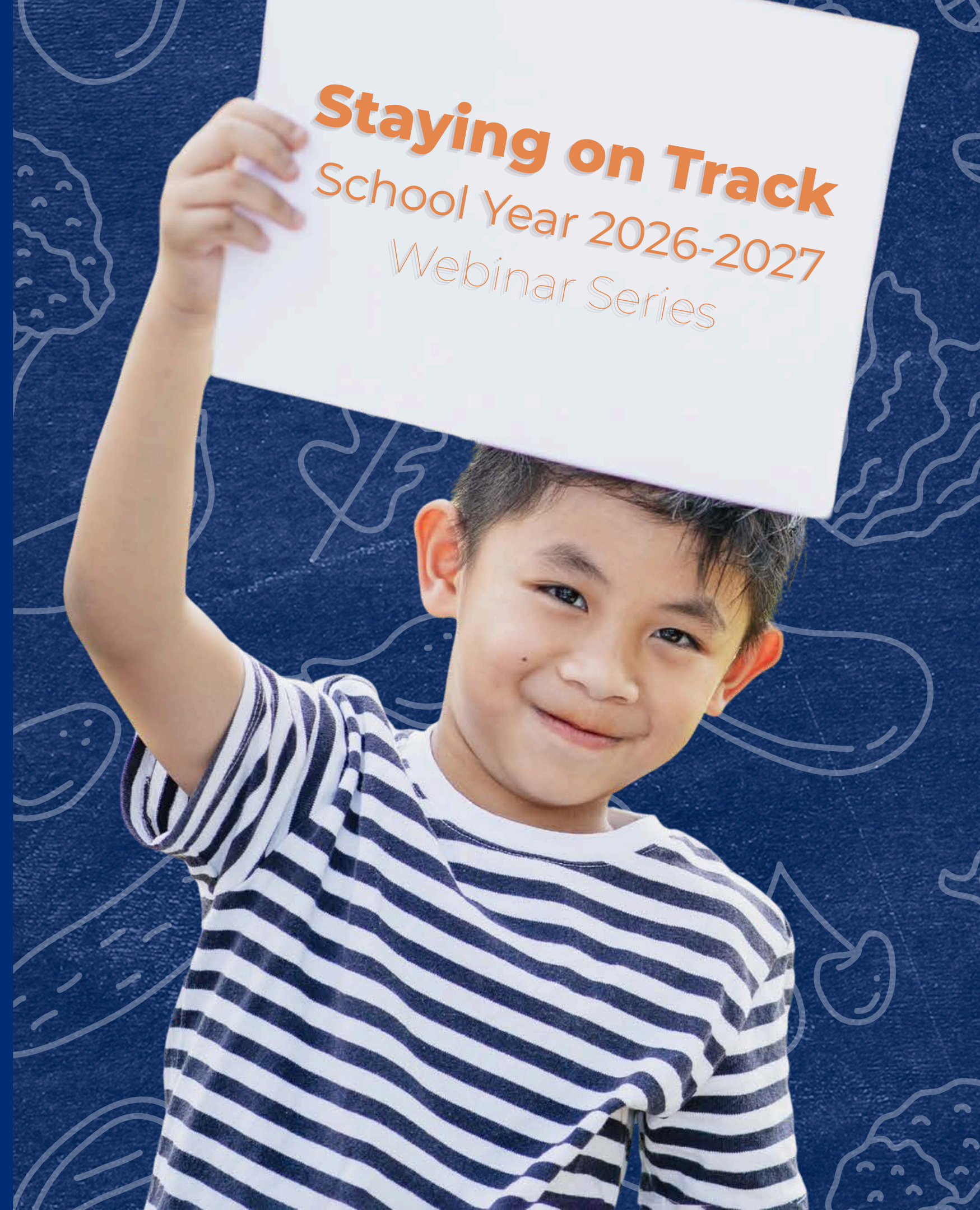


Staying on Track

July 2026



Health and Nutrition Services
Arizona Department of Education



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are encouraged to access professional development materials directly from the training library to prevent the use of outdated content.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: Training Opportunities

Section 4: Upcoming Deadlines and HNS Communications

SECTION 1

June HNS Communications Round-Up



Memorandums



HNS 07-2026: SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 UPDATES AND REMINDERS FOR SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the availability of School Year 2026-2027 (SY 2026 27) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) applications in CNPWeb; as well as to provide reminders and new information for School Food Authorities (SFAs) applying to operate the NSLP, School Breakfast Program (SBP), Special Milk Program (SMP), and/or Afterschool Care Snack Program (ASCSP) and At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) during SY 2026-27. This guidance also pertains to SFAs participating in the USDA Foods in Schools Program and the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (USDA DoD Fresh).



HNS TA 01-2026: SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 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 with 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/.

