

News From The MT Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Team

ThinkFood

Updates on Product Availability

Thank you for your understanding and patience as this year's shipment schedule for USDA Foods is undergoing frequent revision. Adjustments to our delivery plan are necessary when vendors are not able to deliver their goods to the Helena warehouse as scheduled.

- This is the only shipment of string cheese #110396 for the 2021-22 school year. We were not able to obtain the 1,600 cases needed to fully meet all requests; for schools that are receiving only a portion of what was requested, the unfulfilled balance will be cleared and the entitlement funds restored to your account.
- Chicken Strips #110462 were on the allocation form for shipment 2, but did not arrive at the Helena warehouse, so we had to pull them off the order at the last minute. All quantities will carry over to Shipment 3.
- Pulled pork and pork roast arrived ahead of schedule, and were moved to shipment 2 from shipment 3.
- Shipment 2 is planned to run from Monday, September 27 through Wednesday, October 20. There will be no deliveries on October 21 and 22.

- The items listed below are planned for shipment 3:

Beef – Ground
Chicken – Canned
Chicken – Unbreaded Strips
Corn – Canned
Egg Patty
Peach Cups
Yogurt Cups -- Blueberry



Schools participating in the USDA DoD Fresh program are currently able to order Montana-grown carrots and beets to serve in school meals. This is an opportunity to support Montana agriculture with funding from USDA School Nutrition Programs. Contact Pam Fruh for more information at Pamela.fruh@mt.gov or 406-444-4412

Meal Service Waivers: Action Needed

A variety of waivers are available to districts if needed in SY2021-22. These waivers aim to balance operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals.

The following situations are addressed:

- Serving meals in non-group settings to support social distancing
- Meals provided outside of traditional service times
- Parent/guardian pick-up of meals on behalf of students
- Offer vs Serve flexibility for high schools
- Meal Pattern flexibility (subject to review and must be approved)

Important

- Districts must complete OPI's Waiver Request Form to use these flexibilities
- Waiver details and the required form are located on the OPI website under School Nutrition > Back To School Resources
- or
- Do a Google search for <https://bit.ly/OPIWaiver> to be taken directly to the online waiver form

FFVP: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program

Elementary schools that are participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are now able to enter claims in MAPS.

- Find the list of qualifying schools by clicking [here](#) or visit opi.mt.gov > School Nutrition > Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

For assistance please contact Kelli Johnson, FFVP Program Manager, at kelli.johnson@mt.gov or 406-465-1769

Equipment Grant

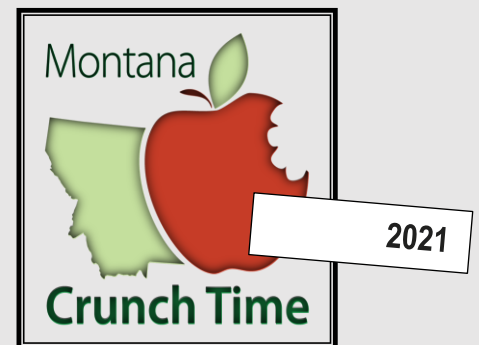
The Montana Office of Public Instruction has \$68,638 available to award via competitive sub-grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to Montana school districts.

This School Food Service Equipment Grant funding opportunity is available for Montana school districts that operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during SY2021-22 to obtain new equipment or to renovate or replace existing equipment.

More information is available on OPI School Nutrition Programs website: <https://opi.mt.gov/School-Nutrition>

Applications are available starting October 1, 2021
Deadline to apply is November 5, 2021

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Montana Crunch Time is a statewide event to celebrate National Farm to School Month in Montana by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples.

Learn more and register your event

<https://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/mt-crunch-time.html>

Beef Patty Preparation

The burger patties on this delivery are a fully cooked product that contains no binders or extenders. One case contains approximately 290 2.2 ounce portions. One patty credits as 2 ounce meat/meat alternate.

Vendor recommendation for prep:

- Heat from frozen state
- Place patties on parchment-covered sheet pan
- Cover sheet pan with foil
- Heat 16-20 minutes @ 325°