



Supply Chain Assistance Funds

Special Bulletin | November 2022

In the 2022-23 school year, many operators of the National School Lunch Program are experiencing ongoing challenges in purchasing and receiving food through their normal distribution channels. To assist school districts experiencing these supply chain disruptions, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service has allocated relief Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) funding to State agencies for disbursement to eligible School Food Authorities, based on student enrollment.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) will distribute SCA funds to eligible School Food Authorities to be **used exclusively to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products**. Preliminary allocation amounts are posted on the OPI website.

Mmm Mmm Montana!

Although schools are not required to purchase local foods with SCA funds, doing so may help form new connections with small, local business and producers entering into the school nutrition market, which can help create a more resilient food system. SCA Funds can be a great way support purchases of Montana Harvest of the Month or other local foods. For help navigating finding and serving local foods, see the Montana Farm to School > School Food webpage:

<https://www.montana.edu/mtfarmtoschool/resources/school-food.html>

Steps + Timeline

1	November 4, 2022: Deadline for SFA to complete REQUIRED online Attestation Statement.
2	December, 2022: SCA funds will be deposited into the Nonprofit Food Service Account.
3	Spring of 2023: Date to be determined Third and final distribution of SCA funds.
4	September 30, 2023: All SCA funds must be spent by schools.

Allowable Purchases

Allowable ☑	Not Allowable ☹
Unprocessed or minimally processed domestic food products	Foods that are generally understood to be significantly processed or prepared
Milk, cheese, and yogurt	Non-domestic food products
Fruits and vegetables (including whole, cut, pureed, fresh, frozen, canned, dried, 100% juices)	Pre-prepared foods (including chicken nuggets, prepackaged sandwiches, pre-made pizza)
Grain products such as pastas and rice	Baked goods (including breads, muffins, or crackers)
Meats (whole, pieces, or ground meats)	Produce for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program
Beans and legumes	Equipment and labor costs

Note: Documentation of purchases should be kept in a manner consistent with regular recordkeeping requirements.

More Information + Questions

A thorough explanation of this program, funding allocations, forms, and updates can all be found in the Supply Chain Assistance section of the OPI School Nutrition website > Supply Chain Assistance: <https://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Management-Operations/School-Nutrition/Supply-Chain-Assistance-for-Schools> (Scan QR code with your smartphone or tablet to go to the webpage.)



For questions on payments, contact Alie Wolf at 406-459-5394 or AlieW@mt.gov

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