

## Check in with CANS

### December 4, 2025, 2:30PM CT/1:30PM MT

CANS Phone: (605) 773-3413  
CANS Website: <http://doe.sd.gov/cans>  
CANS Email: [DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us](mailto:DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us)

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## Welcome!

### All Program Reminders or Updates:

**Staff Updates.** James Bowers accepted one of our new Child Nutrition Program Specialist roles. He will be working to support the School Nutrition Programs (SNPs). His email is [James.Bowers@state.sd.us](mailto:James.Bowers@state.sd.us) and phone number is 605-773-4900.

**Permanent Agreement for all Child Nutrition Programs.** On November 20, 2025, an email was sent to all Child Nutrition Program operators regarding a new permanent agreement. Updates have been made to the agreement including regulatory updates and combining the agreement for all programs. Please read through the updated agreement and send a signed copy back to CANS at [DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us](mailto:DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us) no later than January 16, 2026.

#### Frequently Asked Questions and Tips for the Permanent Agreement Update:

- Your agencies' Authorized Representative (AR) or Superintendent must sign this agreement. You can find the AR in your iCAN application.
- The document must have a wet signature, and all pages must be scanned or faxed back to CANS.
- You can find your agreement number in your iCAN application
- If you are unsure which programs you are operating, reach out to CANS and we can help you. You can also find this information in your various iCAN applications.
- If you are in the process of adding a program, you will sign an updated permanent agreement once that program application is approved. Please do not include that program on this agreement.
- This agreement does not need to be approved by your agencies board, but it wouldn't hurt to share it with them.

**Certificates of Appreciation.** Do you have any staff members retiring or individuals that you would like us to recognize for their dedicated service to the Child & Adult Nutrition Services programs? We would love to commend any personnel who have contributed five or more years of service to these programs with a Certificate of Appreciation. Please let us know by emailing us at [DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us](mailto:DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us).

**State Office Holiday Closures.** Please note that state offices will be closed on the following dates in observance of the holidays:

- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Friday, December 26
- Thursday, January 1

We encourage you to plan accordingly, and we wish you a safe and joyful holiday season!

**Pathways to Child Nutrition Success** – Save the date! June 9-11, 2026, in Pierre, SD. Registration coming soon!

## Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Reminders or Updates:

**Program Year 2025-2026 Reviews.** Review preparations are underway for this current program year. CANS staff will be conducting a majority of the CACFP Reviews this year, while Child Nutrition Resources (CNR), our contract company, will be conducting only a hand full of CACFP reviews this year. Sponsors will be contacted to establish when the on-site review will take place.

## School Nutrition Program (SNP) Reminders or Updates:

**December Kitchen Counter Conversations. *Mastering the USDA's Food Buying Guide's Tools.*** Dec. 16 at 2pm CST / 1pm MT. This session will highlight the updated Exhibit A Tool and the Interactive Grocery List, both designed to support menu development, streamline ordering, ensure compliance, and make planning easier. [Register here](#). Check out the [North Dakota DPI website](#) for past recordings.

**Food Safety Plan. Checklist Requirements.** In addition to reviewing and updating HACCP-based SOPs at the start of the school year, SFAs are required to complete the [Food Safety Checklist](#) regularly – at least once a month, or more frequently if serious food safety issues are identified. The food service director, site manager, or head cook may conduct these reviews. All completed Food Safety Plan Checklists must be kept for three years plus the current school year. The checklist, along with a summary of other [Food Safety Plan](#) requirements, is available on our website.

## USDA Foods in School/Food Distribution Program Reminders or Updates:

**January USDA Foods Order.** There will be a limited amount of ground beef on the January order form that opens next week. **All schools will be limited to ordering 2 cases of ground beef.** We apologize for the inconvenience, but this ensures smaller schools have the opportunity to receive this product as well.

## Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and SNP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Reminders or Updates:

**Summer Food Service Program Training.** Be on the lookout for the March training registration and banner survey information!

**2025 Turnip the Beet! Awards Nominations.** The Turnip the Beet! Award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who go above and beyond to serve high-quality, nutritious, and appealing meals to children during the summer months. This award celebrates sponsors participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) who are committed to excellence in summer meal service.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2025 Turnip the Beet! Award. [Nomination packets](#) must be submitted to our office by **January 12, 2026**.

To support sponsors in submitting strong nominations, USDA will host an [informational webinar](#) on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 12:00 PM MST**. The session will cover alignment with USDA priorities, eligibility and award levels, the nomination and review process, tips for submitting a strong nomination packet, and available resources.

For more information, visit the [Turnip the Beet! page on the USDA FNS website](#).

## Upcoming Trainings or Calls:

**Check in with CANS Zoom calls** occur on the first Thursday of each month at 2:30pm CT / 1:30pm MT.

- [Zoom](#) link for SY2025-26 – Meeting ID: 994 1571 3462
  - The next call will be Thursday, January 8, 2026. Please note that this call has been adjusted to account for the holiday on January 1.

**On Demand Training From CANS.** Current training videos can be found at <https://sded.sd.gov/>. Use the categories drop down to select Child and Adult Nutrition Services to filter training options. Enroll in your selected training videos. If you are looking for old *Crash Course with CANS* training videos, they are all under Crash Course with CANS simply enroll to access the entire list of short training videos.

**Thank you for joining us today and for your service feeding children across South Dakota!**