

Staying on Track

June 2026



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are encouraged to access professional development materials directly from the training library to prevent the use of outdated content.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

May HNS Communications Round-Up



Memorandums



HNS 05-2026: GUIDANCE ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE ARIZONA HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM PARTICIPATING PUBLIC DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information about the requirements of the Arizona Healthy Schools Act and recent amendments to Title 15, Chapter 2, Article 2 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, specifically the addition of A.R.S. § 15-242.01, and how to certify compliance. This statute prohibits public schools that participate in federally funded or assisted meal programs from serving, selling, or permitting the sale of ultraprocessed foods on school campuses during the regular school day, effective July 1, 2026



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.

Announcements and Resources



UPLIFT BULLETIN | SY 2025-2026 ISSUE 8 | **MAY 2026**

This upLIFT bulletin included information on taste testing, a recipe from Queen Creek and the Fresh Perspectives series. It mainly focused on the Arizona Healthy Schools Act and highlighted those that have already certified compliance! Effective July 1, 2026, the Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 prohibits public schools participating in National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program from serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultra-processed food on the school campus during the regular school day. Since the inception of this act, schools across the state are adjusting to the changes, mainly collaborating with vendors and brokers to ensure items meet all regulation and exclude ingredients found in the bill, effectively removing ultra-processed foods from school campuses.

Special Kudos to the following LEAs that have attested to their adherence to A.R.S. 15-242.01 and have certified their compliance*:

- Pensar Academy
- LFAPA -Warner
- LFAPA-Gilbert
- Daisy Education Corporation dba Paragon Science Academy
- Daisy Education Corporation dba Sonoran Science Academy
- Arizona Autism Charter Schools
- Destiny School
- Florence Unified School District
- Humboldt Unified School District
- Beaver Creek Elementary District
- Mohave Valley Elementary School District 16

Quiz Time

Effective July 1, 2026, the Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 prohibits public schools participating in National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program from serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultra-processed food on the school campus during the regular school day. How must schools certify compliance?

- A** Call your HNS Specialist to tell them you are in compliance
- B** Post compliance on Social Media
- C** Add a compliance statement to the school website
- D** Complete the ADE Certification of Compliance for ARS 15-242.01



Quiz Time

Effective July 1, 2026, the Arizona Healthy Schools Act A.R.S. 15-242.01 prohibits public schools participating in National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program from serving, selling, or allowing a third party to sell ultra-processed food on the school campus during the regular school day. How must schools certify compliance?

A Call your HNS Specialist to tell them you are in compliance

B Post compliance on Social Media

C Add a compliance statement to the school website

D Complete the ADE Certification of Compliance for ARS 15-242.01

Reference HNS 05-2026 for a link to the ADE Certification of Compliance.



SECTION 2

Hot Topics



Submit SY 2025-2026 Claim(s) Now!

REDUCED-PRICE MEAL SUBSIDY EXPIRES

The reduced-price meal subsidy for SY 2025-2026 is expiring. **All reimbursement claims** for SY 2025-2026 should be submitted prior to **June 22, 2026**, in order to be processed in time to receive the subsidy.

Should June operations not exceed more than 10 days, the May and June claims can be combined. Per 7 CFR 210.8 (c)(1) At the end of the school term, May and June claims may be combined if not more than 10 days of program operation occurred in June. June claims that exceed 10 days and cannot be combined with May claims will not receive the reduced-price subsidy payment.

Any one-time exception claims submitted, or reimbursement holds released after June 22, 2026, will not get paid the reduced-price subsidy payment.

Currently, funding to support continuation of the 2026-2027 reduced-price meal subsidy are pending state budget approval. Communication will be forthcoming based on budget approval.



CEP Annual Timeline

April 1

SFAs determine identified student and enrollment counts

April 15

Deadline for LEAs to submit identified student and enrollment counts to ADE for each site within CNP Direct Certification in ADEConnect 'CEP Data Collection'

May 1

ADE publishes a site level notification list of all eligible and near eligible CEP sites

June 30

CEP application and supporting documentation are due to ADE

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)

WHY PAID LUNCH EQUITY MATTERS

School Food Authorities (SFAs) involved in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are required to establish prices for paid lunches at a price, that is on average, equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement. This obligation can be fulfilled either through charging for paid meals or through non-Federal contributions made to the non-profit school food service account.

PLE guarantees that:

- Schools do not charge less for meals than the actual production costs.
- Federal funds designated for free and reduced-price lunches do not subsidize meals for paying students.
- Schools have the necessary funding to provide nutritious meals to all students.

Paid Lunch Equity

ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS

All School Food Authorities (SFAs), regardless of their current lunch prices, are required to conduct an annual review of their paid lunch prices to comply with the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement by using the USDA Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool for the current year. **However, certain SFAs are NOT required to complete the Annual PLE Tool.**

School Food Authorities (SFAs) that are not required to complete the Annual PLE Tool include:

- SFAs that qualify for the school year 2026-2027 PLE exemption;
- Community Eligibility Provision schools;
- Non-pricing programs such as Provision 2 schools.



Paid Lunch Equity

QUALIFYING FOR THE SY 2026-2027 PLE EXEMPTION



Exempt

SFAs with a **positive or zero balance** in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, are exempt from PLE pricing requirements for SY 2026-2027. This can be shown with their current Annual Financial Report (AFR).



