



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Food Service Updates for September 2025

- The EPC is growing, and we are pleased to welcome our newest Foodservice Consultants, Jeremy Kerr & Hallie Jay!
 - Jeremy is a Registered Dietitian with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and dual master's degrees in Food and Nutrition Sciences and in Dietetics and Nutrition. His professional background spans project management and administrative leadership roles, both domestically and internationally, before transitioning into dietetics. He joined EPC in July 2025, where he combines his management expertise with his nutrition training to support schools and districts in meeting compliance standards and strengthening foodservice operations.
 - Hallie earned her master's degree in public health nutrition from Liberty University, where she found her passion for child nutrition and school meal programs. She works to ensure school districts feel confident and prepared through the Administrative Review Process and currently oversees compliance for eight districts within our EPC compliance program. Hallie enjoys building strong relationships with school districts, partnering with food service teams to provide personalized support, resources, and solutions that align with each district's unique goals and challenges.
 - Welcome, Jeremy & Hallie!
- We have the 2025-26 bid results from our food service bid solicitation. We presented the 2025-26 bid results at the EPC Food service Bid Meeting on June 4, and the results have been posted on SWEPC.org. We included two new vendors: Avalon & Imperial Dade, both of whom came in with aggressive pricing.
- Ohio Budget Continues Reduced Price Meal Reimbursement Through Fiscal Year 2027
 - The new biennial state budget continues reimbursing schools \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch for each meal served to reduced-price eligible students. This provides reduced-eligible student meals at no cost. The reimbursement to schools is paid as part of the monthly claim.
- EPC Important Dates:
 - The SWEPC Commodity Co-op is enrolling now through October 15th for the 2026-2027 school year! 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.
 - Members of the Co-op benefit from being able to attend meetings covering key topics including White/Dark Meat Balancing, Entitlement Calculation & Maximization, Q&A Sessions, 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!
 - EPC will be hosting a Pre-Administrative Review training led by Kim Pfleiderer on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 from 9:00am – 1:00pm at our Vandalia Office Conference Center.
 - Mark your calendars! EPC will host our annual SWEPC Annual Showcase and New Item Food Show at Bridgewater Banquet & Conference Center in Powell, OH. Aside from featuring both current and new items, this event will feature a Procurement presentation and departmental updates from ODEW.

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!