Memorandums



SP 08-2026, CACFP 04-2026: EXPANDING FLUID MILK OPTIONS IN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

On May 8, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) published the final rule with comment period, Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs (91 FR 25073), effective **June 8, 2026**. This rule expands fluid milk options by allowing schools and child and adult care providers participating in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) to offer whole and reduced-fat milk to participants two years and older.

This rule codifies milkfat requirements following enactment of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 20251 (WMFHKA) (P.L. 119-69) and supports the statutory requirements for meals to align with the goals of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans



SFSP 04-2026: ENSURING INTEGRITY IN NON-CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICE IN THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide State Agencies guidance to ensure the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) nutrition assistance programs are administered as efficiently, effectively, and as responsibly as possible. In the Summer Food Service Program's (SFSP) rural non-congregate meal service, maintaining program integrity is essential to ensure resources are used wisely and reach eligible children. This guidance focuses on key areas of risk, including parent or guardian meal pick-up, site caps, site proximity, and home delivery, with the goal of improving monitoring and accountability.

Memorandums



HNS 06-2026: MANAGEMENT OF USDA FOODS INVENTORY AT PROCESSORS

This memorandum informs School Food Authorities (SFAs) and recipient agencies (RAs) about USDA Foods processing inventory requirements. The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) oversees the distribution and use of USDA Foods in compliance with federal regulations. ADE may implement processes to ensure compliance, promote efficient use of USDA Foods, and manage processing inventory, including reallocating unused USDA Foods value to eligible agencies.



SP 09-2026: BUY AMERICAN ACCOMMODATION PROCESS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the availability of School Year 2026-2027 (SY 2026-27) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) applications in CNPWeb; as well as to provide reminders and new information for School Food Authorities (SFAs) applying to operate the NSLP, School Breakfast Program (SBP), Special Milk Program (SMP), and/or Afterschool Care Snack Program (ASCSP) and At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) during SY 2026-27. This guidance also pertains to SFAs participating in the USDA Foods in Schools Program and the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (USDA DoD Fresh).

Memorandums



HNS 08-2026: STATE-FUNDED REIMBURSEMENT FOR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS IN SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027

The FY 2027 state budget, enacted by the Arizona Legislature, appropriated one-time funding to reduce or eliminate copayments that would otherwise be charged to children eligible for reduced-price meals.

The state appropriation will be provided to the NSLP and SBP operators by ADE as a per-meal reimbursement. If the appropriated amount is insufficient to cover all meals served to students certified as eligible for reduced-price meal benefits, ADE will reduce the funding proportionately and notify the impacted SFAs.

To obtain the per meal reimbursement, all SFAs, except those operating CEP or Provision 2 or 3 in a non-base year, shall continue to follow their Free and Reduced-Price Policy which includes the distribution of the Household Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals, use of the CNP Direct Certification system to certify students for free or reduced-price meal benefits, and track the eligibility on the benefit issuance document. Meals served to children certified as eligible for reduced-price meal benefits are then claimed in the reduced category of the CNPWeb monthly claim. SFAs must also notify families and offer meals free of charge to the students who are certified as eligible for reduced-price meal benefits.

Program Alerts



CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENT: NOTIFICATION OF FREE LANGUAGE SERVICES

This is a reminder that all Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators are required to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to CNPs for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and to notify the public of free language services under citations:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; DR 4300-003 6 (c.) and 8 c.(3); 79 Fed. Reg. 70771 U.S. Department of Agriculture Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Regarding the Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Persons with Limited English Proficiency.

What action is needed?

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]."

For additional resources, see:

- [SP 37-2016 Meaningful Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency \(LEP\) in the School Meal Programs: Guidance and Q&As](#)
- [FNS Language Access Plan](#)

We are here to help!

If a CNP operator needs assistance with translation services or has any questions, please contact your assigned HNS Specialist or submit a ticket to [HelpDesk](#).

SECTION 2

Hot Topics



Arizona Healthy Schools Act

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

Certification of Compliance with A.R.S. §15-242.01 and Public Posting

- Who Must Submit: Under A.R.S. §15-242.01, any public school that participates in a federally funded or assisted meal program is prohibited from serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultraprocessed food on the school campus during the regular school day.
- How to Submit:
 - [Certification of Compliance for A.R.S. 15-242.01: Ultraprocessed Foods Prohibition](#)

HNS 05-2026



Administrators and School Leaders

[SUN Bucks](#)

[Prospective Waiver Request](#)

[The Basics of the Arizona Healthy Schools Act: Resource for School Administrators](#)

[Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 Certification of Compliance](#)

[Arizona Healthy Schools Act List of Certified Schools](#)

[Arizona Healthy Schools Act List of Certified Schools](#)

Buy American

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR ACCOMODATION

Beginning July 1, 2026, 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](#).

