

# Food Services School Board Update

**Jennifer Harrison, Director**

**October '26**

**1.) Local Foods for Schools (LFS)** - This year, the program is offering schools locally sourced ground beef for their National School Lunch Program at no cost to the district. To participate, requested quantities had to be submitted before September 1, 2026.

The product is 100% local ground beef. Any and all product extenders, binders, water, soy protein, vegetable proteins, or any other non-beef substances are strictly prohibited. The beef is 85/15 percentage fat or leaner, USDA choice or prime, wet-aged, and hormone free.

Product valuation is \$248.93 per 40lbs case. I have applied for our district to receive 120 cases. 4800 lbs valued at \$29,872. This quantity is equivalent to the amount of ground beef our district typically uses in one school year. Furthermore, since the LFS ground beef is at no cost to school food service budget or PAL commodity dollars, this allows for \$23,290 in PAL dollars to be directed towards other government commodities.

We are scheduled to receive our first shipment in October.

**2.) Food Establishment Inspection** - Our inspection in August showed a 100% compliance with positive comments noted by the inspector. A copy of the latest detailed inspection is posted by the kitchen entrance.

**3.) Lanter Distributing rebate checks** - ISBE will rebate school districts 100% of the USDA Foods standard delivery costs paid to Lanter Distributing during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Our rebate check should be in the amount of \$5,517.48. Lanter Distributing is ISBE's contracted warehouse and distributor of USDA Foods. This year's current delivery rate \$8.79 per case, This cost reflects a new 14% fuel surcharge passed down to school districts.

**4.) National School Lunch Week is Oct. 13-16** - During this week we serve up some of the students' favorites; Chicken Nuggets, Fiestada Pizza, Chili or Corn Dog, General Tso or Orange Chicken.

**5.) Food Show** - In October I plan to attend a food show hosted annually by our main food supplier, Kohl Wholesale. This food show is targeted specifically towards national child nutrition programs, like the NSLP, among others. This is a great chance to connect directly with representatives to gain insight into how last year's NSLP updates will affect product availability and how they plan to implement those changes along with other potential changes.

The update to the NSLP affects added sugars cap, sodium reductions, milk, and whole grains. Potential future changes may focus on whole grains as well as ultra-processed foods, though a clear federal definition for the latter has yet to be established.