

Staying on Track

July 2025



Health and Nutrition Services
Arizona Department of Education

School Year
2025-2026



Intended Audience

This training is intended for School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in Arizona.



TRAINING HOURS

Information to include when documenting this training for Professional Standards:

Training Title: July Staying on Track

Key Areas: 1000 - Nutrition, 3000 - Administration, 4000 - Communications and Marketing

Learning Codes: 1170, 3130, 3230, 3340, 3150, 4120, 4140, 4150

Length: 1 hour

Presenter: Jennifer Blankenship



Disclaimer

This training was developed by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Health and Nutrition Services Division (HNS). The content in this training is intended for professionals operating one or more United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) in Arizona under the direction of ADE. The information in this training is subject to change. Attendees are encouraged to access professional development materials directly from the training library to prevent the use of outdated content.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Review monthly communication distributed from HNS to ensure vital emails were not overlooked;
- ✓ Provide detailed training on important topics and deadlines;
- ✓ Provide directors an opportunity to submit questions, that ADE can expand on in later communications.

HNS is here to
help!

We are here to provide assistance and help you make the very best of your program.



Questions

- Questions can be submitted in the Q&A at any point, and HNS will respond in the follow-up document that will be released after the webinar.
- Once the webinar concludes, HNS will compile all the questions received and create a follow-up Q&A document that will address all questions.
- If you require additional assistance following HNS's communication, please reach out to your HNS Specialist through HelpDesk.



Agenda

Section 1: HNS Communications Recap

Section 2: Communication Hot Topics

Section 3: Last Month's Training Opportunities

Section 4: Upcoming Deadlines and HNS Communications

SECTION 1

June HNS Communications Round-Up



Memorandums



HNS TA 01-2025: SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 STATE MATCH REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

The purpose of this technical assistance memorandum is to provide School Food Authorities (SFAs) and School Business Officials clarification of existing guidelines surrounding state match funding requirements as listed in 7 CFR 210.17(a).

All memorandums that pertain to operators of Child Nutrition Programs in Arizona are available online at www.azed.gov/hns/memos/.



NEW USDA FNS MEMORANDUMS: SP 14-2025 AND SP 15-2025

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released two new memorandums intended to empower States and schools to implement fresh ideas that support healthy choices and healthy outcomes for our Nation's schoolchildren.

- [SP 14-2025: Offer versus Serve Flexibilities for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program](#)
- [SP 15-2025: Enhancing Child Nutrition Program Meal Standards](#)

Announcements and Resources



UPDATED TRAININGS AND RESOURCES FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS OPERATORS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

School Food Authorities (SFAs) who operate or wish to operate a Special Assistance Provision, such as Special Provision Options 2 and 3 or Community Eligibility Provision, are encouraged to review the resources listed in the HNS Communication, which have recently been reviewed and updated as needed by ADE HNS.



SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026 OPTIONAL PAID LUNCH EQUITY (PLE) TOOL IS NOW AVAILABLE!

The USDA has released the School Year 2025-2026 (SY26) Optional Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool to assist School Food Authorities (SFAs) with meeting the PLE requirement.

While the PLE tool is mainly the same as the one released last school year (except for the reimbursement differences that are used), minor updates were made based on user feedback received.

Program Alerts



CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENT: NOTIFICATION OF FREE LANGUAGE SERVICES

This is a reminder that all Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators are required to notify the public of free language services.

The Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) recommends that CNP operators comply by including a statement on their website homepage that reads:

"Free language assistance, auxiliary aids, and/or accommodations are available upon request. For more information, please contact [input contact information]."



SUN BUCKS INFORMATIONAL FLYER FOR FAMILIES IS NOW AVAILABLE

The AZ Health Zone and Arizona Food Bank Network are partnering to provide communication materials about the SUN Bucks program happening in Arizona this summer. If you would like to have copies of the SUN Bucks flyer for families on hand at your location, please print out the PDF linked in the HNS Communication. Flyers are available in both English and Spanish versions.

- SUN Bucks Informational Flyer ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Program Alerts



GROWING SCHOOL GARDENS FIELD TRIP PROPOSALS ARE NOW OPEN TO PHOENIX SCHOOLS!

The Sprout's Healthy Communities Foundation is excited to share that the Call for Field Trip Proposals for the [Growing School Gardens Summit](#) is now open! They are looking for proposals of individual garden sites that could fill a 4-hour field trip session, OR that could be a part of a multi-stop field trip.

Field Trip Proposals are due by August 15, 2025. Accepted proposals will be notified by September 15, 2025. If accepted, field trip program planners will be asked to complete a field trip planning logistics form, a readiness grant budget, and post-Summit feedback. You may also be asked to host a pre-Summit field trip site visit.



UPDATED TRAINING: HOW TO SUBMIT A SUMMER MEAL SERVICE CLAIM, NOW INCLUDING NON-CONGREGATE SUMMER MEAL SERVICES

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) has updated the [How to Submit a Summer Meal Service Claim in CNPWeb](#) training to reflect the new fields in CNPWeb that will capture non-congregate site claims and hybrid (congregate and non-congregate) site claims. HNS recommends operators offering non-congregate meals review this resource for the updated claiming guidance. The updated guidance can be found starting on slide 18 of this training.

Program Alerts



REMINDER FOR SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS: UPDATED NUTRITION STANDARDS **- IMPLEMENTATION BY JULY 1, 2025, WITH UPDATED RESOURCE**

HNS issued a reminder about updates to the [school nutrition standards](#). While some changes to the meal pattern requirements are phased in through school year (SY) 2027-2028, several changes are effective July 1, 2025.

Changes impact:

- Added Sugars
- NSLP Afterschool Snacks
- Meal Modifications
- Substitution of Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast
- Sodium
- Buy American

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

SECTION 2

Hot Topics



Updated Nutrition Standards

IMPLEMENTATION BY JULY 1, 2025

The final rule titled, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), effective July 1, 2024, is following phased-in implementation for required changes. The following NSLP and SBP meal pattern changes must be implemented by July 1, 2025:



ADDED SUGARS

Schools must meet the following product-based added sugar limits:

- Breakfast cereals must contain no more than 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce ([7 CFR 210.10\(c\)\(2\)\(iii\)\(B\)](#)).
- Yogurt must contain no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams per ounce) ([7 CFR 210.10\(c\)\(2\)\(iv\)\(C\)](#)).
- Flavored milk must contain no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces, or 15 grams of added sugars per 12 fluid ounces for flavored milk sold as a competitive beverage for middle and high schools ([7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#)).