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

Applying for SY 2026-27

School Food Authorities applying to participate in school meals programs and USDA Foods in Schools program during SY 2026-27 must complete the following:

- CNPWeb Site and Sponsor Applications
- CNPWeb Checklist Items
- Additional Documentation Requested by the HNS Specialist
- CNP MyFoods

SFAs are encouraged to use the [School Meals Application Checklist](#) to ensure all application requirements are completed.

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



SY 2026-2027 CNPWeb Applications

RESOURCES

For SY 2026-2027 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 2026-27

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 APPLICABLE 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).
- Review or 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, simplified acquisition, and formal) prior to purchasing.
- Update Adult Meal Prices.
 - If needed use the Adult Meal Pricing Tool and remember to use School Year 2026-27 reimbursement rates and value of USDA Foods.
- 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.

Contact Information

YEARLY UPDATE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNERS

To ensure security and communication of the Child Nutrition Programs administered by each operation, it is best practice at the beginning of each school year, to ensure any employees that are no longer with the organization are removed from the Food Program Permanent Service Agreement (FPPSA) and any other program platforms associated with your organization.



SFAs are encouraged to have new employees sign up for HNS Communications.

TO-DO

YEARLY UPDATES

- Review ADE's Education Organization System (EOS). If updates are needed contact assigned HNS specialist.
- Ensure individuals on FRPPS and necessary addendums are still accurate. If updates are needed submit a new one by Oct 15.
- Ensure signers on FPPSA are still accurate. If updates are needed, resubmit ASAP.
- Ensure contact information in CNPWeb is accurate prior to submitting.

DoD Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

YOUR FUNDS ARE READY FOR USE!

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

- FFAVORS funds for SY 2026-27 NSLP are available for use beginning July 1st.



USDA Foods in Schools

UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE FEE STRUCTURE

The [USDA Foods in Schools Program Administrative Fee Structure](#) is effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

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



**USDA Foods in Schools Program
Administrative Fee Structure**
Effective July 1, 2026

The following chart outlines the shipping and administrative fees that will be incurred by operators that order direct delivery and processed bulk product items. The Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) does not have any administrative or shipping fees. Shipping fees are in accordance with the operator's method of receipt of direct delivery and processed bulk products.

SHIPPING FEE TYPES Direct delivery and processed end products	RATE PER CASE* effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
Delivered by Shamrock Foods to Operator Prep Site 20 Case Minimum	\$6.64** Payment to Shamrock Foods
Delivered by Shamrock Foods to Operator Warehouse 100 Case Minimum	\$6.39** Payment to Shamrock Foods
Picked up by Operator at Shamrock Foods Warehouse 100 Case Minimum	\$4.14** Payment to Shamrock Foods
Directly Shipped by USDA to Operator 1/3 Truck Minimum	\$0.25 Payment to the Arizona Department of Education
OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE FEE TYPES	RATE PER CASE/UNIT* effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
Shamrock Foods Warehouse Restocking Fee	\$1.50 per case Payment to Shamrock Foods
Shamrock Foods Warehouse Excess Storage Fee	\$1.50 per case Payment to the Arizona Department of Education for inventory held past 45 days
Processing Bulk Product Fee	\$0.02 per pound Payment to the Arizona Department of Education

* Please note, entitlement dollars cannot be used on administrative fees.
** Rate includes ADE Administrative fee

June 2026 | Health and Nutrition Services | Arizona Department of Education | USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Reminder

REMINDER OF HNS 06-2026 MANAGEMENT OF USDA FOODS INVENTORY AT PROCESSORS

To request additional pounds for SY 2026-27 and beyond, SFAs must submit a Calculator/Planner indicating the quantity and utilization for ADE approval. As the memo states after SY 2026-27, there will no longer be any carryover pounds in Arizona. All USDA Foods and Planned Assistance Level (PAL) must be used in the year that it is provided. ADE will transfer SFA unused pounds at processors to the state account for redistribution. For smooth implementation of this process, ADE will allow carryover from SY 2025-26.

