval) for each SSO participating site.
 - There is no sponsor-level application with the SSO
- When possible, all facility applications should be submitted together in one single application submission.
- SSO due dates will be aligned with SFSP due dates
 - If possible, please submit by mid-April
 - If plans are not finalized by then, please submit as soon as possible



The SSO waiver application is submitted annually through the CNP website. The application is under the green School Food Service tab under the subheading Seamless Waiver. One application is completed for each participating site. Unlike SFSP, there is no sponsor level application. If possible, all facility applications should be submitted together in one single submission. SSO due dates will be aligned with SFSP due dates. If possible, please submit by mid-April. If plans are not finalized by then, please submit as soon as possible.

The Calendar for SSO

- The SSO follows the same calendar year as the NSLP/SBP academic school year (July 1st through June 30th)
- Therefore, if a sponsor intends to offer the SSO beyond June 30th, a new application must be submitted for each site planning to operate in the month of July (since this reflects a new school year)
- Sponsors operating the SSO beyond June 30th must submit two sets of SSO applications in order to receive approval for both program years when operations occur



The academic school year is July 1st - June 30th. Therefore, if the sponsor will operate SSO beyond June 30th, the sponsor will need to submit a new SSO application for sites operating in July.

You must submit two SSO applications in order to be approved to operate SSO in both program years (June and July).

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.



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



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.



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.



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.

Counting and Claiming of SSO Meals

- Claims for reimbursement are filed through the CNP website, as done throughout the usual academic SY.
 - The same claiming process is done under the green SFS tab.
 - Users will access the claims feature that they normally do for NSLP/SBP.
- SSO meal count data will be reported under separate line items in the claim.
 - SSO meal data appears in light green shading and, once entered, is displayed below the SFS line items in the same color.

| RED ELIG | FREE ELIG | PAID ELIG | ADA | NUMBER OF STUDENT MEALS | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-------------------------|----------|-----|-----|------|------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | | MEAL TYPE | NO. DAYS | ADP | RED | FREE | PAID | TOTAL MEALS CLAIMED | OTHER MEALS (MEALS NOT CLAIMED) | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | | ✓ LUNCH | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | ✗ BREAKFAST | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ✓ SN BREAKFAST | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | ✗ SNACK | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ✓ Free SNACK | 0 | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | ✓ LUNCH | 16 | 48 | 0 | 763 | 0 | 763 | 16 | |
| | | | | ✗ BREAKFAST | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ✓ SN BREAKFAST | 16 | 48 | 0 | 763 | 0 | 763 | 16 | |
| | | | | ✗ SNACK | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ✗ Free SNACK | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | ✗ SUPPER | | | | | | | | |



The same claiming process is completed for SSO as done throughout the academic school year. However, the SSO meal count data is reported under a separate line item. The SSO data will appear in light green and displayed below the SFS line items. On this slide is an example of how it is displayed on the claims page.

Counting and Claiming of SSO Meals

- The same claim deadlines apply for SSO claims as for any other CNP claims filed.
- Sponsors should aim to submit claims by the 10th of the month following the claim period.
- The final deadline to submit is the 60th calendar day following the claim period.



The same claim deadlines apply for SSO claims as for any other CNP claims filed. Sponsors should aim to submit claims by the 10th of the month following the claim period.

The final deadline to submit is the 60th calendar day following the claim period.

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)



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) Training

Slides and Recording are posted on LA Fit Kids website
<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Home/TrainingSlides/>



If you are planning to operate the Seamless Summer Option and did not attend the training on last week, the slides and recording have been posted to LA Fit Kids website.
<https://www.louisianafitkids.com/Home/TrainingSlides/>

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Overview



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.



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



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.

SFSP 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.



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.

