

News Release

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Wisconsin schools to benefit from two USDA grants

MADISON — Wisconsin is one of 10 states to be awarded two federal grants aimed at helping students learn healthy habits and training local school nutrition staff. Funding for the grants comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

The first of the two grants, the 2015 Team Nutrition Training Grant (\$301,429), will provide technical assistance to schools in the school breakfast and lunch programs and encourage new and exciting ways to infuse healthy eating and exercise habits into classroom learning. The local efforts the grant will support include:

- [Whipping Up Wellness](#), an interactive education program, which is also supported by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, that connects the classroom, cafeteria, farms, and home and culminates in a student chef competition.
- [Smarter Lunchrooms](#), an initiative to create a cafeteria that encourages students to select healthy menu options by changing the lunchroom environment. Statewide trainings will be offered to educate school food service personnel on implementing Smarter Lunchroom strategies.
- Training and resources to school administrators, teachers, and food service personnel on writing and evaluating [wellness policies](#) and to students, parents, school personnel, and health care professionals to increase awareness of the healthfulness of school meals.

The second, Professional Standards Training Grant (\$149,853), will help all school nutrition employees deliver healthy, high-quality meals to students in districts participating in the school breakfast and lunch programs.

Some of the work being done through this funding includes:

- Goal Oriented Achievement Learning skills (GOALs), which provides training, resources, and tracking tools that will allow school nutrition professionals to obtain a Certificate of Excellence. GOALs courses will focus on program operations, nutrition, school nutrition administration, marketing, and communication.
- Spanish First, a program to provide Web and print training materials in Spanish.
- Peer to Peer, a mentorship program for school nutrition professionals run by their peers on topics such as local purchasing, special dietary needs, creative menu planning, and school gardens.

(more)

“Hungry kids in the classroom present a challenge to even the most talented educator. The funding and resources our schools receive from these grants will help to prepare every student to learn while also teaching them valuable lessons about healthy life choices,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Giving students the exposure to new foods and training our nutrition professionals to impart their knowledge into the classroom represents a true win-win for our schools.”

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NOTES: More information about Whipping Up Wellness and Smarter Lunchrooms is available on the Department of Public Instruction Team Nutrition website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/team-nutrition>. Information on wellness policies is available on the School Nutrition website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_97.pdf.