Updated Nutrition Standards

IMPLEMENTATION BY JULY 1, 2025

The final rule titled, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), effective July 1, 2024, is following phased-in implementation for required changes. The following NSLP and SBP meal pattern changes must be implemented by July 1, 2025:



NSLP AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS

Schools serving NSLP afterschool snacks to children in grades K-12 must serve the meal components and quantities found at [7 CFR 210.10\(o\)\(2\)](#). Two highlights include:

- No more than half of the weekly fruit or vegetable offerings at NSLP snacks may be in the form of juice.
- At least 80 percent of the grains offered during the week for NSLP snacks must be whole grain-rich.
- Grain-based desserts, except for sweet crackers such as animal and graham crackers, do not contribute toward the grains requirement.

Updated Nutrition Standards

IMPLEMENTATION BY JULY 1, 2025

The final rule titled, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), effective July 1, 2024, is following phased-in implementation for required changes. The following NSLP and SBP meal pattern changes must be implemented by July 1, 2025:



MEAL MODIFICATIONS

Schools must accept medical statements from registered dietitians requesting meal modifications on behalf of students with disabilities in the school meal programs. Refer to **7 CFR 210.10(m)(1)(i)** for more information.

SUBSTITUTION OF VEGETABLES FOR FRUITS AT BREAKFAST

Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast one day per school week may offer any vegetable, including a starchy vegetable. Schools that choose to substitute vegetables for fruit at breakfast on two or more days per week are required to offer vegetables from at least two different vegetable subgroups. Refer to SP 02-2025 and SP 13-2025 for more information.

Updated Nutrition Standards

IMPLEMENTATION BY JULY 1, 2025

The final rule titled, [Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), effective July 1, 2024, is following phased-in implementation for required changes. The following NSLP and SBP meal pattern changes must be implemented by July 1, 2025:



SODIUM

The current sodium limits at breakfast and lunch will remain in place until **July 1, 2027**. Schools are encouraged to gradually work toward meeting the future sodium requirements ([7 CFR 210.10\(c\)](#)). Visit the following website for more information: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards/sodium-limits>

BUY AMERICAN

Schools' non-domestic food purchases must not exceed 10 percent of total annual commercial food costs as outlined in 7 CFR 210.21(d)(5)(ii)(A) and 7 CFR 220.16(d)(5)(ii)(A). As outlined in recent guidance, State agencies have the ability to approve a temporary accommodation to those school food authorities that demonstrate they cannot meet the threshold requirement for non-domestic purchases (see SP 09-2025).

Buy American Accommodation

HNS 05-2025 

Beginning July 1, 2025, SFAs must ensure non-domestic food purchases do not exceed 10 percent of total annual commercial food costs.

If an SFA demonstrates they are unable to meet the requirement, HNS will offer an accommodation that will temporarily allow the SFA to exceed the 10 percent threshold for non-domestic food purchases. HNS will provide technical assistance to SFAs to support the temporary accommodation consistent with the availability of the two regulatory exceptions for non-domestic purchases.

To receive this temporary accommodation, SFAs must complete the [Buy American Accommodation Plan](#).

BUY AMERICAN ACCOMMODATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- Contact Information
- Reasonable explanations of why the accommodation is needed and the 10% threshold is being exceeded. Examples:
 - timing of the procurement cycle;
 - student preference/anticipated participation impacts;
 - items that help meet meal standards;
 - items that facilitate meal service models.
- Categories of food that require the accommodation
- Anticipated timeline to make modifications to meet the Buy American requirement

Updated Nutrition Standards

IMPLEMENTATION BY JULY 1, 2025 | RESOURCES

To assist schools in meeting the updated nutrition standards, the following resources are available:

Team Nutrition and the Institute of Child Nutrition:

- [Crediting Tip Sheets in Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast](#)
- [Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#)
- [Serving School Meals to Preschoolers](#)
- [The Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs](#)
- [Nutrition Standards for Added Sugars Fact Sheets](#)
- SP 09-2025: [Buy American Accommodation Process for School Year 2025-2026 \(Tool\)](#)

Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services:

- [Overview of the Updated Nutrition Standards for School Meal Programs](#)
- Meal Pattern Charts
 - [National School Lunch Program \(3-day, 4-day, 5-day, 6-day, 7-day\)](#)
 - [School Breakfast Program \(3-day, 4-day, 5-day, 6-day, 7-day\)](#)
- [Updated Medical Statement for Students with Special Dietary Accommodations Form \(English\)_\(Spanish\)](#)
- HNS Memorandum: [HNS 05-2025](#) Buy American Accommodation Plan - [Webform Buy American Accommodation Plan](#)

Quiz Time

Which of these is not impacted as an update in Nutrition Standards with implementation by July 1, 2025?

- A Added Sugars**
- B Added Fats**
- C Substitution of Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast**
- D Buy American**



Quiz Time

Which of these is not impacted as an update in Nutrition Standards with implementation by July 1, 2025?

A Added Sugars

B Added Fats

C Substitution of Vegetables for Fruits at Breakfast

D Buy American

Added fats were not part of the nutrition standards that need to be implemented by July 1, 2025.



Applying for SY 25-26

SFAs applying to participate in school meals programs and USDA Foods in Schools program during SY 25-26 must complete the following:

- CNPWeb Site and Sponsor Applications
- CNPWeb Checklist Items
- Additional Documentation Requested by the HNS Specialist
- myFOODS activation

SFAs should submit all application components as early as possible and allow three weeks for the application approval process to be completed. SFAs must ensure that all applications and all required components are submitted with adequate time for approval and to meet claiming deadlines.

How to Submit CNPWeb Applications for the National School Lunch Program



Health and Nutrition Services
Arizona Department of Education



CNPWEB APPLICATIONS FOR SY 2025-2026

For SY 2025-2026 operators will continue to submit applications and claims in CNPWeb.