2026 SFSP Deadline Dates

| Sponsor Type | New Sponsor Checklist (Pre-Application Process) | Summer Feeding Plan Survey | Sponsor and Congregate Site Applications | Non-Congregate Site Requests | Final Non-Congregate and Other Site Applications Due |
|--|---|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| School Food Authorities | N/A | March 16th | March 30th | April 13th | May 18 AND >14 days before operations* |
| Local/State Govt. | N/A | March 16th | April 13th | April 27th | May 18 AND > 14 days before operations* |
| Indian Tribal Organizations (ITO) | N/A | March 16th | April 13th | April 27th | May 18 AND > 14 days before operations* |
| Private Non-Profit Organizations (PNP) | N/A | March 16th | April 27th | May 4th | May 18 AND > 14 days before operations* |
| Prospective New Sponsors | March 23rd | N/A | April 27th | N/A | May 18 AND > 14 days before operations* |

Refer to Memo SFSP-26-02 2026 SFSP Deadline Dates for more information

For SFSP questions, please contact
 Toya Porter
 (225) 342-3997
Toya.Porter3@LA.GOV



The 2026 SFSP deadlines are listed on this chart and can be found on Memo SFSP-26-02.

Please complete the SFA Summer Feeding Plan Survey by March 16th on the CNP website.

For SFAs, the Sponsor and Congregate Site Applications are due by March 30th.

For SFAs, the Non-Congregate Site Requests are due by April 13th.

For SFAs, the Final Non-Congregate and Other Site Applications are Due by May 18 AND >14 days before operations.

Refer to Memo SFSP-26-02 2026 SFSP Deadline Dates for more information

For questions, please contact Toya Porter

(225) 342-3997

Toya.Porter3@LA.GOV

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. |

Slides will be posted on LA Fit Kids website



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

The slides will be posted to LA Fit Kids website.

FSMC Overview



FSMC Trainings

Slides are posted on LA Fit Kids website

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

Contracting with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC)
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



2026

LDOE SFS - FSMC Training, In-Person at Pennington Biomedical Research Center - January 15, 2026

Slides

Contracting for Vended Meals
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



2026

LDOE SFS - Contracting for Vended Meals - In-Person at Pennington - January 15, 2026

Slides



If you are an SFA that uses a Food Service Management Company, the slides from the Contracting with a Food Service Management Company training and Contracting for Vended Meals training are posted on LA Fit Kids website

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

Please refer back to those training slides as you are completing the FSMC requirements for the 26-27 SY.

FSMC Documents

FSMC Contract 2026-27

FSMC Instructions for Completing RFP 2026-27

FSMC Agreement to Amend-Attestation Food Service Management Contract 2026-27

Vended Meal Instructions for Completing IFB 2026-27

Vended Meal IFB-Contract 2026-27

Vended Meal Instructions for Completing RFQ 2026-27

Vended Meal RFQ-Contract 2026-27

Vended Meal Instructions for Completing RFP 2026-27

Vended Meal RFP-Contract 2026-27

Agreement to Amend-Attestation Vended Meal Contract 2026-27

SFA-Municipal Joint Agreement Revised SY2026-27

SFA-SFA Joint Agreement Revised SY 2026-27



If you are an SFA that uses a Food Service Management Company, the following FSMC Documents for 2026-2027 SY have been added to the CNP website.

FSMC Hard Submission Deadlines

Step 1 documents must be submitted to the state agency by **March 31st** of the current school year for the upcoming school year.

Step 2 documents must be submitted to the state agency by **May 31st** of the current school year for the upcoming school year.

Step 3 documents must be submitted **within 10 calendar days** of the SFA notifying the FSMC of the award.

Amendment Agreements must be submitted to the state agency by **April 30th** of the current school year for the upcoming school year.



Just a reminder. There are now hard submission deadlines all SFAs must follow for FSMC.

Step 1 documents must be submitted to the State Agency by March 31st of the current school year for the upcoming school year. SFAs should plan accordingly to ensure submissions are added to board agendas in time to meet the Step 1 deadline, if board approval is required prior to soliciting RFPs for food service management.

