



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for November 2025

- We held our first Food Service meeting of the year on September 19 at the EPC office. Several vendors and manufacturers attended and provided product samples. Beaver Creek City Schools was featured for our member showcase segment at the meeting. Their Food Service Director and in-house chef gave an excellent presentation on scratch cooking and developing skills of the kitchen staff and motivating them to embrace new ideas.
- At that meeting, we also reviewed how members can request to add items to the bid through the SWEPC website. The new item forecasting survey will go out on November 12, and the new item bid will open on November 21, allowing approved items to be available by January 19. A bid timeline was shared to clarify when opportunities to add new items occur. The Bid Committee will meet in January 2026 to work on bids for the 26–27 school year.
- Our next Food Service Meeting will be held at the EPC office at 10:00 a.m. on December 12.
- ODEW/EPC Procurement Training will also be held at the EPC Office on December 12th. Training will be from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. This training meets the annual requirement for Foodservice Procurement.
- Our Annual SWEPC Showcase takes place tomorrow, November 5, at the Bridgewater Center in Powell, Ohio (Columbus area). We will be providing the ODEW required one - hour procurement training for members who still need it. The 26-27 new item food show will feature approximately 125 new items to sample.
- The USDA has approved the 25–26 meal reimbursement rate at \$0.45 per lunch & we will begin receiving that amount once last year's meal counts have been finalized around December. Commodity Co-op signups concluded on October 15, with roughly 75% of Ohio districts participating in the SWEPC Program.
- “Buy American” remains a key focus area — we’re continuing to work with vendors to develop and improve reporting on domestic vs. non-domestic products to make compliance easier for all districts.
- Administrative Review season has officially begun. Notifications were sent in late September, with reviews scheduled from November through May. There are three components to the review:
 - Procurement
 - Resource Management (handling of food service account funds)
 - Operational Review (menus and On-site regulatory compliance)

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!