HNS 06-2026



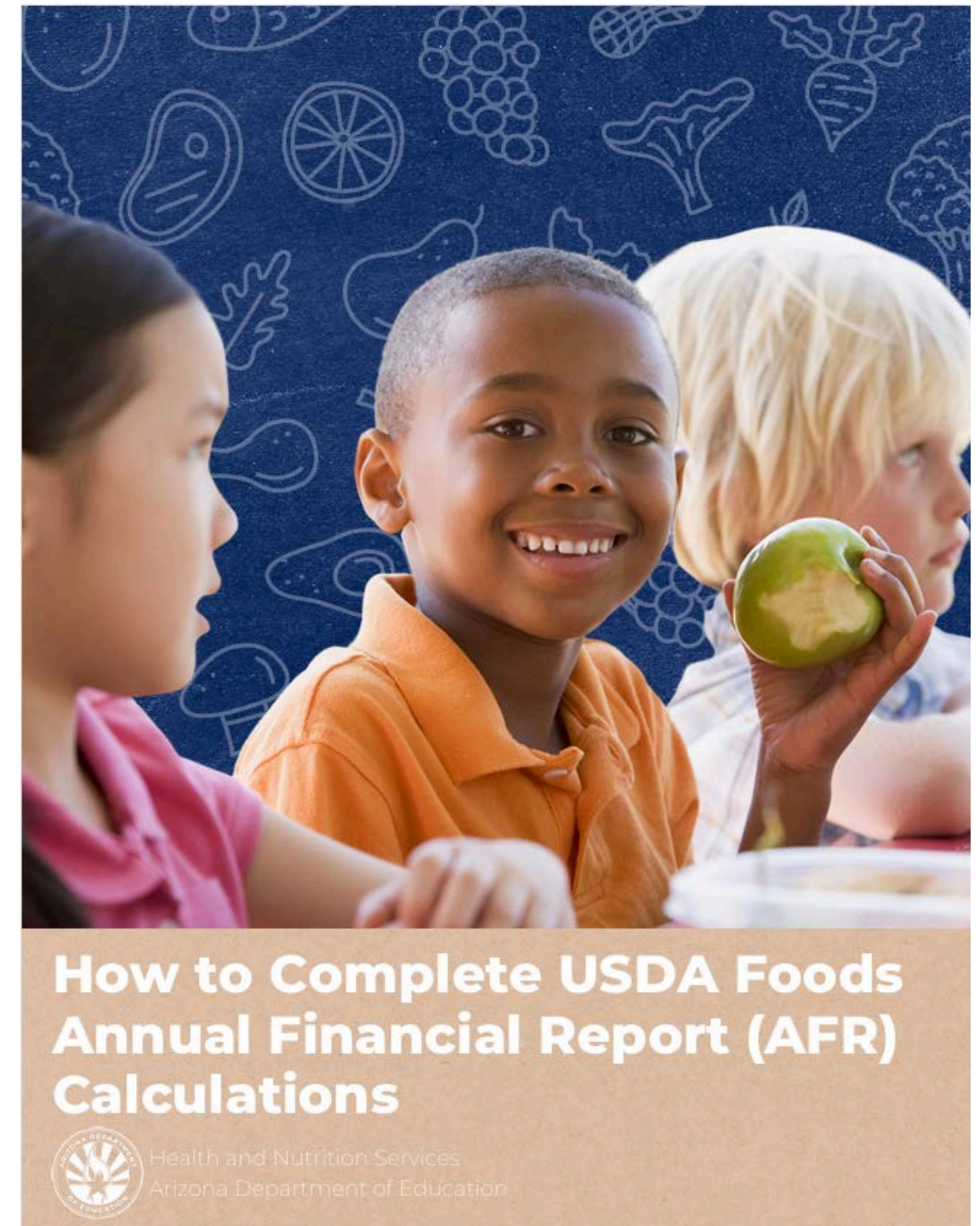
SY 2026 USDA Foods Portion of the Annual Financial Report (AFR)

HOUSED IN THE LEGACY myFOODS

CNP MyFoods replaced the previous myFOODS system this last school year. However, the myFOODS system will need to be accessed to provide USDA Foods information necessary for the AFR.

The legacy system will be available to SFAs for 5 years; however, ADE will not process any updates made to the system after June 30, 2026.

[How to Complete the USDA Foods Portion of the AFR](#)



Orientation to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program



Health and Nutrition Services
Arizona Department of Education



SY 2026-27 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.

Poll Time

Which area of focus would be most beneficial for the School Nutrition Advisory Council (SNPAC) in SY 2027?

- A** USDA Foods (Commodities) Management
- B** Program Administration & Compliance Requirements
- C** Regulations & Administrative Review Readiness
- D** Program Improvement & Expansion Initiatives

Verification Confirmation

REVIEW WAIVERS

The Confirmation Review is the process of reviewing applications that were selected for verification to ensure they were certified correctly by School Food Authorities (SFAs). This process must be conducted by a school official who did not make the original eligibility decision, otherwise known as a Confirming Official. SFAs that use a **technology-based system** with a high level of accuracy in processing an initial eligibility determination may request a **Confirmation Review Waiver**.

SFAs who are eligible and interested in requesting a Confirmation Review Waiver must submit information on a school or district letterhead to their assigned HNS Specialist prior to beginning the verification process.

A hand is holding a purple hexagonal card. On the card, there is a white fingerprint graphic. Below the fingerprint, the word "VERIFICATION" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The background of the slide features a blurred image of a hand holding a credit card and several interlocking gears.