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, 2025, **must follow PLE requirements** when establishing their paid lunch prices for SY 2026-2027.

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 26-27 paid lunch price and adjust their paid lunch prices accordingly.

Paid Lunch Equity

GUIDANCE FOR SY 2026-2027 PAID LUNCH PRICING

- SFAs may use the prices they last charged students as the basis for their SY 2026-2027 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 2025-2026, 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 2026-2027, they may use the most recent paid lunch price data as the basis for its SY 2026-2027 paid lunch calculation.
- SFAs are not required to raise their paid lunch price by more than 10 cents for SY 2026-2027 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, 2025.
- 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, 2025.
- 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).



Summer Meals

REMINDERS

Accurate & Timely Information

- Sponsors must provide clear, accurate details to ADE and the community to ensure the public is aware of where to receive summer meals.
- Site applications and multi-day meal plans must include:
 - Specific service times
 - Types of meal services offered



Summer Meals

CONGREGATE & NON-CONGREGATE

[SFSP 08-2024, SP 15-2024 \(Question #12\)](#) provides guidance on congregate versus non-congregate meal service.

When serving congregate and non-congregate meals, sponsors must operate either or. Sites **MAY NOT** operate congregate and non-congregate at the same meal service.

For example, a site could provide a congregate breakfast followed by a non-congregate lunch, ensuring each meal service type occurs at different times.

OR

A site could operate congregate meals Monday-Thursday for breakfast/lunch and send home meals for breakfast/lunch for Friday-Sunday on Thursday afternoon.

The infographic is titled "Operating Congregate & Non-Congregate Feeding AT THE SAME SUMMER MEAL SERVICE SITE". It features the Arizona Department of Education logo. The text states: "Operating both congregate and non-congregate summer meal services at the same site in Arizona is feasible under specific conditions outlined by the USDA and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This approach can enhance meal accessibility while ensuring program integrity. For more information or direct support, please contact ADE Health and Nutrition Services via [HelpDesk](#)." Below this is a section titled "KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DUAL MEAL SERVICE OPERATIONS:" with five bullet points, each preceded by a checkmark icon: 1. **Sequential Meal Services:** A site may offer congregate and non-congregate meals, but not simultaneously. For instance, a site could provide a congregate breakfast followed by a non-congregate lunch, ensuring each meal service type occurs at different times. 2. **Distinct Participant Groups:** If a site intends to serve both meal types concurrently, it must demonstrate that each service caters to different groups of children. This ensures the same children do not receive multiple meals beyond the allowable limits. 3. **State Agency Approval:** Prior approval from the ADE is required. Sponsors must provide a comprehensive plan detailing how they will prevent service overlap and ensure compliance with meal distribution regulations. 4. **Compliance with Meal Limits:** Operators must have systems in place to ensure that children do not receive more than the maximum number of meals allowed per day, regardless of the service type. 5. **Training Requirements:** Both congregate and non-congregate meal service operations must be included in program training sessions for administrative and site personnel to ensure understanding and adherence to guidelines. At the bottom right are logos for the Arizona Department of Education, "SUN MEALS TO-GO", and "Free Meals Kids & Teens Get". The footer text reads: "March 2025 | Health and Nutrition Services | The Arizona Department of Education. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

Operating Congregate & Non-Congregate Feeding
AT THE SAME SUMMER MEAL SERVICE SITE

Operating both congregate and non-congregate summer meal services at the same site in Arizona is feasible under specific conditions outlined by the USDA and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). This approach can enhance meal accessibility while ensuring program integrity. For more information or direct support, please contact ADE Health and Nutrition Services via [HelpDesk](#).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DUAL MEAL SERVICE OPERATIONS:

- ✓ **Sequential Meal Services:** A site may offer congregate and non-congregate meals, but not simultaneously. For instance, a site could provide a congregate breakfast followed by a non-congregate lunch, ensuring each meal service type occurs at different times.
- ✓ **Distinct Participant Groups:** If a site intends to serve both meal types concurrently, it must demonstrate that each service caters to different groups of children. This ensures the same children do not receive multiple meals beyond the allowable limits.
- ✓ **State Agency Approval:** Prior approval from the ADE is required. Sponsors must provide a comprehensive plan detailing how they will prevent service overlap and ensure compliance with meal distribution regulations.
- ✓ **Compliance with Meal Limits:** Operators must have systems in place to ensure that children do not receive more than the maximum number of meals allowed per day, regardless of the service type.
- ✓ **Training Requirements:** Both congregate and non-congregate meal service operations must be included in program training sessions for administrative and site personnel to ensure understanding and adherence to guidelines.

March 2025 | Health and Nutrition Services | The Arizona Department of Education
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For more detailed guidance and information, please review the resource [Operating Both Congregate and Non-Congregate at the Same Site](#).

SUN Bucks

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.

