



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for March 2026

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

- **Paid Lunch Equity**

- School Food Authorities (SFAs) with a negative balance in their nonprofit school foodservice account as of June 30, 2026 are required to complete the Paid Lunch Equity Tool (PLE). The PLE will calculate required price increases, though increases are generally capped at \$0.10. Any SFA with a positive or zero balance at the end of the year, prior to any transfer, is exempt from completing the PLE.

- **Gordon Food Service Balanced Ordering**

- GFS has announced they intend to continue with the “Balanced Ordering” incentive program that allows districts to earn a 0.75% rebate on all purchases made from August 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027. This is to help reduce the out-of-stock issues and delivery delays typically seen during the busy August back-to-school rush. To qualify, districts must agree to order specific case target amounts during June & July 2026.

- **Administrative Review Process & Annual Training Requirements**

- The Resource Management and Procurement sections of the administrative review process are currently underway.
- As a reminder, non-foodservice personnel must take annual Civil Rights training. EPC has written a 5-minute Public School Works training course for teachers monitoring Breakfast in the Classroom and any other personnel assisting with the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program
- Treasurers must take Procurement Training annually

Dates to Remember

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

- This meeting will feature product samples, ODEW Updates and best practices on procuring Cafeteria Equipment

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

- As in prior years, regional meetings will be held throughout the state. We have seven districts that have signed up to host the meetings which include program updates, vendor communication and new-item food shows!

- **June 4, 2026** – EPC 2026-2027 Bid Award Meeting

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!