SFAs are encouraged to review [Step-by-Step Instruction: How to Submit Site and Sponsor Applications in CNPWeb](#) that provides step-by-step instructions on navigating CNPWeb and completing the fields required in the Sponsor and Site Applications.

Applying for SY 25-26

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

NSLP Online Training Library:

Visit HNS' online training library to access Step-by-Step Instructions.

- [Step-by-Step Instruction: How to Submit Site and Sponsor Applications in CNPWeb](#)

NSLP & SBP - Program Forms and Resources:

Visit the NSLP forms and resources webpage to access templates and fillable forms needed for CNPWeb Checklist Items and Additional Documentation.

- [School Meals Programs Application and USDA Foods Checklist](#)
- [At a Glance Calendar](#)
- [At a Glance Calendar for Special Provisions](#)



CNPWeb Checklist Items

APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE APPROVED UNTIL ALL CHECKLIST ITEMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND APPROVED

- Custom, scannable, or electronic household meal application, parent letter, and/or notification of meal benefits
- Contractual agreements for vended meal service (Food Service Management Company, Caterers, SFAs serving as caterers)
- At-Risk Meals Component Principal Addendum
- Department of Economic Security (DES)/ Department of Human Services (DHS) License
- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status
- Free and Reduced-Price Policy Statement/Addendums
- Food Program Permanent Service Agreement



Program operators may be requested to submit Area Eligibility documentation for sites operating At-Risk/ASCSP that are using school level data other than the site.

Annual SNP Training Requirements

SFAs must ensure that all new and current school nutrition program staff meet the minimum annual training requirements per USDA's Professional Standards regulations. HNS has drafted a specialized [NSLP Training Curriculum](#) based on job duties.

Civil Rights Training is required annually. HNS provides a Civil Rights Compliance for Child Nutrition Operators.

- ONLINE COURSE ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)).

SNP directors, management, and staff tasked with NSLP procurement responsibilities must complete training on Federal procurement standards annually. HNS provides a [Procurement Basics](#) ONLINE COURSE.



Prior to School Starting

MAKE SURE TO:

- Provide outreach to households for School Breakfast Program (SBP) at the beginning of school and at least once again during the SY (required only if operating SBP).
- Print HNS' Training Curriculum & Brochure. Go to: <https://www.azed.gov/hns/nslp/training>.
- Create Professional Standards plans for all School Nutrition Program Staff, including mandatory Civil Rights training.
- Post point of service (POS) meal signage. Train Offer vs. Serve (OVS) to all staff, if applicable.
- Annual training on procurement for required individuals, reviewing all procurement methods (micro, small, and formal) prior to purchasing.
- Update Adult Meal Prices.
- Set meal prices in accordance with Paid Lunch Equity (PLE).

Confidential Information

DISCLOSURE OF NSLP ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Students' NSLP/SBP eligibility information shall not be made available to all school officials as a general practice.

Although a program or person may be authorized under the National School Lunch Act to access students' free and reduced-price eligibility information, there must be a legitimate "need to know" to provide a service or carry out an authorized activity.



SFAs are encouraged to review Section 5 of the Eligibility Manual for School Meals for more guidance.

7 CFR 245.6 (f)(3): The SFA may disclose children's eligibility status only to persons determined to be "directly connected" with the administration or enforcement of a Federal education program, State education program, State health program, or a means-tested nutrition program, as well as to persons directly connected with the Comptroller General Office or law enforcement for an authorized activity.

7 CFR 245.6(f)(3)(i): LEAs must ensure data systems, records, and other means of accessing a student's eligibility status are limited to officials directly connected with administration or enforcement of a Federal or State program or activity.

USDA Foods in Schools in SY 25-26

MYFOODS SYSTEM UPDATES

The myFOODS system has rolled to the new school year. All system dates will default to SY 25-26.

Need Help? Refer to the [myFOODS Systems Manual](#) for system functions.

ACTION ITEMS

- Existing users must update any contact and site information within the system.
- New users of the myFOODS system must contact ADE for access by emailing USDAFoods@azed.gov or calling 602-542-8729.
- To receive Direct Delivery material shipments from Shamrock Foods, SFAs must first submit a valid Purchase Order or Letter of Responsibility to Shamrock Foods for delivery fees published in [2025-2026 USDA Foods in Schools Program Administrative Fee Structure](#).
- All catering sites are being verified with approved CNPWeb applications and will remain in unapproved status pending verification. If you are contracting with a caterer and having foods delivered to the caterer, please email USDAFoods@azed.gov.

USDA Foods in SY 2025-2026

ADMINISTRATIVE FEE STRUCTURE

The [USDA Foods in Schools Program Administrative Fee Structure](#) is effective July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026.

For USDA Foods Direct Delivery materials delivered by Shamrock Foods, the fee structure is:

- Prep Site delivery \$6.64 per case (20-case minimum)
- Warehouse delivery \$6.39 per case (100-case minimum)
- Pick Up \$4.14 per case (100-case minimum)
- Restocking fee \$1.50 per case

Additionally, ADE assesses administrative fees for the following:

- Processing bulk product \$0.02 per pound
- Excess storage \$1.50 per case
- Direct shipments from USDA \$0.25 per case



Processing Diversion

BULK POUNDS

SY 25-26 bulk foods have been diverted to the processors specified in the Processing Surveys within myFOODS. SFAs are required to monitor pound usage via the processor designated websites:

- K12 Foodservice (<https://www.k12foodservice.com>)
- ProcessorLink (<https://www.processorlink.com>)
- Nardone Bros. via in-house sales contact ([Contact - Nardone Bros](#))

SFAs with carryover from SY 24-25 will be contacted directly to submit plans for use. SFAs can elect to relinquish carryover pounds to the State general account for redistribution.

NEED HELP NAVIGATING THE SYSTEMS?

Processor Link Training Videos:

- [ProcessorLink Training Videos - YouTube](#)

K12 Training Videos:

- [K12 Training Videos - YouTube](#)

DoD Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

YOUR ENTITLEMENT IS READY FOR USE!

Funds set aside during the catalog requisition period are in the FFAVORS system for immediate use in the CNPs.

