

FROM THE GROUND UP

Building Strong School Nutrition Programs



Educational Sessions, By Day and Time

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Educational Sessions

Room	Block 1: 10:00 am – 11:15 am	Block 2: 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
Royal	From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders (<i>Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt</i>)	Putting the Pieces Together: Connecting Meal Counts, Contracts, and Documentation in Charter and Non-Public School Nutrition Programs (<i>Dana Edwards and Kristen Dubiel</i>)
Auditorium	Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use (<i>Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling</i>)	ABCs of NCDA&CS Food Distribution (<i>Walter Beal and Kirk Smitherman</i>)
Imperial 12	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)
Imperial 67	Beyond the Checkboxes: How to Use Your NSLP Monitoring Form for Programmatic Success (<i>Jennifer Brown, Sheryl Harris, Pam Sheets, and Victoria Homick</i>)	Cultivating SUN Meals To-Go: From Ground-Level Basics to High-Yield Programs (<i>Tamara Baker, Jana Saur, Thompson Bertschy, and Tikiyha Ancrum</i>)

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Morning Educational Sessions

Room	Block 3: 8:30 am – 9:45 am	Block 4: 10:30 am – 11:45 am
Royal	Buy Right, Serve Right: Your Hands-On Tour of the USDA Food Buying Guide (<i>Chef Garrett Berdan</i>)	Blueprint for Buying: Building Blocks of Procurement (<i>Bettie Lyons, Nadine Goodwin Blake, and Gretchen Mauney</i>)
Auditorium	Oh No, They Didn't! Cash Management Missteps and How to Avoid Them (<i>Pam Sheets, Kim McCall, and Cathie Masters</i>)	From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)
Imperial 12	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)	Lay the Groundwork: Understanding Your FC1-A (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)



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Imperial 67	Let's Talk Afterschool Meals! <i>(Tamara Baker, Dr. Jessica Soldavini, and Jana Saur)</i>	Laying the Foundation: Menu Planning for Success <i>(Margaret Cameron)</i>
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Afternoon Educational Sessions

Room	Block 5: 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Block 6: 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm
Royal	From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders <i>(Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt)</i>	Assessing and Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs <i>(Leslie Raby Otts)</i>
Auditorium	Confidence Under Pressure: Leading Lean Without Losing Your Team <i>(Antoinetta Mosley)</i>	From Manager to Leader <i>(Dr. J. Bryan Martin)</i>
Imperial 12	The Sky's the Limit: Analyzing Your FC1-A <i>(Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe)</i>	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up <i>(Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe)</i>
Imperial 67	Building on the Foundation: Forecasting, Flexibility, and Continuous Improvement <i>(Margaret Cameron)</i>	Oh No, They Didn't! Cash Management Missteps and How to Avoid Them <i>(Pam Sheets, Kim McCall, and Cathie Masters)</i>

(Overlap between Block 5 and 6 time slots)

Depart Sheraton at 1:15 pm; arrive back at Sheraton at 4:15 pm

Beyond the Barn: Inside Modern Dairy Farming with NCSU and The Dairy Alliance *(Cami Lewis, Terin Coe, Cindy Marion, and Gary Gay)*

Friday, October 23, 2026

Educational Session

(Overlap with closing general session)

Depart Sheraton at 10:15 am; arrive back at Sheraton at 1:15 pm

Beyond the Barn: Inside Modern Dairy Farming with NCSU and The Dairy Alliance *(Cami Lewis, Terin Coe, Cindy Marion, and Gary Gay)*

Educational Session Tracks, By Day and Time

Finance and Procurement

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)	Imperial 12
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)	Imperial 12

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)	Imperial 12
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Lay the Groundwork: Understanding Your FC1-A (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)	Imperial 12
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	The Sky's the Limit: Analyzing Your FC1-A (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)	Imperial 12
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)	Imperial 12

Leadership and Communications

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders (<i>Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt</i>) OR Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use (<i>Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling</i>)	Royal
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)	Imperial 12

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)	Imperial 12
10:30 am – 11:45 am	From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)	Auditorium
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Confidence Under Pressure: Leading Lean Without Losing Your Team (<i>Antoinetta Mosley</i>)	Auditorium
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)	Auditorium

Food and Nutrition/Menu Planners

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use (<i>Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling</i>)	Auditorium
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	ABCs of NCDA&CS Food Distribution (<i>Walter Beal and Kirk Smitherman</i>)	Auditorium

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Buy Right, Serve Right: Your Hands-On Tour of the USDA Food Buying Guide (<i>Chef Garrett Berdan</i>)	Royal
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Laying the Foundation: Menu Planning for Success (<i>Margaret Cameron</i>)	Imperial 67
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Building on the Foundation: Forecasting, Flexibility, and Continuous Improvement (<i>Margaret Cameron</i>)	Imperial 67
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Assessing and Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs (<i>Leslie Raby Otts</i>)	Royal