Step 2 documents must be submitted to the State Agency by May 31st of the current school year for the upcoming school year. SFAs should keep this in mind when planning proposal openings. Further, keep in mind the amount of time it takes the committee to properly evaluate proposals. Considering all of these factors will allow the SFA to work out an accurate and realistic timeline to meet the new deadlines.

Step 3 documents must be submitted within 10 days of award notification. As soon as the SFA receives Step 2 approval and notifies the FSMC of the award, the FSMC has ten calendar days to submit the Certificate of Insurance and the Performance Bond. Performance bonds are only required if the procurement exceeds \$350,000.

All Agreement Amendments must be submitted to the State Agency by April 30th of the current school year for the upcoming school year.

Health Inspections



Let's go over some reminders about health inspections.

Health Inspections Reminders

- School Food Authority (SFA) to request two food safety inspections from their local sanitarian office and document their efforts
- Fail to obtain the two mandatory food safety inspections, LDOE will request documentation from those sponsors to show that they have made every effort to comply with the federal requirements
- SFAs should document their requests in writing for proper documentation of their efforts to obtain the inspections



It is the responsibility of the School Food Authority (SFA) to request two food safety inspections from their local sanitarian office and document their efforts.

For those agencies that fail to obtain the two mandatory food safety inspections, LDOE will request documentation from those sponsors to show that they have made every effort to comply with the federal requirements.

SFAs should document their requests in writing for proper documentation of their efforts to obtain the inspections.

Health Inspection Requested but not Conducted

| Action | Site Name | Site Code | City |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="button" value="+"/> | ZZZ Elementary School | ZZZZ | Baton Rouge |
| <input type="button" value="+"/> | ZZZ Site #2 | ZZZZ1 | Lafayette |

Do you know the date of the inspection?

No ▾

OK Cancel

Add Site Health Inspection

Add Site Health Inspection

Reason for not inspecting: ▾

-
- Site Closed
- Site shares a cafeteria with another site.
- Site did not serve meals
- Inspection requested but not conducted (letter/date on file)



What happens if the health inspection was requested but not conducted?

You can still enter it into the CNP website.

You would select the school site like you are adding an inspection.

Choose "No" when asked if you know the date of the inspection.

For the reason for not inspecting, you will select the option "Inspection requested but not conducted (letter/date on file)"

Once saves, it will show that you have it entered in for the school site and the system should allow you to submit your claims.

If/When you receive the inspection, you can log back in and edit the inspections for that school site.

Health Inspections Reminders

March Claim for Reimbursement - a reminder will appear prior to submitting the claim asking if there are any current year health inspections that need reporting in the CNP website. A response must be provided.

April Claim for Reimbursement - Sponsor users will not be allowed to submit claims beginning in April until health inspection reporting has been done for each NSLP-approved site.



March Claim for Reimbursement - a reminder will appear prior to submitting the claim asking if there are any current year health inspections that need reporting in the CNP website. A response must be provided.

April Claim for Reimbursement - Sponsor users will not be allowed to submit claims beginning in April until health inspection reporting has been done for each NSLP-approved site.

Memos



Memos

- SFS-26-024 January SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch
- SFS-26-025 January Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch
- SP02-2026 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030-Eat Real Food
- SFS-26-027 March 2026 Training Schedule
- SP 03-2026 - Incorporating Local Beef into Child Nutrition Program Meals



SFS-26-024 January SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch

January 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 # 13004
- TANF batch # 13003

Non-Public Schools:

- SNAP batch # 13011
- TANF batch # 13005

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



Memo SFS-26-024 January SNAP and TANF loaded to eScholar DirectMatch

The January 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 # 13004
- TANF batch # 13003

Non-Public Schools:

- SNAP batch # 13011
- TANF batch # 13005

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

SFS-26-025 January Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch

January 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 # 13019
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 13020
- Medicaid All # 13061

Non-Public Schools:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 13028
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 13021

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



Memo SFS-26-025 January Medicaid Free Lunch and Medicaid Reduced Lunch

The January 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 # 13019
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 13020
- Medicaid All # 13061

Non-Public Schools:

