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## Verification of Free and Reduced Lunch Program

**Verification** is the confirmation of a student's eligibility for free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Verification is done annually and must include either 1) confirmation of income eligibility or 2) confirmation that the child is included in a certified Food Stamp household or Temporary Assistance unit.

### General Requirements

Annually, each Local Education Agency (LEA) must select and verify an exact sample of applications approved for benefits.

The LEA must use either the standard (error prone) method or an alternate sample size method.

The required sample size is based on:

The total number of approved applications on file on October 1 and the non-response rate of the previous school year.



The LEA must complete verification of the exact required sample size by November 15.

**Each LEA must complete a verification summary report through the Department of Elementary and Secondary**

**(DESE) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) web application system by December 15.**

Detailed instructions can be accessed at DESE FNS's web link: <http://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/food-nutrition-services/verification-information> and by contacting the main office at 573.751.3526 for assistance.

## DESE FNS' Updates: USDA Foods

DESE FNS is pleased to announce the appointment of **Andy Dudenhoeffer as the new Director of Food Distribution.** Andy brings four years of service as Food Distribution Specialist to the Food Distribution Program. His knowledge of the program and notable customer service will be an asset that will serve LEAs well.

In addition, **Josh Winters has accepted the position as Food Distribution Specialist.** Josh has been a dedicated Nutrition Program Specialist for the past seven years. Josh's familiarity with the regulations of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs will serve him well as he begins his new appointment.



80% of schools that participate in NSLW see increase in their program participation . . .



**National School Lunch Week (NSLW) is October 12-16, 2015.** The School Nutrition Association (SNA) provides plenty of downloadable tools and resources to promote NSLW.

“**School Lunch Snapshot**” is the celebration theme for NSLW 2015. The “*School Lunch Snapshot*” theme invites you to partake in any NSLW

celebration you’d like... including inviting guests to the cafeteria, decorating, or featuring activities and prizes for kids.

Make sure to take some great photos of your promotions and share your photo stories via different online channels.

Based on a 2013 survey, 80% of schools that participate in NSLW see increase in their

program participation.

When you participate in NSLW 2015 you’ll also be able to promote your program and increase community awareness of all the benefits of a healthy school lunch.

To download a free toolkit with many promotional and educational activities, go to [www.schoolnutrition.org/nslw](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/nslw)

## October is Farm to School Month!

Missouri Farm to School (F2S) is defined as schools connecting with Missouri farmers to serve locally grown agriculture products in school meals and snacks.

### Why go local?

Not only is it farm fresh food, but F2S activities includes hands-on learning projects **School gardening, farmer visits, culinary demonstra-**

**tions and the integration of food related education into classroom curriculum** are all major parts of F2S programs.

**Are you aware of the USDA F2S Grant Program?** The grant program is funding projects in FY 2015 using additional discretionary program funds to increase training staff, serving local

food, purchasing equipment, developing partnerships and completing project evaluations.

Resources and fact sheets are available for access on the USDA Food and Nutrition Services F2S website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school>.



Students at one of 4 gardens in Maplewood Richmond Heights Schools.

## Save the Date: MO F2S Conference!

Missouri LEAs have a **great** opportunity to attend the **Missouri Farm to School Conference on October 20, 2015 at the University of Missouri’s Bradford Farm, Columbia MO.** This one day conference will feature an array of speakers that will

discuss how schools and producers can work together to increase the amount of local products served in school meal programs.

School food service operators will have a chance to network with local farmers, processors and other

school personnel. For additional details visit [www.mofarmtoschool.missouri.edu](http://www.mofarmtoschool.missouri.edu).

Missouri LEAs who know a producer interested in selling to schools are encouraged to share conference information.

# F2S Success Story: Maplewood Richmond Heights



## Maplewood Richmond Heights selling at Farmers Market

mentary (2-6), Middle School (7 and 8), and High School (9-12).

The district also has chickens at every building.

honey and use the wax to sell lip balm. When the students reach the point in American History about George Washington Carver, they attend to the garden to pick peanuts and touch a real cotton plant and learn about how the plants are complementary to each other since one plant nourishes the other.

Almut Marino, RD, LD, CC and Melissa Breed-Parks are full time educators given charge of the Seed to Table program.

Irene Wan, Food Service Director for Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District shares information about their thriving F2S Program.

All grades get hands-on experience in the gardens. The Early Childhood Center has a visiting farm animal program where a different farm animal comes to stay for a temporary visit.

The High School collects seeds to make seed packets for sale. The High School is also creating a business plan to sell the flowers from the garden to consumers in the area.

Currently, the district has four gardens. One for the Early Childhood Center (PK-1), Ele-

Middle School takes care of the bees and the students sell the

## Procuring Local Foods Guide for Schools

Just in time for the new school year the revised guide, [Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs](#), is now available and can help you decide how to buy local for your program.

### How are you celebrating serving local food?

We want to know what F2S successes you have adopted or what local food have you procured for SY 2015 so we can triumph your hard work!

Contact Nutrition Program Specialist, Barbara Shaw, 573.751.3526 or [Barbara.shaw@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.shaw@dese.mo.gov).

### How are you celebrating F2S month in October?



## Salad Bar Promotional Events 2015-2016!

Missouri Team Nutrition is accepting schools' registrations for the **Salad Bar Promotional and Educational Events** for elementary AND middle/high school sites equipped with salad bars for the 2015-2016 fall and spring semesters

The very popular **Rainbow Days** event offers \$200 stipend to

cover extra produce, plus aprons for staff, beautiful cafeteria posters and roll(s) of stickers for the elementary students. A first-come, first-serve program, we welcome repeat schools. Schools can also participate in both fall and spring, as funds dictate.

In addition, **FreshLife: Enjoy a Salad Today!** is the sister program

to the popular **Rainbow Days**. Middle and high schools equipped with salad bars receive a set of four promotional posters, visors for cafeteria staff, educational materials that can be shared with health and physical education classes. **Participating schools also receive a \$200 stipend to cover extra produce for the event.**

Online registrations for *Rainbow Days*, go to <http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/rainbowdayprojects/index.php>

Online registration for the *FreshLife!*, go to <http://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/nutrition/freshlife/index.php>



**Team Up for School Nutrition Success** training was held September 22 and 23 in Kansas City, Missouri. Lead by the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN, formerly National Food Service Management Institute) and in partnership with USDA, it was a great opportunity for nutrition personnel involved in the NSLP. The Team Up for School Nutrition Success training offered the chance for school food service staff to observe helpful insight from experienced food service directors on best practices and how to improve their school food service operations. Due to its popularity, a waiting list ensued. However, DESE-FNS is making plans to expand the program. DESE FNS is projecting an additional training in May of 2016. With the help from USDA, FNS is anticipating that Team Up for School Nutrition Success Program could be a great resource for schools participating in the NSLP.

For more information on past trainings, topics and presentation materials, interested personnel can go to ICN's web link, <http://www.theicn.org/ResourceOverview.aspx?ID=527>.



**MSNA 2015 Annual Conference**  
**November 13-15, 2015**  
**Hilton Branson Convention Center & Hotel**  
**Branson, MO**

For registration and schedule at-a-glance, go to  
[www.mosna.org](http://www.mosna.org)

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<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food>



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