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

DES will begin issuing SUN Bucks benefits on the following dates:

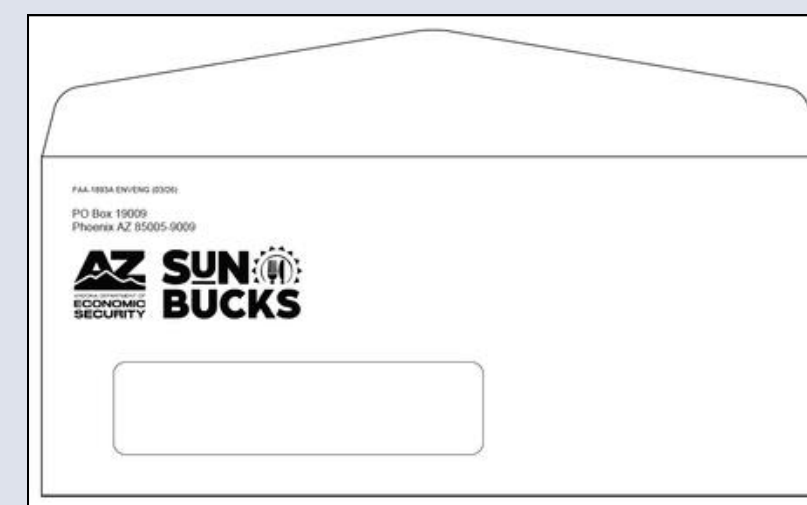
June 4, 2026

June 11, 2026

Some households may see benefit issuance later in the summer depending on when updates were made to student enrollment and eligibility. ADE will continue to send eligibility records to DES and DES will continue to issue benefits throughout the summer.

If a household is newly eligible this summer for SUN Bucks, the household may receive their approval letter and a new SUN Bucks EBT card separately.

This year, approval letters are being mailed in new envelopes:



SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener

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 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

2026 SUMMER EBT: SUN BUCKS

The SUN Bucks – Summer EBT 2026 Application is available and can be accessed in the SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener, or by paper application.

School Food Authorities (SFAs) are required to:

- Ensure the application is available to households that believe they qualify for the SUN Bucks benefit but were not identified as eligible by the SFA.
- Report all students who attended schools participating in a Special Provision Option, who were not directly certified but may be eligible.

Eligible households may:

- Complete and submit the 2026 SUN Bucks Application by first completing the SUN Bucks eligibility screener tool to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) by **August 3, 2026** (subject to date change)
- Expect the state agencies to process the application and subsequently notify the household of approval/denial of benefits.

► How do I apply for SUN Bucks?

Some children in Arizona will automatically receive benefits and do not need to apply.

Do You Need to Apply? Before applying for SUN Bucks, please review the information in the “Will my child automatically get SUN Bucks?” section on this page or complete the SUN Bucks Eligibility Screener Guide ([English](#) or [Spanish](#) version) to determine if your child will receive benefits automatically. Completion of the eligibility screener will provide the link to the SUN Bucks household application if applicable.

You must submit an application by August 3, 2026.

To mail in an application, please print, sign, and mail this completed form to ADE at the address below.

[SUN Bucks English Paper Application](#)

[SUN Bucks Spanish Paper Application](#)

Attn: HHS SUN Bucks

Arizona Department of Education,

1535 W. Jefferson St. Bin #7

Phoenix AZ 85007

azed.gov/hns



SERVICES

The Health and Nutrition Services Division is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of Arizona's children and adults by providing access to a variety of federally funded programs.

[Sign Up For Our Health and Nutrition Services Email Updates](#)

[Introduction to Child Nutrition Programs](#)

[Introduction to Special Provision Options in Arizona](#)

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](#)

Parents and Families

[Find a Participating Summer Food Service Site](#)

[Paying for Meals](#)

[SUN Bucks](#)

[Menu Requirements](#)

[Additional Benefits for Children and Families](#)

SUN Bucks Benefits Reporting

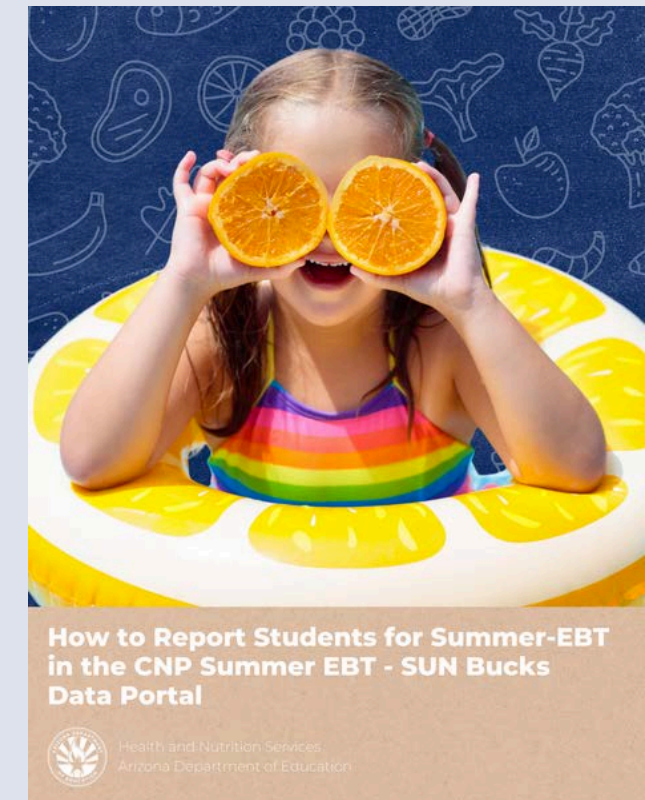
CNP SUMMER EBT - SUN BUCKS PORTAL

All SFAs must contact their Entity Administrator to request permissions to the CNP Summer EBT - SUN Bucks portal for the appropriate users to gain access. SFAs must ensure all data is correct/submitted by the **August 3, 2026 deadline**.

