



## **Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for January 2026**

We wanted to share a few important foodservice updates and upcoming dates for your planning purposes.

- We held our second Food Service meeting of the year on December 12 at the EPC office. Several vendors and manufacturers attended and provided product samples. Kettering and Springboro Schools were featured for our member showcase segment at the meeting. Their Food Service Directors showed previous flyers they used to increase student participation and program excitement.
- At that meeting, we also demonstrated how to utilize the EPC bid and vendor velocity reports to assist in determining the new 10% Buy American threshold.

### **Buy American Update**

- The updated Buy American regulation will require districts to complete an annual Findet report that includes receipts and expenditures, along with select vendor documentation. This information will be used to compare domestic versus non-domestic purchases to ensure the maximum 10% non-domestic spend threshold is not exceeded.
- Please note that the district Findet report must include the vendor name and vendor number.

- **Administrative Review Process**

The Resource Management and Procurement sections of the administrative review process are currently underway.

### **Dates to Remember**

- **January 15** – EPC Bid Committee Meeting

This meeting marks the initial step in preparing for the 2026–2027 commercial bids and allows member input and discussion regarding products to be included.

- **February** – Discussion of a new distributor bid and administrative bid for the SWEPC commodity program.

- **March 13** – Next EPC Foodservice Membership Meeting

We have received excellent feedback on the current meeting format and have experienced record turnout.

- **Spring 2026** – SWEPC Commodity Regional Meetings

As in prior years, regional meetings will be held throughout the state. Districts interested in hosting a meeting are encouraged to reach out to Bonnie Muckenthaler or Lisa Robison.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!

### **SWEPC Foodservice Programs**

EPC Commercial Bid Program & SWEPC Commodity Co-Op, District Food Service Management Assistance, Procurement Reviews, Administrative Reviews, Profit/Loss Analysis, Consulting & Training Needs, Networking Events, EPC Google Group, Vendor Fair Foodservice Update Meeting/Vendors & more!