



Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA: Making Safe, Nutritious Food Available to All Americans

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Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

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USDA Highlights



Commitment to Nutritious, Affordable, and Safe Food Access



Research and Evaluation Activities



Funding Opportunities



Food and Nutrition Service Priorities

- Strengthen Program Participants' Ability to Embrace Healthy Dietary Habits
- Ensure Equitable and Consistent Access to FNS Programs for Eligible Populations
- Improve Results and the Consumer Experience Through a Culture of Innovation, Process Analysis, and Improvement
- Ensure Accountability to Stakeholders through Integrity, Transparency, Monitoring, and Reporting



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Key Priorities

- Modernization of the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems
- Healthy Incentive initiatives
- SNAP-Ed

SNAP EBT Modernization

SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot

Expanded use of the Electronic Benefit Transfer Card (EBT)

Available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia

More than 200 SNAP authorized retailers participate

More than 4 million SNAP EBT shoppers monthly

Mobile Payment Pilot

SNAP participants can use their phone or mobile device as an alternative to the EBT card

Five states currently participate in the Mobile Payment Pilot

Increased convenience and security for busy participants

All participation is voluntary



SNAP EBT Modernization Technical Assistance Center (SEMTAC)

- Provides information and technical assistance to retailers about USDA's SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot
- Supports SNAP Mobile Payments Pilot
- Individual technical assistance



SNAP Healthy Incentive Programs:

Increasing The Purchasing Power of SNAP Participants

- Electronic Healthy Incentives Pilot (eHIP)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
- Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive (HFMI) projects
- Retailers can participate by submitting a SNAP incentive Waiver Request



Where are incentives offered?

- Stores: from small, local markets to large national chains
- Farmers markets
- Online SNAP retailers



What are some types of incentives?

- Extra funds (e.g. "double bucks")
- Percentage discount
- Coupon for future purchases
- Bonus food items



What foods can be incentivized?

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Dairy
- Whole grains

SNAP-Ed

- National Program Evaluation And Reporting System → **N-PEARS**
- N-PEARS complements FY 2025 SNAP-ED Guidance
- N-PEARS included in the Redesigned SNAP-Ed Connection



SNAP-Ed Connection (Redesigned)

- The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 required a SNAP-Ed Clearinghouse
- Redesigned SNAP-Ed Connection combined with the SNAP-Ed Toolkit to serve as the Clearinghouse





Child Nutrition Programs

Key Priorities:

- Updated School Meal Standards
- SUN Programs

Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans

2024 Final Updates to School Nutrition Standards

Updates are gradual to allow school food authorities to phase in these changes **over time**.

Key changes include **new added sugars limits** and **reduced sodium**.

Schools **will not** be required to make any changes to their menus for the 2024-25 school year.

FINAL RULE FOR SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS

Updated School Meal Standards: working towards a common goal of healthy children and helping them reach their full potential.

School meals are the main source of nutrition for millions of children every school day. USDA is ensuring these meals are even more nourishing, while keeping them appealing to kids.

Key Provisions



Whole Grains

Schools may continue to offer a variety of nutrient-rich whole grains with options for some enriched grains (no changes in standard)



Milk

Continue to allow flavored and unflavored milk (no changes in standard) with new limits on added sugars



Added Sugars

Limit using a phased approach:

- **Phase 1:** Limits on specific high-sugar products (cereals, yogurt, flavored milk)
- **Phase 2:** Overall weekly limits



Sodium

Gradually phase in one reduction of weekly limit



Updates to the School Nutrition Standards

For more details visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/school-nutrition-standards-updates>



Reduced Sodium

National School Lunch Program Sodium Limits

Age/Grade Group	Current Sodium Limit: In place through June 30, 2027	Sodium Limit: Must be implemented by July 1, 2027
Grades K-5	$\leq 1,110$ mg	≤ 935 mg
Grades 6-8	$\leq 1,225$ mg	$\leq 1,035$ mg
Grades 9-12	$\leq 1,280$ mg	$\leq 1,080$ mg

School Breakfast Program Sodium Limits

Age/Grade Group	Current Sodium Limit: In place through June 30, 2027	Sodium Limit: Must be implemented by July 1, 2027
Grades K-5	≤ 540 mg	≤ 485 mg
Grades 6-8	≤ 600 mg	≤ 535 mg
Grades 9-12	≤ 640 mg	≤ 570 mg



SUN: Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids

- SUN Meals
- SUN Meals To-Go
- SUN Bucks

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer>

FNS Research and Analysis

FNS research and analysis teams conduct various studies, evaluations, and related activities that respond to the needs of policy makers, programs, and leadership to ensure that FNS effectively achieves USDA goals.



