



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for May 2026

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

- **2026-2027 Foodservice Bid Award Meeting and Picnic**
 - The bid award meeting for foodservice directors will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026 at Aullwood Farm, followed by a catered picnic
 - All foodservice bids were released on April 1 and renewed for the 2026-2027 school year
 - Bid pricing and extension contracts will be returned by May 8, 2026
- **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.
- **Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025**
 - Modifies previous milk restrictions and permits SFAs to offer students whole and 2% milk at lunch
 - While not yet confirmed, we anticipate potential approval to offer 2% and whole milk half pints at breakfast
 - Based upon survey responses, most districts are not planning to adjust milk offerings
 - If breakfast allowances are confirmed, some districts may revisit this decision
 - Additional cost and overall weekly dietary requirements and nutrient specifications must be considered when deciding on adjusting milk offerings
- **NEW! Buy American Threshold**
 - Non-domestic food & beverage purchases (excluding disposables) are now limited to 10% of total annual food costs, unless:
 - The item is on the FAR (Federal Acquisition Regulation) list, or
 - There is a significant price difference between domestic and non-domestic products
 - Domestic vs. non-Domestic classifications are identified on all EPC foodservice bids
 - GFS has a new online reporting platform to help track Buy American compliance
 - SFAs exceeding the 10% threshold must complete the “ODEW Buy American SFA Accommodation Plan” in CRRS.

Dates to Remember

- **August 5, 2026**-2026-2027 EPC Vendor Fair: Wright State University's Nutter Center
- **September 18, 2026**-EPC Foodservice Membership Meeting
- **November 4, 2026**-SWEPC Annual Showcase and New Item Food Show

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!