- For SFAs currently operating SFSP, additional funds are available right now by selecting the Summer Budget.
- FFAVORS funds will be available for SFSP until September 30th or until funds are used, whichever comes first
- FFAVORS funds for SY26 NSLP are available for use beginning July 1st.



Orientation to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program



Health and Nutrition Services
Arizona Department of Education



SY 25-26 FFVP

Awardees

COMPLETE ORIENTATION TRAINING

Complete [Orientation to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#) and email a certificate of completion to your assigned HNS Specialist.

Paid Lunch Equity Tool

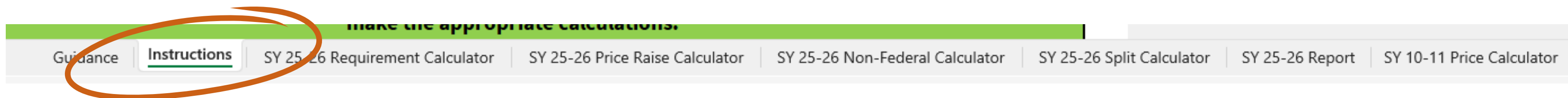
USDA Released the PLE Tool for SFAs that are not exempt from the PLE Requirements

Not Exempt

SFAs that do not qualify for the PLE exemption due to a **negative balance** in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2024, **must follow PLE requirements** when establishing their paid lunch prices for SY 2025-2026.

Using the PLE Tool

Once the tool is open, Instructions and Calculation sheets can be found on the bottom tabs. Please follow the instructions carefully to ensure the calculations are correct and will meet regulatory requirements.



OPTIONAL TOOL FOR EXEMPT SFAS

While not required, exempt SFAs may choose to use [USDA's PLE tool](#) to complete the steps necessary to determine their target SY 25-26 paid lunch price and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly.

Paid Lunch Equity

GUIDANCE FOR SY 2025-2026 PAID LUNCH PRICING

- SFAs may use the prices they last charged students as the basis for their SY 2025-2026 paid lunch price calculation, even if those prices were charged during a year the SFA was not required to comply with PLE requirements.
- If an SFA did not charge for meals during SY 2024-2025, such as an SFA that operated the Community Eligibility Provision, or Provisions 2 or 3 and is returning to standard counting and claiming in SY 2025-2026, they may use the most recent paid lunch price data as the basis for its SY 2025-2026 paid lunch calculation.
- SFAs are not required to raise their paid lunch price by more than 10 cents for SY 2025-2026 from the last year they charged for paid lunches. SFAs can still choose to raise the price by more than **10 cents**.

Quiz Time

What is needed to be exempt from this year's PLE requirement?

- A** A zero or positive balance in the non-profit food service account as of June 30, 2024.
- B** A negative balance in the non-profit food service account.
- C** PLE requirements are waived for all SFAs this year.
- D** All SFAs are required to raise paid lunch prices this year.



Quiz Time

What is needed to be exempt from this year's PLE requirement?

- A** A zero or positive balance in the non-profit food service account as of June 30, 2024.
- B** A negative balance in the non-profit food service account.
- C** PLE requirements are waived for all SFAs this year.
- D** All SFAs are required to raise paid lunch prices this year.

SFAs must show a zero or positive balance in their non-profit food service account to be exempt from PLE requirements this year. This can be shown with the Annual Financial Report (AFR).



SUN Bucks Final Reminders

BENEFIT ISSUANCE

Households with SUN Bucks eligible children will receive an EBT card with \$120 total for purchasing groceries in the summer months. Households on an active SNAP/TANF case will receive funds on their current EBT card. Benefits distribution has begun.

Funds are subject to expungement at four months (122 days) after benefits are made available.

SUN Bucks parent hotline/phone number:
833-648-4406

SUN Bucks email address:
SUNBucks@azed.gov

SUN Bucks website for households:
<https://www.azed.gov/SUNBucks>

Understanding SUN Bucks

ARIZONA SCHOOL GUIDE TO SUN BUCKS

No Kid Hungry | Center for Best Practices provided a very informative webinar and outreach kit for school staff to help understand and spread the word about SUN Bucks. A recording of the webinar and slides [can be found here](#).

There is also a [Fact Sheet for School Staff](#) that provides information on how SUN Bucks works, understanding eligibility, things to keep in mind, and additional helpful resources.



SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener Guide:

