



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for March 2025

- The EPC is pleased to welcome our newest Foodservice Consultant, Lisa Robison! Lisa holds a dual major in Dietetics and Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati. She has spent the last nine years as the Supervisor of Foodservice at Northwest Local Schools in Cincinnati, overseeing 90 employees across 10 schools. Lisa is an expert in Health-e Pro Menu Planning Software, and we are excited to announce our partnership with Health-e Pro to provide nutritional information for all EPC bid items and a discount on the menu planning software for interested districts. Stay tuned for expanded menu service opportunities with Lisa's expertise and this new partnership. Welcome, Lisa!
- We are happy to share that the EPC has secured additional office space in the West Chester area in Butler County. With several EPC employees residing in that area, we hope to enhance services for our southern districts in the Cincinnati region.
- The EPC Bid Committee met on January 29 and made several key decisions:
 - We will go out to bid for Food and Supplies as we have interest from a new vendor.
 - Due to new USDA reduced sugar regulations for breakfast, we will re-bid milk to ensure compliance with the 10g added sugar limit.
 - We are excited to add hydroponic lettuce from 80 Acres Farms to our bid. 80 Acres Farms is an innovative indoor farm using 100% renewable electricity to grow pesticide-free, locally sourced produce with an extended shelf life.
- Upcoming EPC Meetings:
 - The EPC is excited to announce that we will be hosting six regional meetings across the state for the SWEPC Commodity Co-op. This long-standing program has been in place for over 25 years, with over 80% of Ohio districts utilizing it to receive and track their government commodities.
 - At these meetings, we will cover key topics, including White/Dark Meat Balancing, Entitlement Calculation & Maximization, Q&A Sessions, Regional Advisor Comments & Communication, Vendor Participation & New Item Sampling.
 - These sessions will provide valuable insights and opportunities to ensure your district is maximizing its commodity dollars effectively. Stay tuned for dates and locations!
 - Mark your calendars! The EPC will host a Foodservice Bid Award Meeting and End-of-Year Celebration on June 4 at Aullwood Farm. Invitations will be sent soon. This event will feature a presentation from a new Healthy Vending Company, which offers vending machines stocked with Smart Snack-compliant snacks and beverages for schools. Any new opportunities/offers from vendors presented with the bid submissions will also be shared with members.
 - Our 34th Annual EPC Educational Vendor Fair will be held on Wednesday, July 30th at the Wright State University's Nutter Center from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Be sure to attend this event to meet current and potential vendors. There will be a food service update meeting in the McLin Gym, time TBA soon.

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!