



# MONDAY MORNING

## AUGUST 26, 2024

### Farm to School Success

The Donegal School District, led by Director Kelly Price, has successfully integrated local agriculture into the educational environment, enhancing students' learning experiences and promoting healthy eating habits. This initiative, launched with the support of the Pennsylvania Farm to School program, has demonstrated significant impacts on both student engagement and local agriculture. The program's key components include hands-on agricultural education, farm visits, and the incorporation of locally sourced produce into school meals.



Through these activities, students gain practical knowledge about farming and nutrition, fostering a deeper understanding of where their food comes from. A notable achievement of the program is the development of a school garden, which serves as a living classroom for students to learn about plant growth and sustainable practices. while providing fresh ingredients for the school's cafeteria.

The collaboration between educators, local farmers, and community members has been instrumental in the program's success. By sourcing ingredients from local farms, the district supports regional agriculture and reduces the environmental impact associated with food transportation.

[Read Full Article](#)



*Feeding Bodies, Fueling Minds*



## August Checklist

- Submit 24-25 SY Application**  
Due in CN PEARS a minimum of 2 weeks prior to school year starting
- Conduct breakfast notification outreach to families**
- Submit CACFP application**  
If applicable
- Complete NSLP Snack Monitoring**  
If applicable, must be complete within first 4 weeks of program



Download SNA's 2024-25 Promotion Calendar! This year's calendar is filled with month-long, week-long, and single-day holidays and events to help you brighten your school meal program. Stay up-to-date and get ready for a school year filled with cafeteria celebrations!

[Download Here](#)

## Carlynton School District Provides Free Meals

The Carlynton School District in Pennsylvania will provide free breakfast and lunch to all students starting this month through the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision. This initiative ensures that all students in the district receive nutritious meals daily and eliminates the need for families to apply for the meals.

The district will participate in the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision this school year, said Ryan Racicot, Carlynton's Food Service Director. It's the third consecutive year Carlynton is participating in the program.



### Take Action Today!

1 of 8 kids goes hungry every day in Pennsylvania. In rural areas, as many as 1 in 5 kids experience hunger. School meals for all can help.



## VIRTUAL BACK TO SCHOOL PEP RALLY

Celebrating Healthy School Meals with



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
**Secretary Vilsack**



U.S. Department of Education  
**Secretary Cardona**

Featuring an introduction from  
**Neera Tanden, Domestic Policy Advisor to the President**

**August 29, 2024**

**10:45 AM PT | 12:45 PM CT | 1:45 PM ET**

**This event will be livestreamed on [usda.gov/live](https://usda.gov/live)**

Please share this invite with your networks.  
Hope to see you there!



## “**Pennsylvania Harvest of the Month: In the Kitchen**” Video Series Released

Pennsylvania Harvest of the Month (PA HOM) is a program developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Project PA (Penn State University) to promote a local agricultural product each month through schools, child and adult care centers/day care homes, and summer feeding sites. A “Pennsylvania Harvest of the Month: In the Kitchen” video series has recently been released. These short (approximately 5-7 minutes) videos are designed to provide information about how to procure, select, handle, and prepare each PA HOM item for Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs). They can be incorporated into training sessions for CNP staff or used for individual-level learning to facilitate implementation of the PA HOM program in CNPs. Funding for this project was provided by a Fiscal Year 2022 USDA Farm to School grant.

# Funds Available!

## Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), Bureau of Food Assistance has received approximately \$4.8 million in Local Foods for Schools (LFS) funding from USDA to distribute to eligible School Food Authorities (SFAs) to be used exclusively to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed, locally or regionally sourced, domestic food products to help SFAs access additional food supplies for use in administering the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in the 2024-25 School Year.

Funding will be awarded proportionally, based on the number of meals reported to PDE as having been served by the SFA in SY 2022/2023. While final funding amounts are dependent on the total number of SFAs that opt-in to participate in LFS, the following chart provides an estimate of how much funding each LFA could expect to receive.

Meals Served	Estimated Award Range
Less Than 19,999	\$3,000 - \$5,000
20,000 - 99,999	\$5,001 - \$15,000
100,000-999,999	\$15,001 - \$150,000
1,000,000-1,999,999	\$150,001 - \$300,000
2,000,000+	\$300,001 - \$500,000


To be eligible for LFS funds, SFAs must:

- Participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) for the 2024/25 School Year, as evidenced by an approved program application packet and submission of a claim for reimbursement. SFAs participating only in the Special Milk Program (SMP) are not eligible.
- Complete and return the attached LFS Funding Attestation Statement form to [ra-fooddist@pa.gov](mailto:ra-fooddist@pa.gov) by September 13, 2024. The Chief Administrator must digitally sign the document. The attestation form is required for the SFA to attest it meets the eligibility requirements for LFS funding.

Questions? Please contact Caryn Long Earl, Director of the Bureau of Food Assistance, at [cearl@pa.gov](mailto:cearl@pa.gov).

## Thank You Partners!



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