Verification Confirmation

HOW TO REQUEST REVIEW WAIVERS

Required information includes:

- The name of the software system used by the SFA to process household applications
- An explanation of how the software demonstrates a high degree of accuracy
- A signature from an authorized representative

The SFA is also required to include supporting documentation in the request that confirms that the software's Income Eligibility and Error-Prone Guidelines match USDA's guidelines for the current school year. As an example, optional supporting documentation may include a sample of applications and eligibility determinations made by the software to affirm accuracy.

Resources:

- [Step-by-Step Instruction: How to Submit a Verification Confirmation Review Waiver](#)
- [Income Eligibility Guidelines for School Year 2026-2027](#)
- [Error-Prone Guidelines](#)

Have any questions?

Please submit a [HelpDesk](#) request or contact your assigned HNS Specialist if you have any questions or need assistance.

Production Records

RECOMMENDED PRODUCTION WORKSHEET TEMPLATE

Operators are encouraged to begin using the production record template without menu contributions going forward as menu contributions are not a USDA requirement and the previous version with has been removed. Adopting this resource helps ensure clarity as well as efficient and consistent documentation across programs.

What's new?

- A single, streamlined production worksheet template
- Designed for ease of use and clear documentation
- Menu contribution fields are no longer included
- Simplifies daily production tracking

► Menu Planning

- [Product Formulation Statement Templates and Samples](#)
- [Production Record](#)
- [Production Record for Multiple Grades \(PDF\) \(Word\)](#)
- [Production Record for Afterschool Care Snack Program](#)
- [Standardized Recipe Template](#)
- [Vegetable Subgroup Planner](#)
- [Vegetable Subgroup Quick Guide](#)

Available at:

<https://www.azed.gov/hns/nslp/forms>

Quiz Time

Are menu contributions required for completing production records?

- A** Yes
- B** No
- C** Production Records are not a requirement.



Quiz Time

Are menu contributions required for completing production records?

A Yes

B No

C Production Records are not a requirement.

No, menu contributions are not required to be included in production records.



SUN Bucks 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 and will continue.

Applications must be submitted to ADE by **August 3, 2026**.

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>

SFAs Must Upload Enrollment Data

REPORTING STUDENT DATA AND ELIGIBILITY

If you haven't already done so, please log into the CNP Summer EBT-SUN Bucks Data Portal. Complete a review of prepopulated student-level data. SFAs must edit, delete and/or upload student data if prepopulated student data does not match SFA records. This includes reporting any student certified free or reduced-price eligible that is not already prepopulated by ADE as eligible. This requirement is detailed in [HNS 04-2026: Announcing the 2026 Summer EBT SUN Bucks Program and Requirements for School Food Authorities](#).

SFAs are responsible for:

- Ensuring all eligible student data elements are accurate annually in the online ADEConnect Application - CNP Summer EBT- SUN Bucks Data Portal.
- Reporting any NSLP/SBP enrolled students not reported in AzEDS for SUN Bucks/Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (SEBT).



[How to Report Students for Summer-EBT in the CNP Summer EBT - SUN Bucks Data Portal](#)

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?