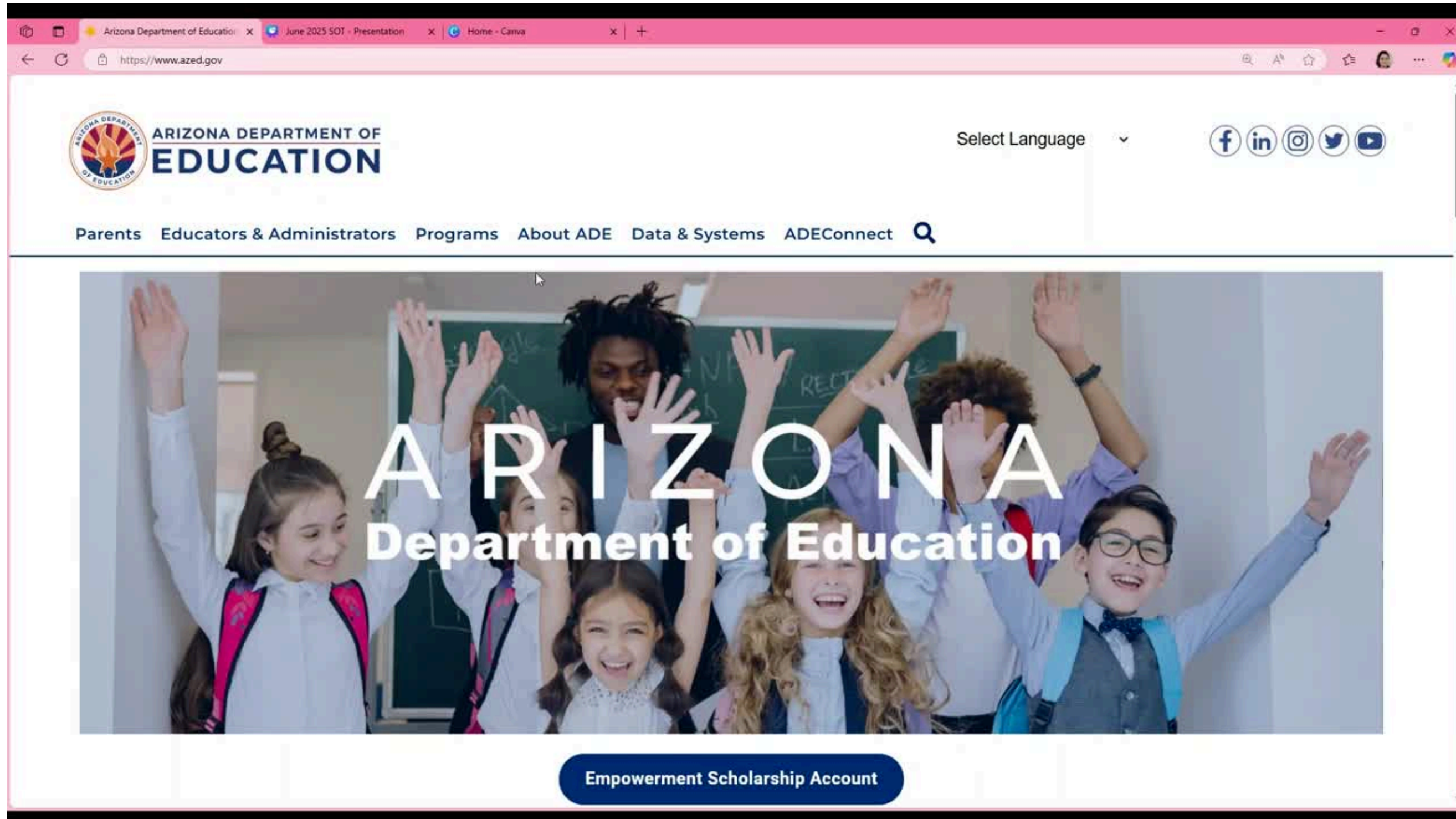
SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener Guide:

- Most eligible students will qualify automatically and will not need to fill out a SUN Bucks application.
- Families of students that did not qualify automatically but believe they are eligible must use the SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener before **August 5, 2025** to determine if their child is eligible to apply for SUN Bucks benefits.
 - If the screener determines that the child is eligible, the link to the SUN Bucks application will be provided in the Screener.



SUN Bucks Household Application

2025 SUMMER EBT: SUN BUCKS SCREENER



Procuring Local Workshop

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

This workshop will cover various topics such as the benefits of sourcing ingredients locally and strategies for establishing successful partnerships with local producers. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have a solid understanding of how to support local producers while providing nutritious meals for students. Join us to learn how you can make a difference in your school's procurement process!

Registration is available in the [ADE Professional Learning and Development \(APLD\)](#).



PHOENIX

- 9:30 am - 12:00 pm **07/18/2025**
- Location: 1535 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85007 Conference Rm: Cato
- Registration Link:
<https://azed.geniussis.com/Registration.aspx?aid=10335>

Closing out SY 24-25

UPLIFT WEBINAR SERIES SUMMER EDITION: SCRATCH COOKING WITH LOCAL FOODS

Join us on **July 15, 2025** at 1:30pm as we provide practical tips and insights on how to create nutritious, delicious meals from scratch, enhancing both the taste and nutritional value of school lunches. We will discuss tips from the field on experiences and strategies for sourcing local produce, reducing food waste, and involving students in the cooking process. Whether you're a seasoned food service professional or new to the idea of scratch cooking, this webinar offers valuable information and inspiration to elevate your school's menu.

[Click here to register!](#)



SY 25-26 upLIFT Initiative

PLATE TO PALATE: TRANSFORMING SCHOOL MEAL PERCEPTIONS

Join us next year as we provide practical tips and insights on how to LEARN about overcoming preconceptions of school meals to positively impact public knowledge and appeal. It also aims to INSPIRE operators to collaborate with each other and their communities, FEED participants healthy, locally sourced meals, and TEACH the community about offering “Fresh Perspectives” in their meal service programs to give Directors practical strategies on how to promote and paint their programs in a positive light. The goal is to assist operators in improving the overall perception of school meals for students, staff, and the community, as well as enhance Arizona school meals by incorporating less processed foods.



Try it Local!

LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS IN THE SUMMER!

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Extended NSLP operators may continue to be reimbursed through the summer!

HINT:

- Did you participate in the summer Farm Fresh Challenge? If so, make sure you claim those items for reimbursement through Try it Local!



Taste AZ Promotion

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT OF HOMEGROWN PRODUCE AND AVAILABLE LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS



WHAT IS IT?

This promotion showcases Arizona's very own locally grown produce and available food options.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each month, HNS highlights a food that is grown in Arizona or is easily available in the area by providing an informative resource. This includes fun facts, availability timelines, and unique recipes. For July, the spotlight is on **BLUE CORNMEAL!**

WHY TASTE AZ?

HNS is thrilled to facilitate connections between SFAs and the farmers and producers who can incorporate these Arizona foods into school meals! This promotion will draw parallels to the Farm Fresh Challenge and will include the logos for Taste, Teach, and/or Connect when the information complements the challenge criteria.

Taste AZ July Highlight:

BLUE CORNMEAL



BLUE CORNMEAL

TEACH

FIND LOCAL BLUE CORNMEAL IN ARIZONA:

- ▶ Ramona Farms: Sacaton, AZ
 - via Sun Produce
 - via Pivot Produce

BLUE CORN, Fresh and Ground

➡ Connect with Local Producers!
[SCHOOL INTEREST FORM](#)

ARIZONA HARVEST FACTS!

- ▶ Compared to yellow or white corn, blue corn is nuttier, slightly sweeter, and has a coarser texture.
- ▶ Blue corn is prized not only for its vibrant color but also for its higher protein and lower starch content.
- ▶ Blue corn thrives in arid conditions, requires less water than many commercial crops, and is naturally resistant to pests and disease, making it an ideal crop for sustainable agriculture in Arizona.
- ▶ The deep-rooted varieties grown by Indigenous farmers are particularly well-suited to desert climates, preserving soil health and biodiversity.

