



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

HNS # 02-2026

MEMORANDUM

To: School Food Authorities Operating the National School Lunch Program

From: Melissa Conner, Senior Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services Division

Date: February 20, 2026

Subject: School Year 2026-2027 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Applications Open March 1, 2026

The purpose of memorandum is to announce that applications for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for School Year 2026-2027 (SY 2026-27) will be available starting March 1, 2026. FFVP funding for SY 2026-27 is comprised of Period 1 (July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026) and Period 2 (October 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027). Operators of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) seeking consideration for funding are **required** to submit both Period 1 and Period 2 FFVP applications by March 31, 2026, via the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Grants Management application within the ADEConnect system.

The goal of the FFVP is to enhance school food environments by providing healthier food choices and to expand the fresh fruits and vegetables children experience, increase children's fresh fruit and vegetable consumption, and make a difference in children's diets to affect their present and future health. The program provides an elementary school with funding to give students free fresh fruits and vegetables outside of the meal period during the school day. FFVP is seen as an important catalyst for change, supporting efforts to combat childhood obesity and helping children adopt healthy eating habits.

Schools must meet all the following criteria to be eligible to participate in the FFVP:

- Operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Schools must comply with federal and state guidelines for operating the program.
- Be an elementary school. An elementary school is defined as a school that contains one or more grades, pre-school through 8th grade.
- Have 50 percent or greater of its student enrollment eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Priority is given to schools with the highest free and reduced-price percentage.

Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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- Submit completed FFVP Period 1 and FFVP Period 2 applications for each site that is interested in participating by the March 31, 2026, deadline.
- Be in good standing with the operation of all federal Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

For eligibility purposes, FFVP applicants must use their school's free and reduced-price percentage posted on the [Free and Reduced-Price Percentage Report School Year 2025-2026](#) located on the ADE website: <https://www.azed.gov/hns/frp>.

If you have not used ADEConnect in the past or are uncertain if you have the proper credentials, please contact either your Entity Administrator, ADE Support Desk at (602) 542-2222 or email adesupport@azed.gov.

Completed applications for both FFVP Period 1 and FFVP Period 2 must be submitted by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 to be considered for funding.

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1. **Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. **Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
3. **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

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