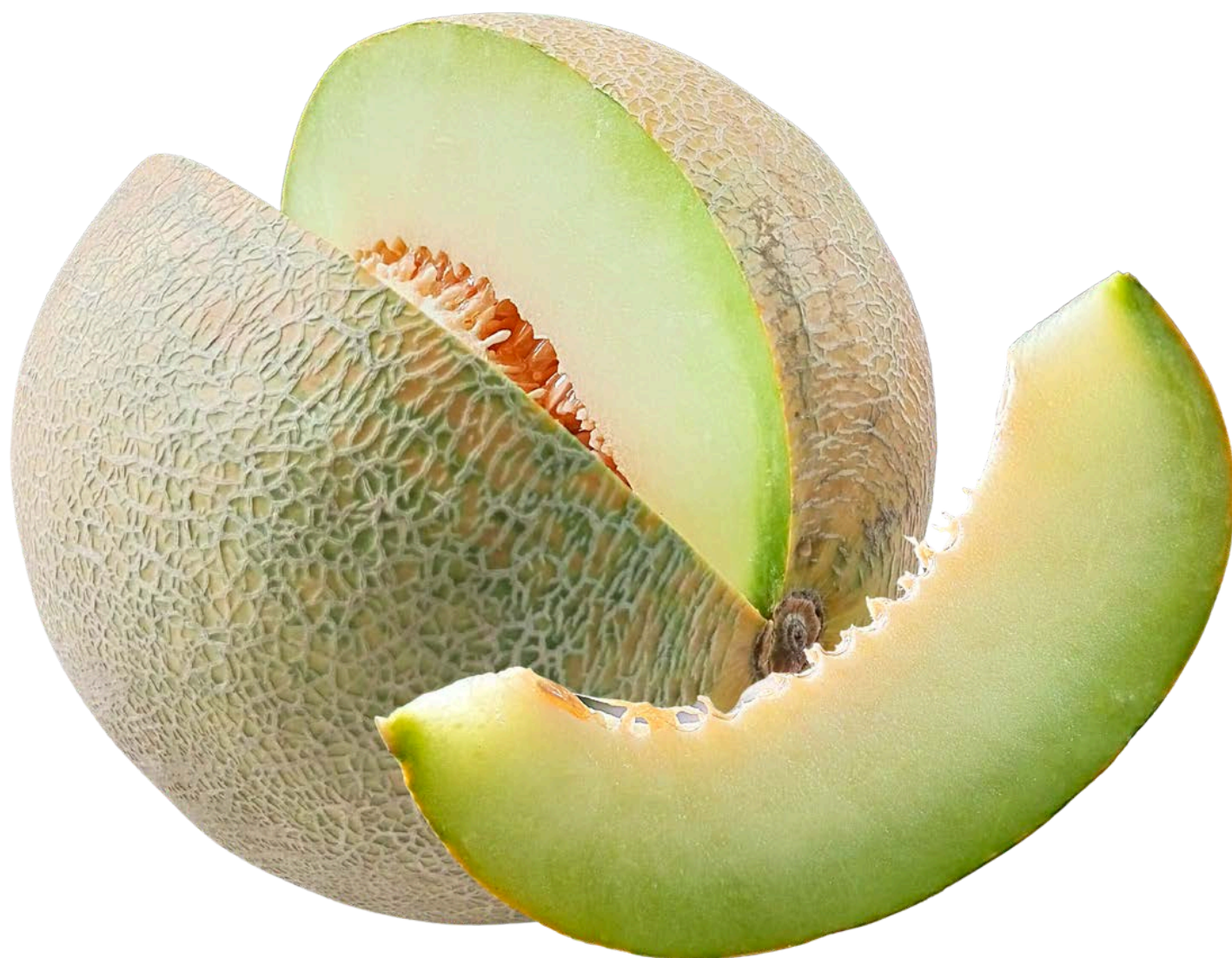
Each month, HNS highlights a food that is grown in Arizona or is easily available in the area by providing an informative resource. This includes fun facts, availability timelines, and unique recipes. For July, the spotlight is on **Honeydew Melon!**

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:

HONEYDEW MELON



Honeydew Melons

FIND LOCAL HONEYDEW MELONS IN ARIZONA:

Duncan Family Farms Located in Litchfield Park, Arizona

Arevalos Farm: Located in McNeal, Arizona

More local produce is in season and available now!! **Zucchini, Straight Neck and Crook Neck Yellow Squash**

Check out what Other Local Foods are Available!! [2026 Producer List](#)

HONEYDEW HARVEST FACTS

- Honeydew melon was first grown in Asia and is the sweetest of all melons.
- Honeydew grows in sandy soil on a vine.
- Honeydew melons are high in vitamin A, vitamin C, potassium, and fiber.
- Honeydew can be found with white or yellow skin. Melons with white skin taste sweeter than the yellow-skin variety.
- It takes about 3-4 months for honeydew to grow.
- Melons are related to squash and cucumbers.
- Arizona is 2nd in the country for growing the most honeydew.

RECIPE: Mint Melon Mix

This is an easy and refreshing dish. It is a great way to experiment with honeydew.

Yields: 6 cups

Ingredients:

- 1 Tablespoon lime juice
- ¼ cup fresh mint leaves
- 2 Tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 3 cups watermelon cubes
- 3 cups honeydew cubes

Directions:

- Dice honeydew and watermelon.
- Remove mint from stem.
- Add brown sugar, mint, and lime juice in a blender.
- Place melons into a bowl and pour dressing over melons and gently toss.

QUICK MATH: Honeydew

One Pound Fresh, Whole Honeydew as purchased (AP) provides approximately 5, ¼ cup servings

To ensure food safety with **fresh produce** always thoroughly wash under running water immediately before cutting and eating.

Connect with us! [SCHOOL INTEREST FORM](#)

July 2026 | TASTE AZ | The Arizona Department of Education
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

[Taste AZ July Highlight:](#)
[Honeydew Melon](#)





Summer Farm Fresh Challenge

REPORT RESULTS

The Program Year 2026 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 2026 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.



Turnip the Beet

AWARD FOR HIGH-QUALITY SUMMER MEALS

USDA's Food and Nutrition Administration is pleased to share the 2026 Turnip the Beet! [Nomination Packet](#).

FNA will be hosting a 2026 Turnip the Beet Informational Webinar [\[MS Teams meeting link\]](#).

Date: July 23, 2026

Time: 2:30 p.m. ET

Please join us for an overview of the Turnip the Beet! awards for Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option sponsors. The session will cover alignment with USDA priorities, eligibility and award levels, the nomination and review process, along with resources and tips for submitting a strong nomination packet.

