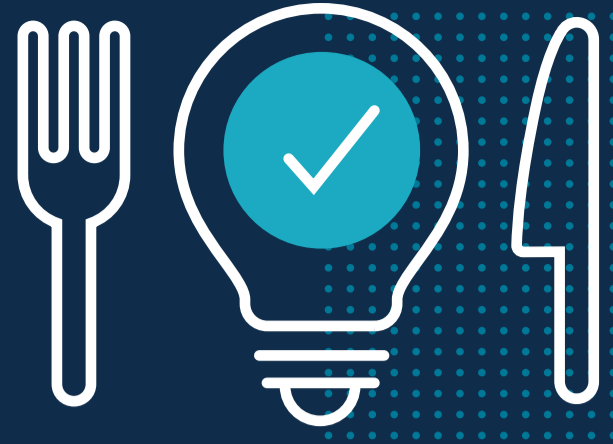


The Ultimate K-12 Nutrition Cheat Sheet to USDA Foods Availability



Every year, thousands of K-12 nutrition teams work to correctly allocate their USDA foods for use in the National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. LINQ's team of nutrition experts, backed by years of hands-on experience, recently came together to provide valuable insights to empower you and your team. Which is why we're walking you through the ins and outs of inventory management, forecasting, reporting, entitlement, and more!

Keep reading to learn more about USDA Foods in Schools and explore tips to maximize your nutrition program food usage.

FACT NO. 1

Did you know? On average, USDA Foods account for 15-20 percent of the products served as part of the school lunch daily.¹ That is a lot of food that we do not want to waste!

TIP



MENU PLANNING

Food for thought: Try to use an item 3-5 times in a menu cycle to maximize the use of that USDA food item. This makes the most financial sense for your nutrition team and the district. An example of this would be using chicken for chicken salad, buffalo chicken wrap, and chicken tacos in one menu cycle.

FACT NO. 2

Did you know? USDA Foods in Schools purchases about 2 billion pounds of food from American farmers each year.²

TIP



FORECASTING

What is the key to more accurate forecasting? Remember to rely on your menu plans, and production records in conjunction with processor calculators to improve forecasting.

FACT NO. 3

Did you know? In FY21 – the USDA purchased American foods from 38 states for use in child nutrition programs.³

TIP



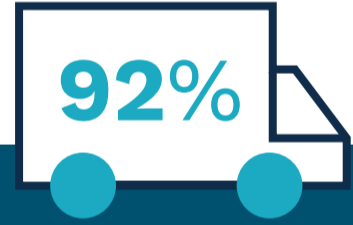
ENTITLEMENT

Use USDA Foods for the middle of the plate – 40 percent of PAL was used to purchase processed food in FY22.⁴ If experiencing product cancellations for further processing – consider diverting to the DoD Fresh Program and using it to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables.

FACT NO. 4

A recent USDA survey found that 92 percent of responding SFAs reported experiencing challenges due to supply chain disruptions.⁵

TIP



MANAGEMENT

Looking to seamlessly manage your food distribution program? Utilize a robust nutrition system with integrated modules that work with you rather than against you!

Remember, it's never too early to start thinking about next year's USDA food allocation in your school. Ready to start planning? Get in touch with a LINQ expert today!

[LINQ.COM/COMPANY/CONTACT](https://www.linq.com/company/contact)

Fun Facts



40 percent of PAL used to purchase processed foods⁴



Don't forget you can use your USDA Foods for school lunch and for school breakfast

SOURCES

1. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/usda-foods-national-school-lunch-program-white-paper>
2. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-fis/factsheet-2022>
3. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/usda-foods/state-origin-usda-foods>
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