- Medicaid Free Lunch # 13028
- Medicaid Reduced Lunch # 13021

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

SP02-2026 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 - Eat Real Food

- On January 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030
- While release of the new Guidelines does not immediately impact program requirements, Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke L. Rollins, strongly encourages child nutrition program operators to familiarize themselves with the key recommendations and consider how these Guidelines can be incorporated into program meals and snacks to promote healthy outcomes and healthy families.
- USDA is actively developing a proposed rule to update child nutrition program nutrition standards and meal requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations to align with the goals of the updated Guidelines.
- USDA looks forward to receiving stakeholder feedback on proposed changes to program requirements through the rulemaking and public comment process.
- Until a final rule implementing changes to meal requirements is complete, all operators should continue meeting current requirements while working towards providing the healthiest food options to program participants.



Memo SP02-2026 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030 - Eat Real Food

This a USDA memo.

On January 7, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025- 2030.

While release of the new Guidelines does not immediately impact program requirements, Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke L. Rollins, strongly encourages child nutrition program operators to familiarize themselves with the key recommendations and consider how these Guidelines can be incorporated into program meals and snacks to promote healthy outcomes and healthy families.

USDA is actively developing a proposed rule to update child nutrition program nutrition standards and meal requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations to align with the goals of the updated Guidelines.

USDA looks forward to receiving stakeholder feedback on proposed changes to program requirements through the rulemaking and public comment process.

Until a final rule implementing changes to meal requirements is complete, all operators should continue meeting current requirements while working towards providing the healthiest food options to program participants.

SFS-26-027 March 2026 Training Schedule

CNP Monthly Call

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

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Population

- Tuesday, March 10, 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>



Memo SFS-26-027 March 2026 Training Schedule

CNP Monthly Call

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Population

Tuesday, March 10, 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>

SP 03-2026 - Incorporating Local Beef into Child Nutrition Program Meals

- USDA has recently published the USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry, which outlines actions to protect our domestic beef industry, including building demand for American beef alongside domestic supply.
- The list provides helpful resources and strategies for CNP operators and ranchers to incorporate local beef into school meals.
- The list covers procurement, funding resources, food safety, and crediting resources and provides technical assistance contacts from the Farm to School Program.
- FNS encourages CNP operators to utilize this list of resources to expand access to local beef for American students.
- The list is compiled into a helpful table of resources geared toward CNP operators and ranchers in the attachment following this memo.



Memo SP 03-2026 - Incorporating Local Beef into Child Nutrition Program Meals

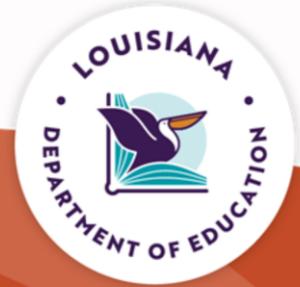
This a USDA memo.

USDA has recently published the USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry, which outlines actions to protect our domestic beef industry, including building demand for American beef alongside domestic supply.

The memo includes a list that provides helpful resources and strategies for CNP operators and ranchers to incorporate local beef into school meals. The list covers procurement, funding resources, food safety, and crediting resources and provides technical assistance contacts from the Farm to School Program.

FNS encourages CNP operators to utilize this list of resources to expand access to local beef for American students. The list is compiled into a helpful table of resources geared toward CNP operators and ranchers in the attachment following this memo.

Trainings and Events



Upcoming LDOE Trainings

March

Monthly Call - March 3rd

CEP Population - March 10th

Register on LA Fit Kids website

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

April

Monthly Call - April 7th

State Update - April 22nd (in person)

- Will focus on Administrative Review and Procurement Review

May

Monthly Call - May 5th

CEP Elections - May 12th



Let's go over some upcoming LDOE trainings.

Today, March 3rd is the March Monthly Call.

March 10th will be the training on CEP Population.

In April we will have the monthly call on April 7th. We understand 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 and Procurement Review for this State Update.

May 3rd will be our May Monthly Call.