More information can be found on the Turnip the Beet! [webpage](#).



SECTION 3

Training Opportunities



Poll Time

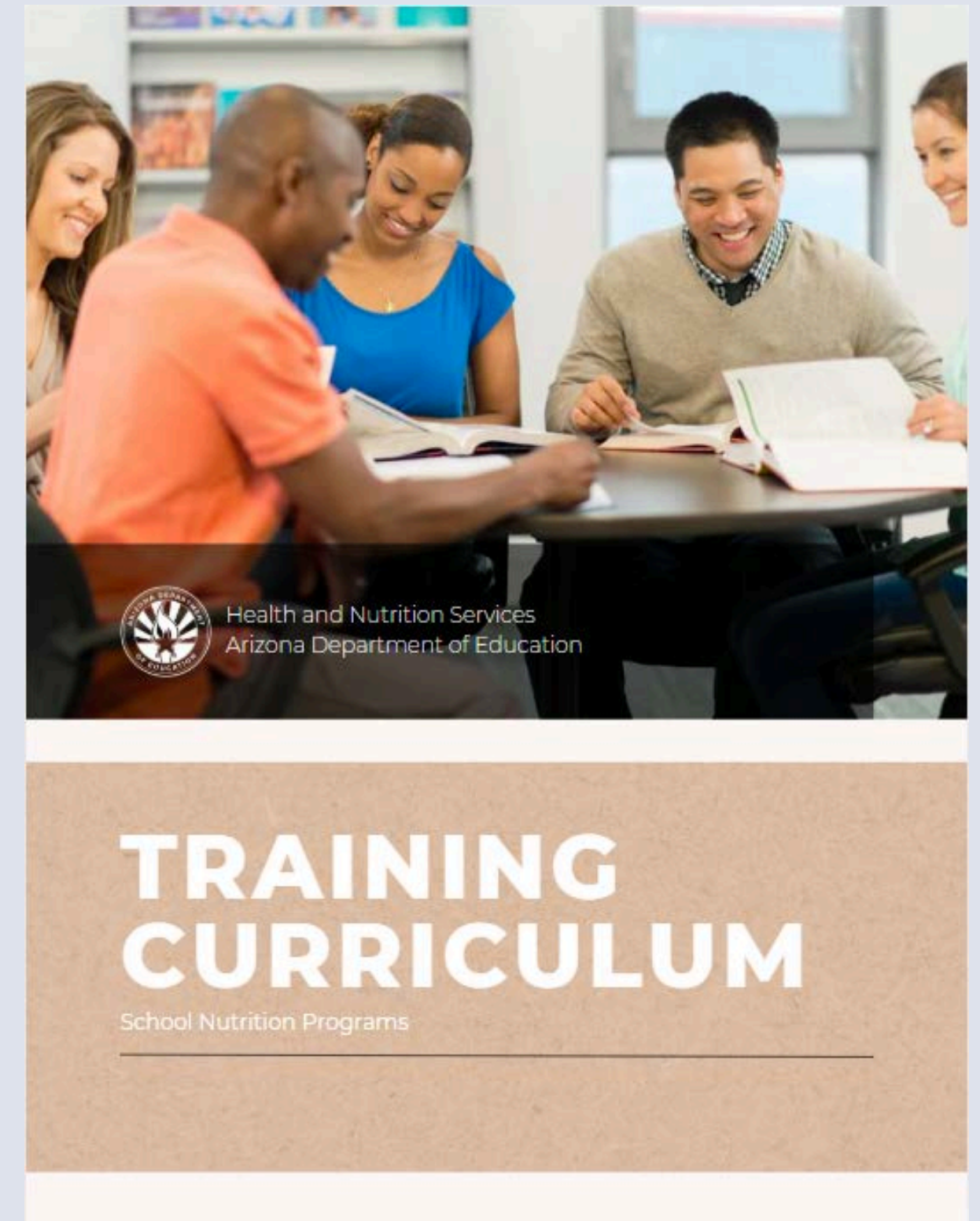
HNS is planning to launch a series of webinars that will be provided in Spanish. Choose the webinar that you think would be most helpful in Spanish and would like HNS to prioritize:

- A** Using Appropriate Serving Utensils
- B** Production Record Overview
- C** Meal Counting Do's and Don'ts
- D** Professional Standards 101

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](#)



CNP MyFoods Recipient Agency (RA) Training

CNP MYFOODS: EDITING APPLICATION TRAINING

The Editing Application Training provides guidance on updating and maintaining Recipient Agency application information within CNP MyFoods. This training will review how to edit the approved application in case adjustments need to be made.