- **SFAs with AzEDs reporting NSLP schools**: SFAs must view pre-populated AzEDs enrollments, free/reduced-price eligibility information, and report any students (and f/r eligibility information) not already pre-populated by ADE.
- **SFAs with non-AzEDs NSLP schools**: SFAs must add all 2025-2026 enrolled students and free/reduced eligibility information.



All SFA are responsible for adding free/reduced eligibility information to the Summer EBT SUN Bucks portal for students that do not automatically populate. If the data is not submitted, ADE cannot confirm enrollment at the school or issue benefits to eligible children.



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



[What You Need to Know About Data & Access to SUN Bucks Benefits](#)

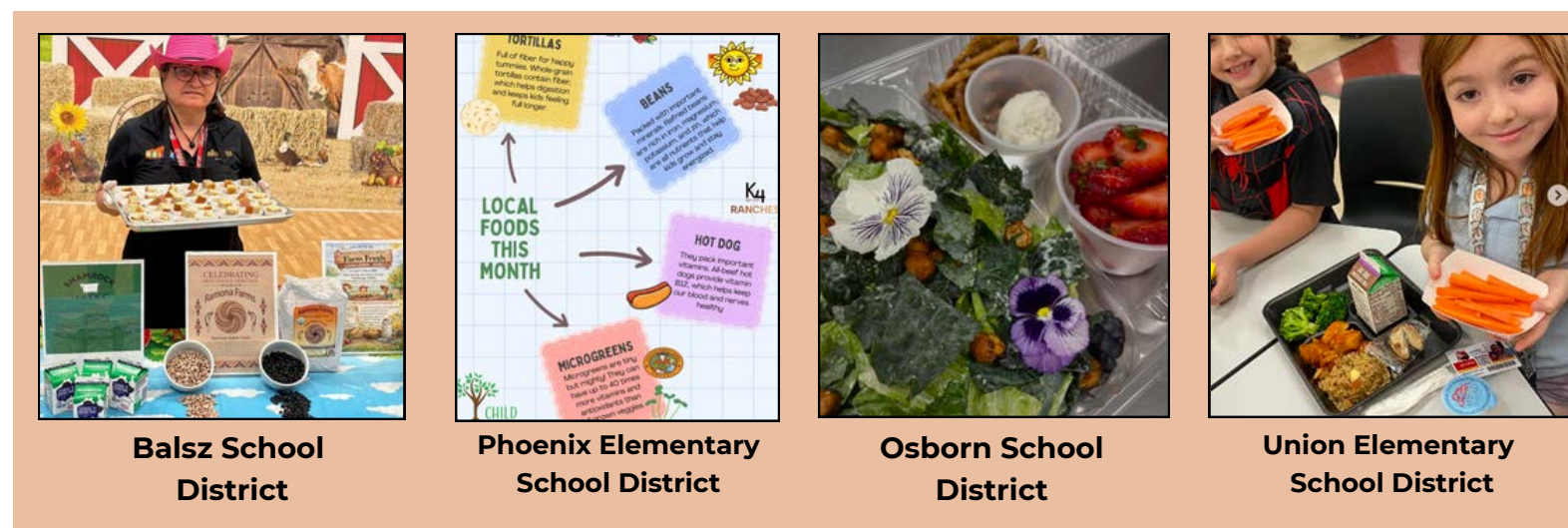
2026 Farm Fresh Challenge

CELEBRATE THE FARM FRESH CHALLENGE AWARDEES!

The Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Services **Program Year (PY) and Summer 2026 Farm Fresh Challenge** were fantastic ways to highlight nutrition programs and cultivate excitement around fresh and locally sourced foods.

The following entities completed all **TASTE**, **TEACH**, and **CONNECT** activities during the month of **April** and were awarded the **Gold tier**! These sites met the minimum criteria of procuring **three** local menu items, hosting **two** educational activities, promoting the challenge, and went above and beyond by incorporating at least **two** additional hard-to-reach local food items in their menus.

CONGRATS TO OUR PROGRAM YEAR 2026 GOLD AWARDEES!



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

2026-2027 FFVP AWARDEES!

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) has selected the awardees for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in School Year 2026-2027 (SY 26-27). The FFVP is a federally assisted program providing free fresh fruits and vegetables to children at participating elementary schools during the school day. The goal of the FFVP is to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables, to include new and different varieties, and to increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children. The FFVP also encourages healthier school environments by promoting nutrition education.