FNS Learning Agenda

- Ensures research and evaluation activities support the FNS mission and addresses priority questions relevant for FNS programs, policies, and regulations.
- Learning Agenda includes four broad priorities:
 - Strengthen program participants' ability to embrace healthy dietary habits.
 - Ensure equitable and consistent access to FNS programs for eligible populations.
 - Improve results and the consumer experience through a culture of innovation, process analysis, and improvement.
 - Ensure accountability to stakeholders through integrity, transparency, monitoring, and reporting.



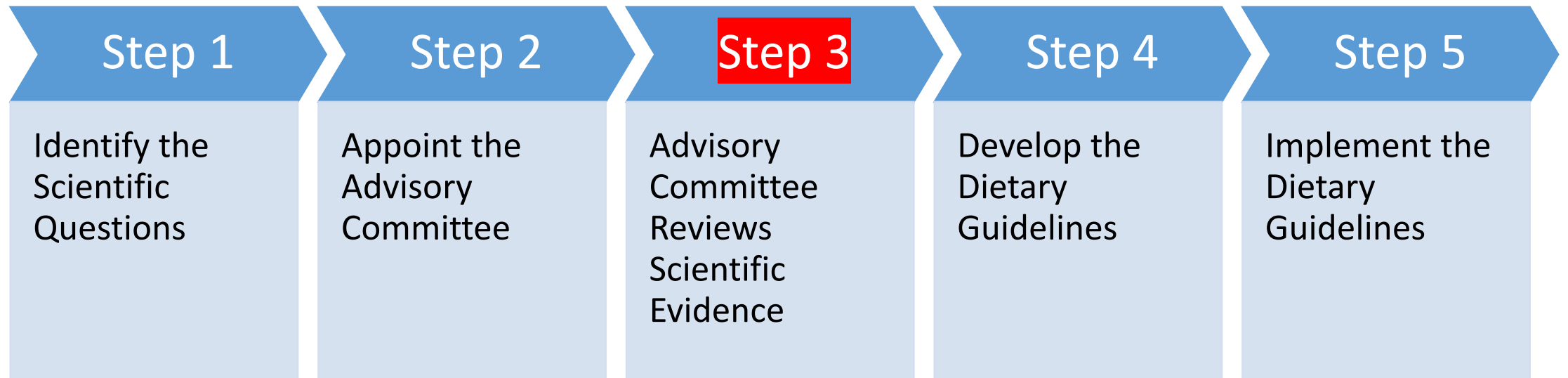
Examples of FNS Learning Agenda Questions

- *What strategies most effectively communicate messages that reflect the latest nutrition science, incorporate healthier foods, promote the use of culturally relevant foods, and reach diverse populations to help reduce racial inequities and mitigate diet-related health disparities?*
- *What gaps and barriers in access and participation in FNS nutrition assistance programs need to be addressed to better reach underserved populations?*



Dietary Guidelines for Americans Development Process

DietaryGuidelines.Gov



SNAP Research and Analysis

***Longitudinal
Study of SNAP
Households***

***Supporting Future
Updates to the
Thrifty Food Plan***

Child Nutrition Research and Analysis

***School Nutrition
and Meal
Cost/School Food
Purchase Study***

***Child Nutrition
Dashboard***

WIC Research and Analysis

***WIC Nutrition
Assessment and
Tailoring Study
Final Report***

**WIC Infant and
Toddler Feeding
Practices Study-2:
Sixth Year Report**



Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Annual Report to Congress: Nutrition Education Coordination



Funding Opportunities



5 July 2024

WIC State
Agency General
Infrastructure
Grants



12 July 2024

FY24 Behind the
Tray-Food
Science for
School Meals



16 July 2024

Team Nutrition
Training Grants

Visit [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for additional details.



Resources

USDA FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-fy-2022-2026-strategic-plan.pdf>

Food and Nutrition Service

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/>

Research and Analysis

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/research-analysis>



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Thank You



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askusda@usda.gov



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Questions?