CNP MYFOODS: DELIVERY ORDERING TRAINING

The Delivery Ordering Training provides Recipient Agencies with the knowledge and tools needed to successfully manage USDA Foods delivery orders in CNP MyFoods. This training will review how to view inventory by shipping location, look at transferring USDA Foods as well as the transfer list, view a list of advertisements and advertisement status created by the state, review delivery orders and how to report a delivery discrepancy, and finally look at special orders, catalog monitoring, and reports.

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

EDITING APPLICATION TRAINING

- **07/21/2026**
- **9AM-10AM**
- Registration Link:
<https://azed.geniussis.com/Registration.aspx?aid=11440>

DELIVERY ORDERING TRAINING

- **07/28/2026**
- **9AM-10:30AM**
- Registration Link:
<https://azed.geniussis.com/Registration.aspx?aid=11441>

In-Person Workshop

FOOD PRODUCTION RECORDS

This interactive workshop equips kitchen managers and school nutrition staff with the knowledge and skills to accurately complete food production records in alignment with USDA NSLP requirements. Participants will learn the "why" and "how" of production records, including forecasting, documenting planned and actual meal counts, and maintaining compliant records to support successful Administrative Reviews. Designed with practical, real-world application in mind, this session builds confidence in creating accurate, consistent, and compliant production records.

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

PHOENIX

- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm **07/22/2026**
- Location: 1535 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ
85007 Cato Conference Room
- Registration Link:
<https://azed.geniussis.com/Registration.aspx?aid=11447>



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



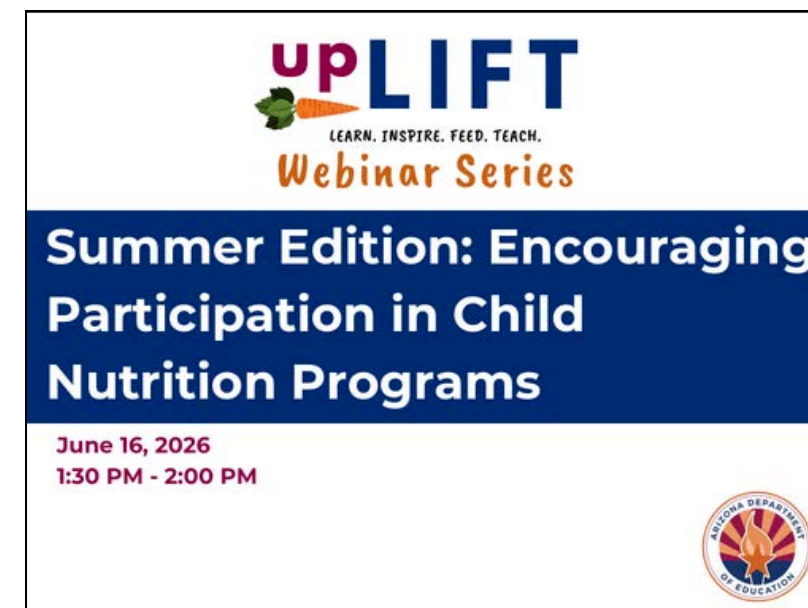
Civil Rights Compliance for Child Nutrition Operators
Required for all employees every year

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



Procurement Basics

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



June upLIFT

Provides an overview of parent involvement in child nutrition programs, marketing strategies and resources.

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.

- 4 training opportunities for School Nutrition Professionals in July

The graphic is titled "Events Forecast" and "HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES". It features the Arizona Department of Education logo in the top right. Below the title, three statistics are presented: 11,045 Current Attendees, 463 Available Courses, and 55,089 Total Enrollments. A paragraph states: "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." Another paragraph states: "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." Below this is a section titled "For School Nutrition Professionals" which lists five events, each with the ADE logo, a title, date, time, and a link to register.

Event Title	Date	Time	Professional Standard Key Area(s)
Staying on Track: July Webinar	July 7	1:30-2:30 pm MST	1000 Nutrition, 2000 Operations, 3000 Administration, 4000 Communications and Marketing
SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC)	July 12-14	Charlotte, NC	Varies based on session completion
USDA Foods Recipient Agency (RA) Training: Delivery Ordering Training	July 16, 2026	9:00-10:00 am	3000 Administration
USDA Foods Recipient Agency (RA) Training: Editing Application Training	July 21, 2026	9:00-10:00 am	3000 Administration
Food Production Workshop	July 22, 2026	9:00 am-12:00 pm	2000 Operations

For more information and links to register, check your inbox for the [HNS Events Forecast: July 2026](#) 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
- Revised Food Program Permanent Service Agreement (FPPSA)
- Upcoming announcements on NSLP Administrative Reviews, Targeted Reviews, and At-Risk Reviews for the 2026–2027 Program Year
- The School Nutrition Programs Advisory Council SY26-27 Input Survey



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 CNP 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, simplified acquisition, 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 4, 2026

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 2026**

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, audiotape, 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. 20260-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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