Awarded School Food Authorities (SFAs) will receive \$60 per student that will be divided into two allocations of 20% for Period 1 and 80% for Period 2. Please join HNS in congratulating the following awarded SFAs:



SY 2026-2027
FFVP Awardees



USDA Foods

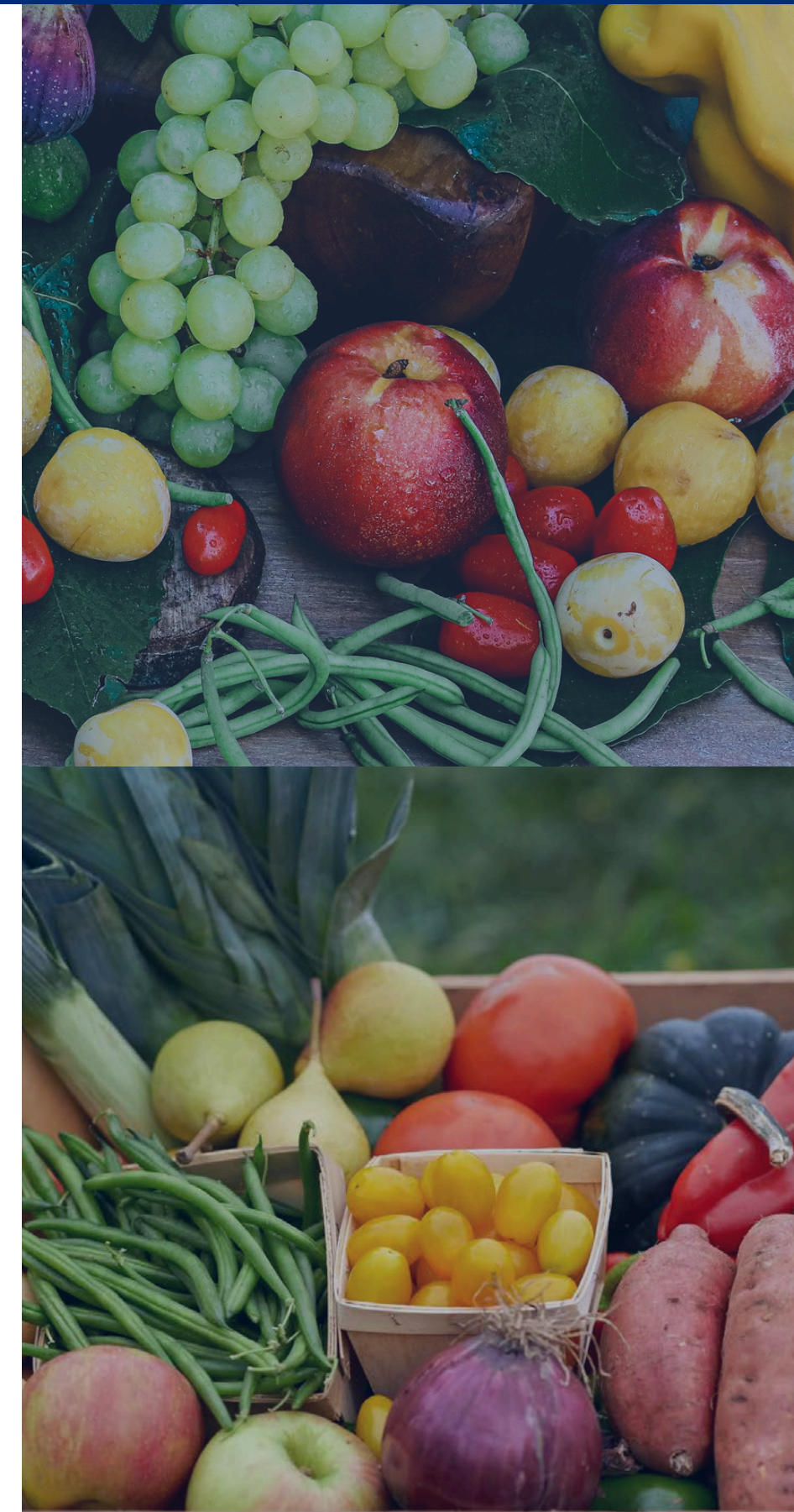
DATES AND REMINDERS

The Arizona Department of Education Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) would like to encourage operators to utilize the remaining USDA Foods in Schools Program for Child Nutrition Program summer meals in SY2026.

- **June 30, 2026:** DoD Fresh has all remaining SY26 NSLP funds available to SFAs on a first-come, first-served basis until June 30, 2026.
- **July 1, 2026:** DoD Fresh SY27 NSLP funds will be ready for use just in time for meals on the first day of school.

We are here to help!

If you need assistance scheduling shipments, please email USDAFoods@azed.gov to be connected with an HNS specialist.



Try it Local!

\$1.2 MILLION REMAINING

HNS requires SFA LFS reimbursement submissions be submitted to ADE in the CNP Supplemental Payment system no later **July 15, 2026**.

Invoices MUST be dated no later than June 30, 2026 (award ends June 30, 2026). Invoices indicating a date after June 30, 2026 will not be reimbursed.

[How to Receive Try it Local Funding for Eligible Food Purchases](#) step-by-step instructions. Located under the 'Try it Local' accordion.



Taste AZ Promotion

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT OF LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD AVAILABLE 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 locally sourced food that is easily available by providing an informative resource. This includes fun facts, availability timelines, and unique recipes. For June, the spotlight is on ALL **Local Produce** for the last month of **Try it Local!**

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 June Highlight:

LOCAL PRODUCE





Local Produce in Arizona

FIND LOCAL PRODUCE IN ARIZONA:

BLUE SKY ORGANIC FARMS:

- Frozen, **WHOLE** Strawberries
 - (leaves removed)
- Frozen, Trimmed Green Beans
 - (cut in half)
- Salad Mix

AGRITOPIA FARMS:

- Spring Onions

Check out what Local Foods are available 

FROZEN LOCAL

- Blue Sky Organic Farms has been able to lightly process (wash, trim) and freeze **green beans** and **strawberries** so schools can store them for next school year! The items are harvested fresh and then frozen on site.