May 12th will be the CEP Elections training.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

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

Farm to School Procurement & Geographic Preference Training

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
1:00pm



Seeds to Success: Louisiana Farm to School will present strategies for incorporating local food purchases and highlight the expansion of the geographic preference option.

Topics covered will include how to define local, how to write specifications, and where to find local food for purchase.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

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



There will be a Farm to School Procurement & Geographic Preference Training that will take place on Wednesday, March 25th at 1:00.

Seeds to Success: Louisiana Farm to School will present strategies for incorporating local food purchases and highlight the expansion of the geographic preference option.

Topics covered will include how to define local, how to write specifications, and where to find local food for purchase.

Register on LA Fit Kids website

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

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/>



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>



46

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/>



47

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!



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 of experience.

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

More information to come!



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 of experience, however we will allow a director with up to 5 years of experience to attend if there is space.

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

More information to come!

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 **30.00**.

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 Champagne
6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Payment via credit card is available at <https://commerce.castrnet.com/LJUM/BC>.

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

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| First Name | Last Name |
| Phone Number | Phone Number |
| Home/School/Office | Home/School/Office |
| Home Email Address | Home Email Address |

Lunch Information

Lunch Options
Meal

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



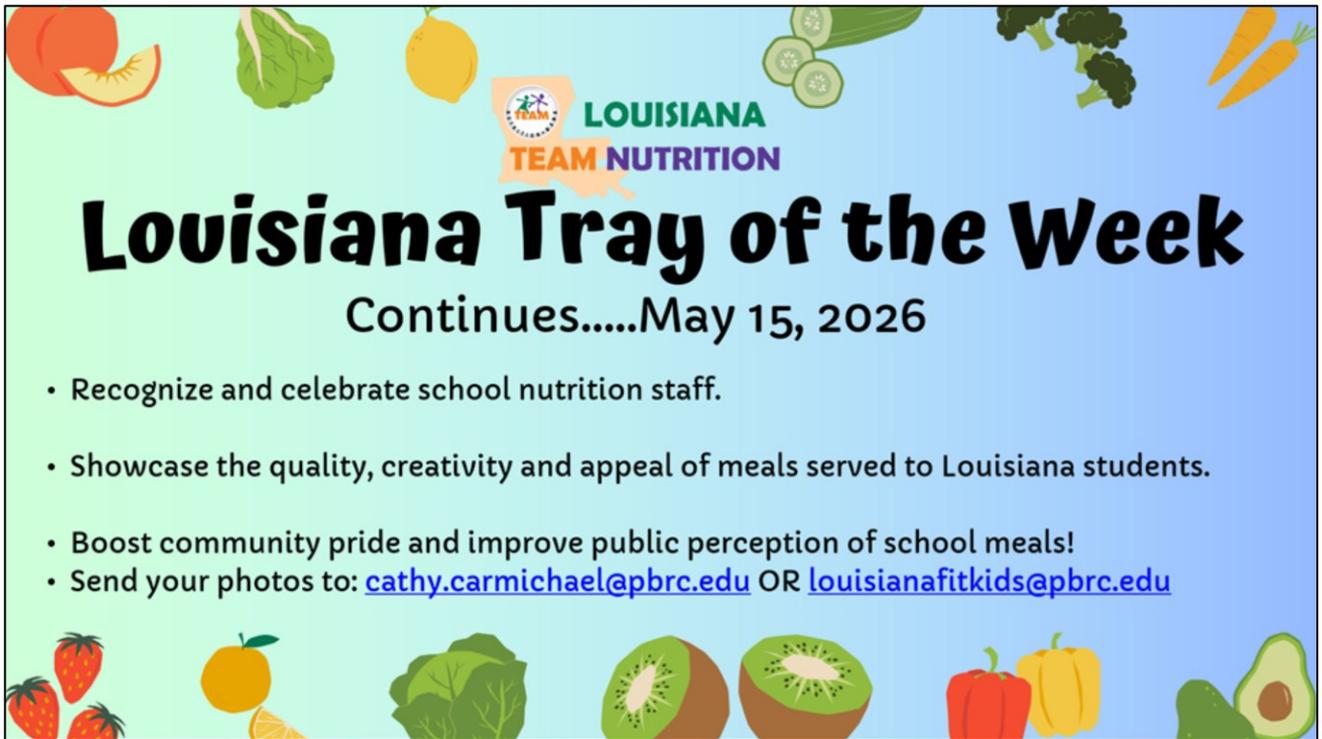


**LOUISIANA
TEAM NUTRITION**

Louisiana Tray of the Week

Continues.....May 15, 2026

- 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.

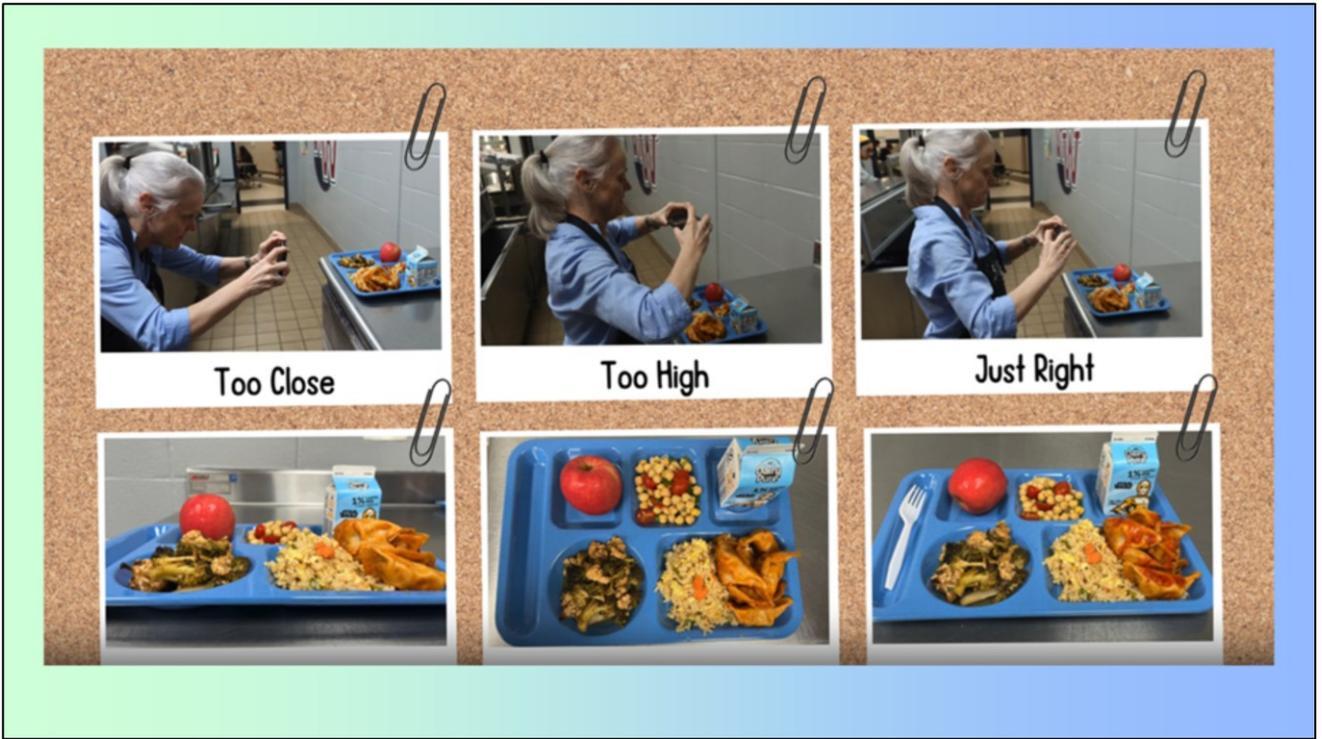
Include a short description of the menu items.

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.



Here are some tips when photographing your trays.



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