



Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council

Food Service Updates for September 2026

- The 2026–2027 Food Service Bid Results are now available on SWEPC.org. We presented the results at the EPC Food Service Bid Meeting on June 3, and all awarded bids were extended from previous years' RFPs.
- Following a consensus from our Bid Committee, EPC will be requesting pricing on an additional 297 items that currently have usage of more than 10 cases per week across our member districts but fall below our normal 27-case-per-week threshold for inclusion in the main bid. Our goal is to secure competitively bid pricing on these slower-moving products, providing our members with better pricing while also obtaining the necessary Buy American documentation for these additional items.
 - We will be sending the auxiliary bid to vendors soon, with the goal of having new pricing in place by September.
- The new biennial state budget continues providing reimbursement to schools for reduced-price eligible students through Fiscal Year 2027
 - \$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.
- School districts are no longer required to complete the Nutritional Consolidated Report in the Supt OHID account to demonstrate compliance with Ohio's Nutrition Standards for the Sale of Food and Beverages.
 - Instead, districts must have an informational item on the Board agenda annually stating that the district is following the nutritional guidelines in all applicable areas, including foodservice, vending, athletics, and other areas.
 - Reminder: These nutrition standards apply only from midnight through 30 minutes after the end of the school day.
- Included in the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 is a requirement for all local food service personnel associated with the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to receive Food Allergy Training. USDA has indicated that additional guidance will be forthcoming with an effective date and full expectations for training content.
 - Schools can access a variety of training courses by visiting ohiochildnutrition.com (password: buckeyes)
 - Users wishing to obtain a certificate of course completion must create an account.
 - Please note, Civil Rights Training must be completed annually.

- EPC Important Dates:
 - The SWEPC Commodity Co-op is enrolling now through October 15th for the 2027-2028 school year!
 - Mark your calendars! EPC will host our annual SWEPC Annual Showcase and New Item Food Show at Bridgewater Banquet & Conference Center in Powell, OH on November 4, 2026. Aside from featuring both current and new items, this event will feature a Procurement Training session 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!