Why Frozen?

- Shelf life: up to 12 months frozen vs. 3-7 days for fresh
- order ahead without waste risk
- Predictable yield, no prep loss No trimming, coring, or waste factor.

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

TEACH

SPRING ONIONS - AGRITOPIA FARM AND BLUE SKY ORGANIC FARMS

Spring onions contain vitamin A to maintain healthy organ functioning, vitamin C to strengthen the immune system, and vitamin K to promote faster wound healing. The onions also provide calcium to protect bones and teeth, potassium to balance fluid levels within the body, antioxidants reduce inflammation.



Spring onions have a fresh, sweet, and subtly pungent flavor well suited for both raw and cooked preparations

TEACH

SALAD MIX, TRULOCAL FARM



- Lettuce shouldn't be stored near any ethylene-emitting fruits. Ethylene causes lettuce to ripen super fast and can decay rapidly!
- Lettuce is about 95% water.
- Dark green lettuce leaves are more nutritious than light green leaves.
- Lettuce is the second most popular fresh vegetable in the United States. (Potato #1)

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



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

[TASTE AZ June Highlight: Local Produce](#)

Quiz Time

True or False. Operators can participate in Try it Local until June 30, 2026.

A True

B False

Quiz Time

True or False. Operators can participate in Try it Local until June 30, 2026.

A True

B False

Those participating in Try it Local may provide invoices for reimbursement that are dated up to June 30. All invoices must be submitted by July 15. Please remember only those operating SSO or extended NSLP may be reimbursed through Try it Local for purchases during the summer.

SY 26-27 State Match Funding Requirements

FOR DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

The amount of state match funding required for each school district and charter school, that receives State appropriate funds, is equal to **30% of the total number of lunches served through NSLP in the previous school year**, multiplied by the paid **lunch reimbursement rate for 2025-2026**.

Coming Soon: State Match Funding Rates

HNS TA 01-2026: SY 26-27 STATE MATCH REQUIREMENTS

For SY 2025-26, the paid lunch reimbursement rate was either \$0.44 or \$0.46, depending on the school's eligibility for the regular or high rate, plus the additional \$0.09 received by menu-certified districts and charter schools, if applicable. This memo will be released in the coming days.

Final Rule: Expanding Fluid Milk Options

EFFECTIVE JUNE 8, 2026

On May 8, 2026, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service published the final rule, [Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs](#) (91 FR 25073) effective June 8, 2026. This rule expands fluid milk options by allowing operators of the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Milk Program 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 2025 ([P.L. 119-69](#)) and supports the statutory requirements for meals to align with the goals of the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030](#).

USDA Food and Nutrition Service will be issuing an implementation memorandum to provide information and guidance on implementation of the final rule soon.

FLUID MILK FOR THE NSLP

(effective June 8, 2026)

May be whole, reduced-fat (2%), low-fat (1%), fat-free, lactose-free, or a nutritionally equivalent nondairy fluid milk substitute.

May be flavored or unflavored, provided that unflavored milk is offered at each meal service.

- *Saturated fat from milk used to meet the fluid milk component requirements is excluded from Saturated Fat (% of calories) dietary specifications.*

SECTION 3

Training Opportunities



In-Person Workshop

NEW DIRECTOR: NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Are you a newly appointed School Food Service Director? Join us for an engaging and informative workshop designed to help you confidently step into your new role! HNS is offering our New Director: National School Lunch Program Workshop in Phoenix again next month! This workshop was created to support new directors as they begin their journey in school nutrition leadership.

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

PHOENIX

- 9:00 am - 2:00 pm **06/18/2026**
- Location: 100 N 15th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85007: Rm 300
- Registration Link:
<https://azed.geniussis.com/PublicStudentSignUp.aspx?aid=11416>



In-Person Workshop

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Join the Financial Management Workshop to enhance the efficiency of school nutrition programs. Participants will gain practical insights and engage in interactive activities to confidently create budgets, understand financial reporting, and define cost control. Skills developed will include monitoring financial data, applying ethical decision-making, and implementing strategies to improve Child Nutrition Programs' efficiency. This workshop is suitable for both newcomers and those refreshing their financial management knowledge, providing essential tools for compliance and sustainability.

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

PHOENIX

- 9:00 am - 2:00 pm **06/25/2026**
- Location: 1535 W Jefferson St, Phoenix, AZ 85007 Cato Conference Room
- Registration Link: <https://azed.geniussis.com/Registration.aspx?aid=11355>



SY 25-26 upLIFT

UPLIFT WEBINAR SERIES: PARENT INVOLVEMENT: ENCOURAGING FAMILY PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL NUTRITION

Join us on **June 16, 2026** at 1:30pm for an engaging informational webinar on exploring how to engage parents with your school nutrition program. Learn ways to spark parent interest, build supportive habits at home, and strengthen your school's nutrition efforts. Mark your calendar and empower your community to make healthier choices that benefit the well-being of students and families alike. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn how to gain ongoing support from your community!