TASTE

LOCAL RECIPE: BLUE CORN MUSH WITH ROASTED CORN

A traditional Native American dish made from blue corn meal, juniper ash*, and spices that will tantalize your taste buds and nourish your body.

- Corn
- Canola Oil
- Black Pepper (ground)
- Fresh Parsley
- Salt
- Blue Corn Meal
- Juniper Ash*
- Sour Cream

*Juniper Ash- It is commonly added to dishes, especially those using blue cornmeal, like blue corn mush, to enhance flavor, deepen the color, and improve digestibility.

NSLP/SBP Crediting Information: 1 cup provides: 1/2 cup total vegetable, 1/2 cup starchy vegetable) and 2.5 oz eq grains

QUICK MATH: FRESH BLUE CORN and BLUE CORNMEAL

1 oz eq grain = 1/2 cup cooked or 1 ounce (28 gm) dry cornmeal

Corn, fresh without husks (5 to 6- inch length), Medium (Similar to Native White Corn and Native Whole Blue Corn) = 1 medium ear (about 1/2 cup cooked vegetable)

July 2025 | TASTE AZ | The Arizona Department of Education | USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Taste AZ July Highlight: Blue Cornmeal





Summer Farm Fresh Challenge

REPORT RESULTS

The Program Year 2025 Summer Farm Fresh Challenge is an HNS initiative designed to empower CNP operators to cultivate excitement around fresh and locally sourced foods.

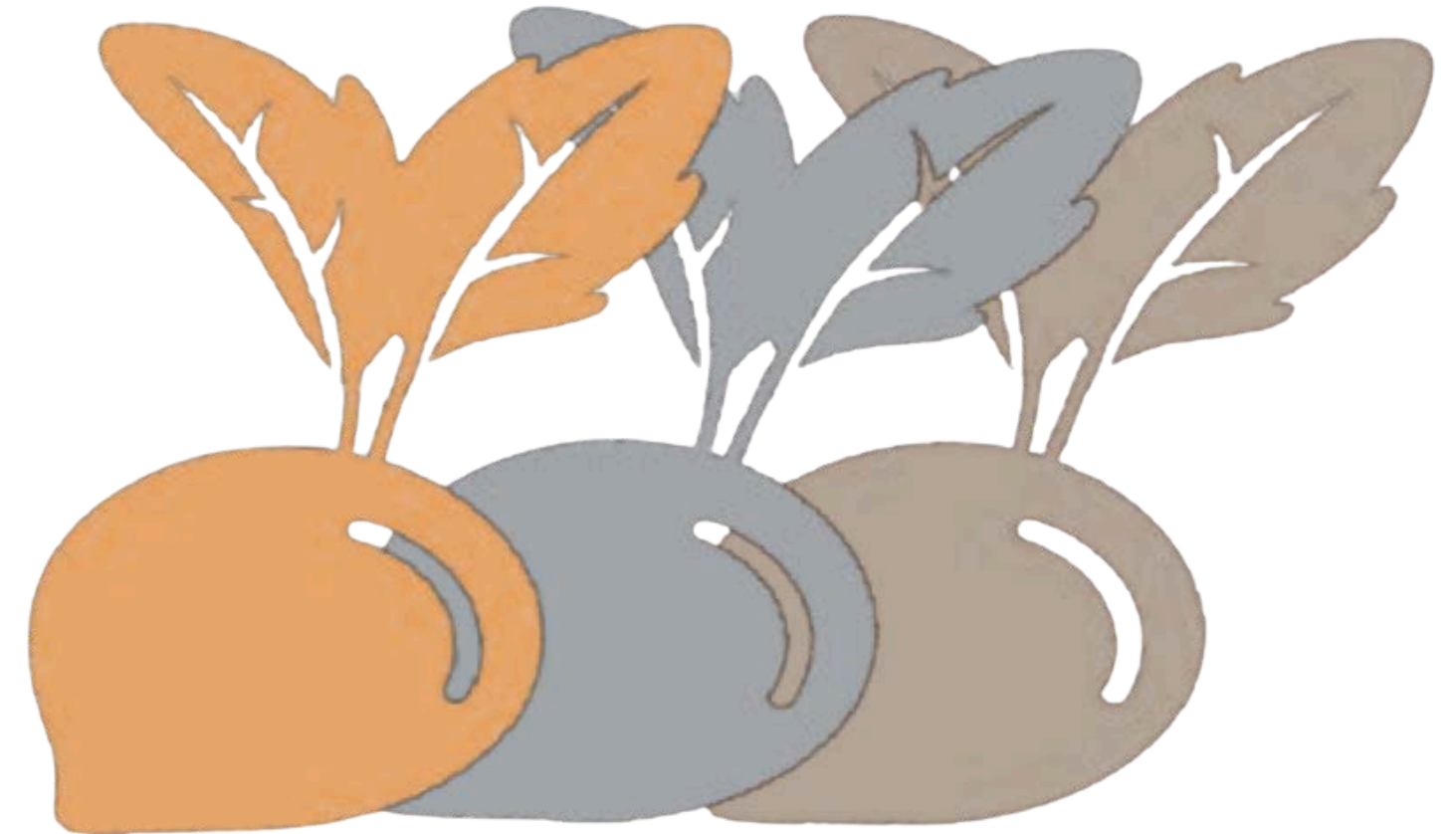
ADE encourages all operators who participated to submit their activity details.

Enter your results here: [Summer 2025 Farm Fresh Challenge Results Survey](#).

Turnip the Beet

AWARD FOR HIGH-QUALITY SUMMER MEALS

- ✓ All Summer Meal Programs sponsors, including SFSP sponsors and NSLP SSO sponsors, may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award by self-nominating or being nominated.
- ✓ USDA's Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high-quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious.
- ✓ Winners will receive a certificate and will be nationally recognized and featured on the Turnip the Beet webpage.



