NC School Nutrition Administrators:

**The 2025-2026 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program application is officially open in the SNTS.** All **eligible** elementary schools that are interested in participating in the FFVP for the upcoming school year are encouraged to apply. Please read this entire e-mail so expectations and deadlines can be *successfully* met.

**Deadlines for NC's 2025-2026 FFVP Application Process**

**Monday February 17, 2025, 8:00 AM - FFVP APPLICATION OPENS**

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) application season for the 2025-2026 School Year (SY) is OPEN. For assistance with the FFVP application, contact Jacquelyn McGowan, Special Programs Consultant – FFVP at Jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov or 984-236-2909

**Friday March 7, 2025, 11:59 PM - FFVP APPLICATION CLOSES**

The deadline for completing the 2025-2026 FFVP online application in the SNTS. Only School Nutrition administrators with "Application Entry" rights have access to NC's 2025-2026 FFVP online application. *Each* applying school must complete a FFVP online application.

**Friday, March 14, 2025 11:59 PM - FFVP SIGNATURE PAGES/WEEKLY OPERATION FORMS DUE**

The deadline for electronically submitting the 2025-2026 FFVP Signature Pages (with all 4 required signatures signed in **blue** ink) and "Number of Days the FFVP Operates Weekly" form is **Friday March 14, 2025**. Scan and email these required FFVP application documents to **Jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov** to complete the 2025-2026 FFVP application process.

**What is the FFVP and Why Apply?**

The FFVP is a federally-assisted program that provides “free” **fresh** fruit and vegetable snacks (a minimum of two days/week during the *instructional* school day) for which **eligible** elementary schools can apply annually. The goal of the FFVP is to create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices to the enrolled students at a participating school. Expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, and children increasing their overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce, will make a difference in children’s diets to impact their present and future health.

All FFVP purchases must be competitively procured to fulfill the requirement of free and open competition. Only allowable expenses will be reimbursed via submitting a monthly claim. It is **not** a requirement for an eligible elementary school to apply to participate in the FFVP. The program is *additional* work for School Nutrition administrators and staff; however, the opportunity for students to receive healthy snacks at no charge has numerous benefits. Form a FFVP team and if not already, become educated about the FFVP, discuss, and if all are interested and committed to success, strongly consider applying.

**FFVP Resources for Guidance**

To learn about FFVP administration, operation, and finances, click on the links below:

USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program: A Handbook for Schools USDA Fact Sheet: The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program [Microsoft Word - FFVPmanual\_6-23-2011](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolnutrition/usda-ffvp-handbook-schools/download?attachment)

**How do we apply for the FFVP for the 2025-2026 SY?**

1. The NC's FFVP online application is housed in the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS). To access, the School Nutrition administrator (with Application rights) must login to the SNTS, click on Applications, FFVP Application Packet, then Details to view the school or schools eligible to apply.
2. The "2025-2026 FFVP Sponsor Application" and respective "2025-2026 FFVP Site Application" (for each eligible school that wants to apply) must be completed and "Saved" in the SNTS. **Note: There is not a "Submit" tab; the FFVP application is stored in the SNTS.**

The FFVP application information and guidance for the 2025-2026 SY is available on the NCDPI’s School Nutrition website. Please visit: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-nutrition/about-school-nutrition-programs/fresh-fruit-vegetable-program-ffvp> and note the section labeled "How to Apply (2025-2026 SY)" with easy access to the following documents:

* Questions for the FFVP School Proposal
* Instructions for Accessing the NC FFVP Online Application
* Guidance for Completing the NC FFVP Online Application
* FFVP Signature Page (1 of 2 required application documents to be submitted

electronically)

* "Number of Days the FFVP Operates Weekly" form (2 of 2 required application documents to be submitted electronically)
* Checklist for NC FFVP Application Process
* SN Security Form (Technology System Access Application)

**Need FFVP Application Assistance?**

If guidance is needed in completing the 2025-2026 FFVP online application or there are questions about the FFVP Signature Pages or the "How Many Days the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Operates Weekly" form (both are required FFVP application documents to be submitted electronically), please reach out to Jacquelyn McGowan, Special Programs Consultant - FFVP at Jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov or 984-236-2909.

**FFVP Annual Grant Funding**

Every school selected to participate in the FFVP is expected to make a concerted effort to wisely utilize **all** its respective FFVP annual grant funding, so students receive the maximum benefits from the program. The more days the FFVP operates (minimum of 2 days/week; 3-5 days/week is optimal) on instructional school days for students, the more FFVP grant funding will be utilized with students benefitting from more fresh fruit and vegetable snacks. Planning is key to a successful operation and wise utilization to totally exhaust a participating school's FFVP annual allocation.

**FFVP School Selections for 2025-2026 SY**

Once USDA informs the State agency (May or June) of NC's FFVP annual grant allocation for the 2025-2026 SY, the NCDPI Office of School Nutrition will select as many schools as possible in keeping with the requirement of $50-$75 per student allocation for the school year. Once the NC State Board of Education votes to approve NC's schools selected for the FFVP for the 2025-2026 SY, then NCDPI will notify the districts of the schools selected, and those not selected.

**Requirement for School Nutrition Administrators with a School or Schools Selected for the FFVP for the 2025-2026 SY**

NC's FFVP required, annual continuing education (required participation for designated School Nutrition administrator in a district with a school or schools, or a charter school selected for 2025-2026 SY), will be conducted virtually in the spring. Please stay tuned for the exact dates/times of NC's 2025-2026 FFVP webinars and how to register.

If you have FFVP application questions or need clarification, contact Jacquelyn McGowan, Special Programs Consultant – FFVP at **Jacquelyn.mcgowan@dpi.nc.gov** or 984-236-2909 for assistance.