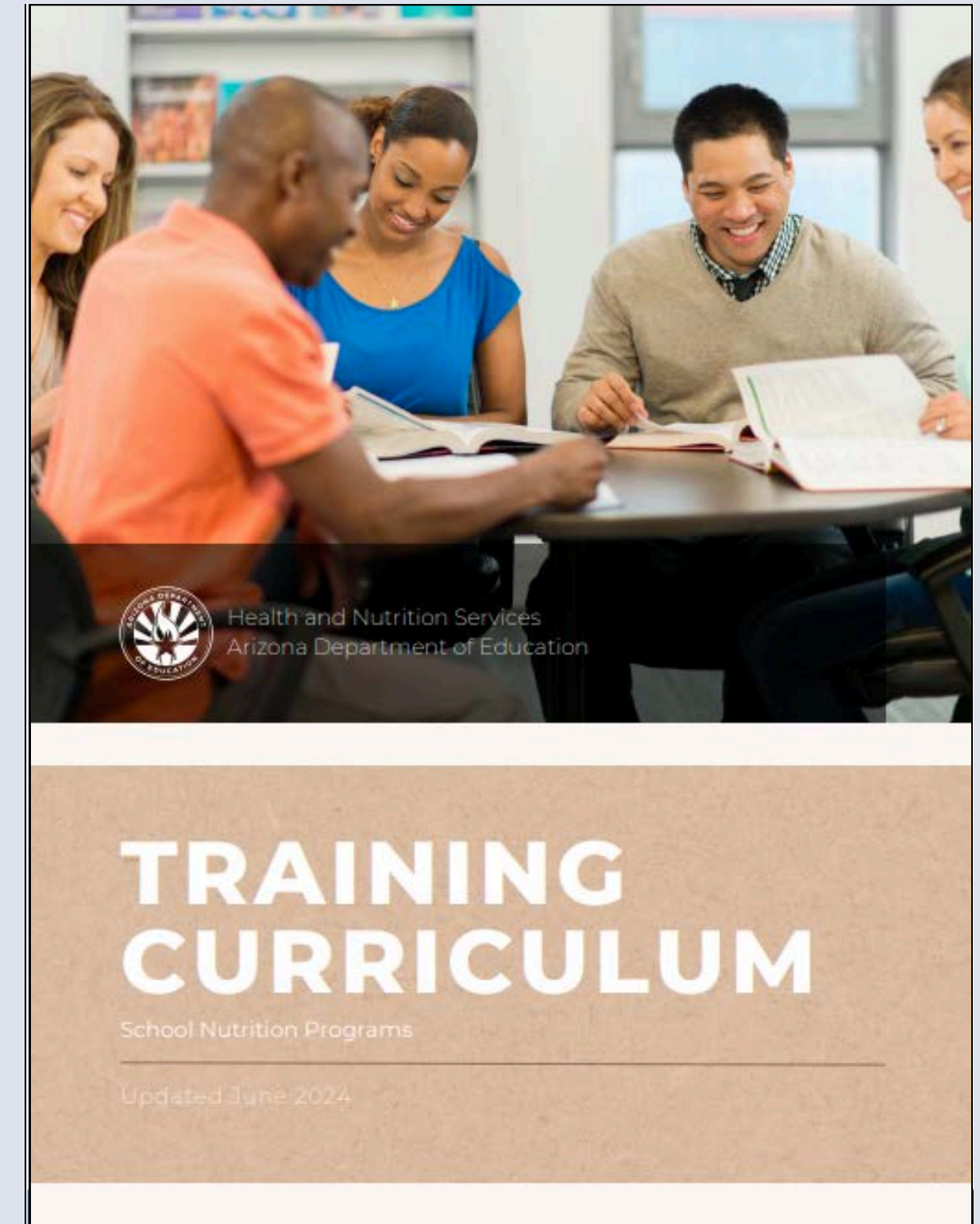
- [Click here to register!](#)



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](#)



May'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: May](#)



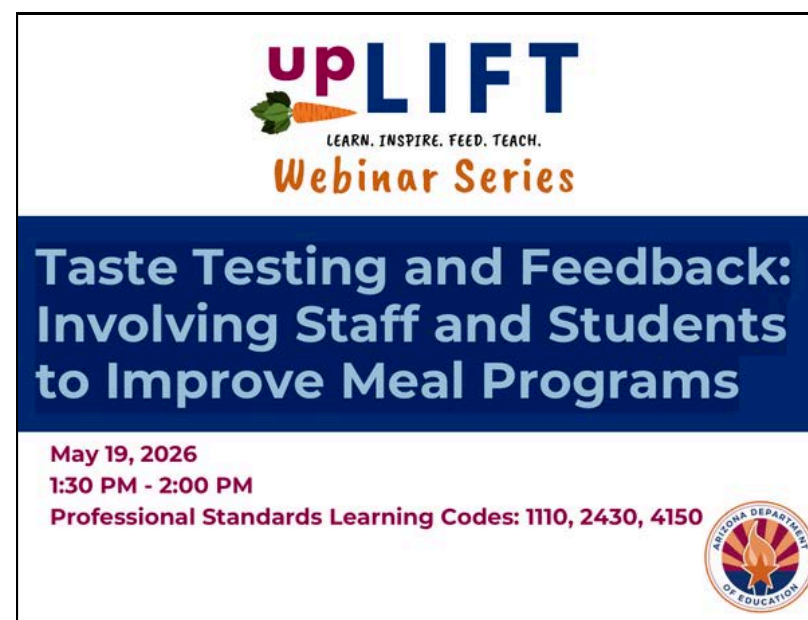
[Implementing the Community Eligibility Provision](#)

Provides an overview of CEP



[Comprendiendo El Patron De Comidas Y Las Comidas Reembolsables](#)

Ayuda a identificar porciones de alimentos de acuerdo con los requisitos del patrón de comidas escolares.