SECTION 3

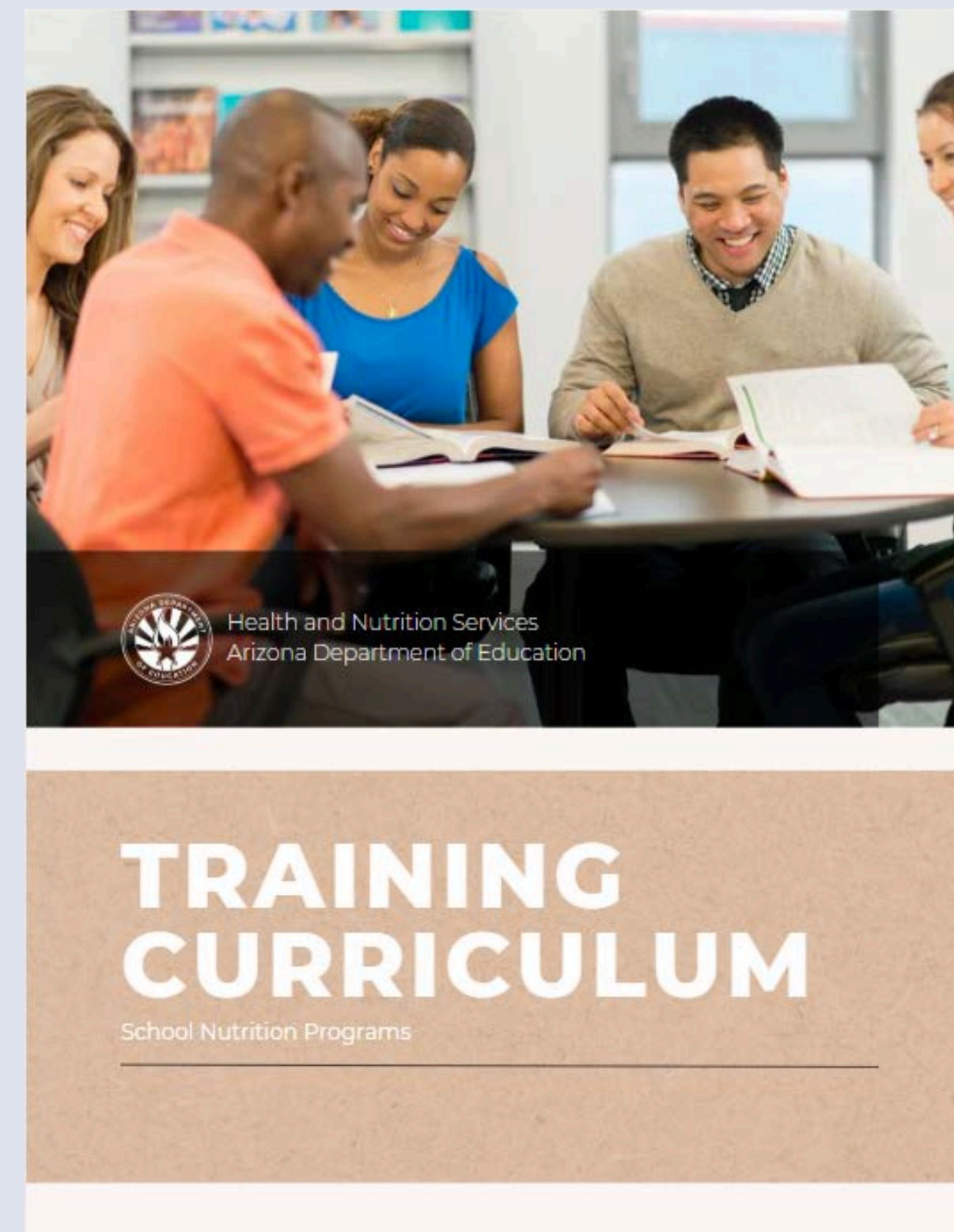
Last Month's Training Opportunities



Training for School Nutrition Programs

Because the training offered by HNS is vast in quantity, diverse in content, and consistently updated, ADE maintains specialized curricula based on job duties to help directors with their training plans.

Each curriculum includes a list of recommended trainings offered by HNS and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) for specific roles, the format of each training, the Professional Standards hours each training provides, and where to access the training or registration.



[Training Curriculum for Arizona Child Nutrition Professionals Operating the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program](#)



June's Training Opportunities

To access webinar slides, recordings, and online trainings, visit HNS' webpage or refer to the HNS Communications Event Follow-up emails.



Staying on Track: June



Civil Rights Compliance for Child Nutrition Operators
Required for all employees every year

- ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))



Procurement Basics

Required annually for all program directors, management, and staff members tasked with NSLP procurement responsibilities



June upLIFT

Provides an introduction to USDA Foods, supplementing summer menus with USDA Foods, and tips for utilizing USDA Foods during the summer service.

SECTION 4
**Upcoming
Deadlines &
Communications**



Mark Your Calendars!

JULY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

HNS is dedicated to providing all Child Nutrition Program operators with training to support you and your teams' professional learning needs to fulfill annual training requirements, support program integrity, and elevate Child Nutrition Programs across Arizona.

- 8 training opportunities for School Nutrition Professionals in July

Events Forecast

HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES

11,045
Current Attendees

463
Available Courses

55,089
Total Enrollments

Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) is dedicated to providing all Child Nutrition Program operators with training to support you and your teams' professional learning needs to fulfill annual training requirements, support program integrity, and elevate Child Nutrition Programs across Arizona.

The HNS Communications Events Forecast is a monthly email that announces the events being offered by HNS or external partners for Child Nutrition Program operators. For self-paced online courses or recorded webinars, visit the applicable Child Nutrition Program's webpage at www.azed.gov/hns.