[May upLIFT](#)

Taste Testing and Feedback: Involving Staff and Students to Improve Meal Programs

Poll Time

If you or your staff watched the webinar last month that was presented in Spanish, how was your experience with the Spanish-language webinar, and would you like to see more like it?

- A** It was great — I'd like more webinars to be presented in Spanish
- B** Not helpful for myself or my staff— I prefer webinars be presented only in English
- C** I have no preference

SECTION 4
**Upcoming
Deadlines &
Communications**



Mark Your Calendars!

JUNE 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.

- 12 training opportunities for School Nutrition Professionals in June

Events Forecast

HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES

11,045
Current Attendees

463
Available Courses

55,000
Total Enrollers

Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) is dedicated to providing all Child 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 partners for Child Nutrition Program operators. For self-paced online courses or recorded webinars, visit the app Nutrition Program's webpage at [www.azed.gov/hns](#).

For School Nutrition Professionals

Staying on Track: June 2026

June 2, 1:30-2:30 pm MST

Webinar | [Register in APLD](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): 1000 Nutrition, 2000 Operations Administration, 4000 Communications and Marketing

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

From Hire to Thrive: Building a Child Nutrition Program That Boosts Retention, Productivity, and Profitability

June 3, 3:00-4:15 pm EST

Webinar | [Register with SNA](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): 3000 Administration

FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

Local Food in Schools Community of Practice

June 3, 2:00-3:00 pm MST

Webinar | [Register with AZ Farm to School Network](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable

State Nutrition Action Committee

State Nutrition Action Committee Summer Food Program Work Group

June 8, 1:00-2:00 pm MST

Work Group Meeting | [Register in Zoom](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable

FRAC

The High Stakes of the Senate Farm Bill: SNAP, Food Systems, and Community Consequences

June 9, 1:00-2:00 pm EST

Webinar | [Register with FRAC](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable

NO KID HUNGRY

Four Home Delivery Models and How They Could Work for Your Community

June 10, 3:00-4:00 pm EST

Webinar Series | [Register with No Kid Hungry](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable

FARM TO SCHOOL NETWORK

School Garden & Education Community of Practice SY 2025-2026

June 10, 3:00-4:00 pm MST

Webinar | [Register with AZ Farm to School Network](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable

Arizona Department of Education

upLIFT: Parent Involvement: Encouraging Family Participation in School Nutrition

June 16, 2026 1:30-2:00 pm

Webinar | [Register in APLD](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): 1000 Nutrition, 4000 Communications and Marketing

SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

Smart Swaps in Action: Connecting Farms, Students, & School Meals

June 17, 3:00-4:15 pm EST

Webinar | [Register with SNA](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): 1000 Nutrition

Arizona Department of Education

New Director Workshop

June 18, 2026, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

In-Person Workshop | [Register in APLD](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): 2000 Operations

State Nutrition Action Committee

State Nutrition Action Committee Summer Food Service Program Work Group

June 22, 1:00-2:00 pm MST

Work Group Meeting | [Register in Zoom](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): Not Applicable

Arizona Department of Education

Financial Management Workshop

June 25, 2026, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

In-Person Workshop | [Register in APLD](#)

Professional Standards Key Area(s): 2000 Operations

For more information and links to register, check your inbox for the [HNS Events Forecast: June 2026](#) from HNS Communications!

In Our Drafts

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING EMAILS THIS MONTH:

- Summer Farm Fresh Challenge
- FFVP Bravocado Award
- HNS Memorandum School Year 2026-2026 Updates and Reminders for SFAs



June Checklist

June 1 - June 10

Submit May reimbursement claims (best practice)

June 22

Due date to submit claims to receive the Reduced-price subsidy payment.

June 30

Try it Local program ends.

June 30

Last day to apply for Provision 2, 3 and CEP

June 30

Last day to complete shipment verification in myFOODS

June 30

April 60-day claiming deadline

June 30

Last day for shipments of DoD Fresh produce using the FFAVORS system for NSLP funds for 2024-2026

Daily

- Complete production records
- Count meals at the point of service
- Complete Daily Edit Checks

This month...

- Register for the upcoming upLIFT Webinar:
 - Webinar- upLIFT: Parent Involvement: Encouraging Family Participation in School Nutrition
 - June 16, 2026 1:30-2:00 pm
- Verify that each operating site is on track to receive at least **two food safety inspections** during the program year.
- Turnip the Beet!
 - **Send in self-nominations!**
- DoD Fresh has all remaining SY26 NSLP funds available to SFAs on a first-come, first-served basis until **June 30, 2026**.

Reminder: Ensure the civil rights non-discrimination statement is on all SFSP outreach materials.



Join Us Next Month!

Staying On Track: July

July 7, 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: June 2026**

Information to include when documenting this
training for Professional Standards:

Training Title: June 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: June Staying on Track

Key Areas: 1000 - Nutrition, Administration - 3000,
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.





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

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