For School Nutrition Professionals



Staying on Track - July
July 1, 1:30-2:30 pm MST
Webinar | [Register in APLD](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): Key Areas: 1000 Nutrition, 2000 Operations, 3000 Administration, 4000 Communications and Marketing



A Deep Dive into Community Eligibility in the 2024-2025 School Year
July 1, 3:00-4:00 pm EST
Webinar | [Register with FRAC](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): 3000 Administration



School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference
July 13-15
Conference | [Registration starting at \\$660 with 3NA](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): Varies based on session completion



State Nutrition Action Committee Summer Food Service Program Work Group
July 14, 1:00-2:00 pm MST
Work Group Meeting | [Register in Zoom](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable



upLIFT Webinar Summer Edition: Scratch Cooking with Local Foods
July 17, 1:30-2:00 pm MST
Webinar | [Register in APLD](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): 1000 Nutrition



Procuring Local Workshop
July 18, 9:30-12:00 pm MST
Webinar | [Register in APLD](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): 1000 Nutrition



State Nutrition Action Committee Summer Food Service Program Work Group
July 28, 1:00-2:00 pm MST
Work Group Meeting | [Register in Zoom](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable



Closing the Out-of-School Time Nutrition Gap: Afterschool Nutrition Program Fundamentals
July 31, 3:00-4:00 pm EST
Webinar | [Register with FRAC](#)
Professional Standards Key Area(s): 1000 Nutrition

For more information and links to register, check your inbox for the [HNS Events Forecast: July 2025](#) from HNS Communications!

In Our Drafts

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING EMAILS THIS MONTH:

- Summer Farm Fresh Challenge Winners
- FFVP Bravocado Award Winners
- HNS Memorandum School Year 2025-2026 Updates and Reminders for SFAs
- USDA Foods Surplus Availability



July Checklist

July 1 - July 10

Submit June reimbursement claims (best practice)

July 30

May 60-day claiming deadline

No Sooner than July 1

- Send out Public Media Release.
- Conduct first direct certification through CNP Direct Certification, send notification letters and update BID.
- Distribute household applications with parent letter to only those students who are not directly certified.
- Begin processing household applications with Income Eligibility Guidelines for the current SY, create BID, and send notification letters.
- Send a request to the local health department for 2 food safety inspections to be conducted at all operating sites during the school year.
- Confirm delivery site, contact information, food service director, program contact and billing contact in myFOODS.

This month...

- Submit CNPWeb Site and Sponsor Applications

Prior to School Starting

- Provide outreach to households for SBP at the beginning of school and at least once again during the school year (required only if operating SBP).
- Print Training Curriculum & Brochure and create Professional Standards plans for all School Nutrition Program Staff, including mandatory Civil Rights training.
- Post point of service (POS) meal signage.
- Train Offer vs. Serve (OVS) to all staff, if applicable.
- Review proper procedures for all procurement methods (micro, small and formal) before making purchases.
- Print out NSLP At a Glance Calendar

After the First Day of School

- Complete Production Records daily.
- Count meals at POS.
- Complete Daily Edit Checks.



Join Us Next Month!

Staying On Track: August

August 5, 2025

1:30-2:30 pm

We will be reviewing recently released HNS Communications and policy memorandums, and relevant key tasks, deadlines, and action items.

Thank you!

PLEASE PUT QUESTIONS IN THE Q&A

If you are attending the live webinar, you will receive an email once attendance has been completed. Once you have received this email, your training certificate will be available in Arizona Professional Learning Development (APLD).

If you are watching the recorded webinar, you can access the survey link and certificate of completion at the end of the webinar slides.





Congratulations

**You have completed the Online Course:
Staying on Track: July 2025**

Information to include when documenting this
training for Professional Standards:

Training Title: July Staying on Track

Key Areas: 1000 - Nutrition, 3000 - Administration,
4000 - Communications and Marketing

Learning Codes: 1170, 3130, 3230, 3340, 3150, 4120, 4140,
4150

Length: 1 hour

Please note, attendees must document the amount of training hours
indicated on the training despite the amount of time it takes to complete it.

Certificate

Requesting a training certificate

Please click the button to complete a brief survey about this online training. Once the survey is complete, you will be able to print your certificate of completion from Survey Monkey.



Information to include when documenting this training for Professional Standards:

Training Title: July Staying on Track

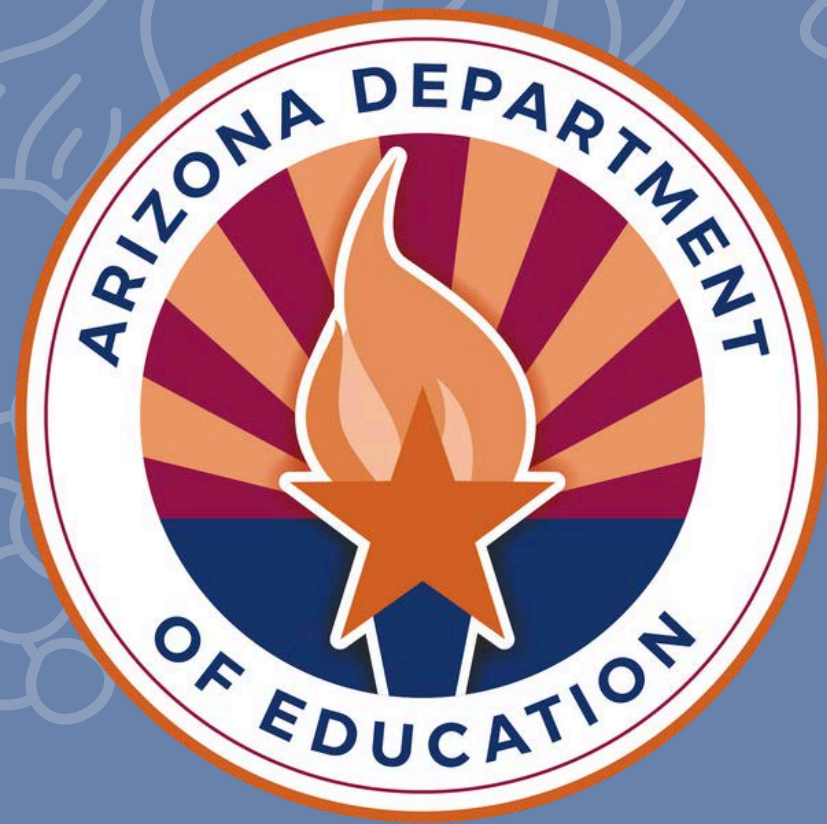
Key Areas: 1000 - Nutrition, 3000 - Administration,
4000 - Communications and Marketing

Learning Codes: 1170, 3130, 3230, 3340, 3150, 4120, 4140,
4150

Length: 1 hour

Please note, attendees must document the amount of training hours indicated on the training despite the amount of time it takes to complete it.





In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.