Growing Your Program

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use (<i>Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling</i>)	Auditorium
	OR Beyond the Checkboxes: How to Use Your NSLP Monitoring Form for Programmatic Success (<i>Jennifer Brown, Sheryl Harris, Pam Sheets, and Victoria Homick</i>)	Imperial 67

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Cultivating SUN Meals To-Go: From Ground-Level Basics to High-Yield Programs <i>(Tamara Baker, Jana Saur, Thompson Bertschy, and Tikiyha Ancrum)</i>	Imperial 67
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Thursday, October 22, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Let's Talk Afterschool Meals! <i>(Tamara Baker, Dr. Jessica Soldavini, and Jana Saur)</i>	Imperial 67
10:30 am – 11:45 am		
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	The Sky's the Limit: Analyzing Your FC1-A <i>(Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe)</i> OR Building on the Foundation: Forecasting, Flexibility, and Continuous Improvement <i>(Margaret Cameron)</i>	Imperial 12 Imperial 67
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Oh No, They Didn't! Cash Management Missteps and How to Avoid Them <i>(Pam Sheets, Kim McCall, and Cathie Masters)</i>	Imperial 67

Charter School Administrators

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up <i>(Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe)</i> OR From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders <i>(Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt)</i> OR Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use <i>(Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling)</i>	Imperial 12 Royal
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Putting the Pieces Together: Connecting Meal Counts, Contracts, and Documentation in Charter and Non-Public School Nutrition Programs <i>(Dana Edwards and Kristen Dubiel)</i>	Royal

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! <i>(Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas)</i>	Imperial 12

10:30 am – 11:45 am	Blueprint for Buying: Building Blocks of Procurement (<i>Bettie Lyons, Nadine Goodwin Blake, and Gretchen Mauney</i>)	Royal
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders (<i>Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt</i>) OR Confidence Under Pressure: Leading Lean Without Losing Your Team (<i>Antoinetta Mosley</i>)	Royal Auditorium
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Assessing and Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs (<i>Leslie Raby Otts</i>)	Royal

New School Nutrition Administrators

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>) OR From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders (<i>Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt</i>) OR Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use (<i>Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling</i>)	Imperial 12 Royal
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	ABCs of NCDA&CS Food Distribution (<i>Walter Beal and Kirk Smitherman</i>)	Auditorium

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
8:30 am – 9:45 am	Behind the Curtain – Turning your CFO into your program's biggest advocate! (<i>Debra Dixon Doss and Terry K. Haas</i>)	Imperial 12
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Lay the Groundwork: Understanding Your FC1-A (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>) OR From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)	Imperial 12 Auditorium
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	From Surviving to Thriving: A Guide for School Nutrition Leaders (<i>Kristen Dubiel, Kim McCall, and Jennifer Ozkurt</i>) OR Confidence Under Pressure: Leading Lean Without Losing Your Team (<i>Antoinetta Mosley</i>)	Royal Auditorium

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Nail the Numbers: Building a Budget from the Ground Up (<i>Jamie Narron, Tara Simpson, and Amber Sharpe</i>)	Imperial 12
	OR	
	From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)	Auditorium
	OR	
	Assessing and Addressing Unique Mealtime Needs (<i>Leslie Raby Otts</i>)	Royal

Supervisors/Training Managers

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Session Time	Session Title(s)	Room(s)
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Beyond the Checkboxes: How to Use Your NSLP Monitoring Form for Programmatic Success (<i>Jennifer Brown, Sheryl Harris, Pam Sheets, and Victoria Homick</i>)	Imperial 67
	OR	
	Can You Read This? Developing Digital School Nutrition Resources Everyone Can Use (<i>Tracey Bates and Ginger Starling</i>)	
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Cultivating SUN Meals To-Go: From Ground-Level Basics to High-Yield Programs (<i>Tamara Baker, Jana Saur, Thompson Bertschy, and Tikiyha Ancrum</i>)	Imperial 67
	OR	
	ABCs of NCDA&CS Food Distribution (<i>Walter Beal and Kirk Smitherman</i>)	Auditorium

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8:30 am – 9:45 am	Oh No, They Didn't! Cash Management Missteps and How to Avoid Them (<i>Pam Sheets, Kim McCall, and Cathie Masters</i>)	Auditorium
10:30 am – 11:45 am	From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)	Auditorium
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Confidence Under Pressure: Leading Lean Without Losing Your Team (<i>Antoinetta Mosley</i>)	Auditorium
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	From Manager to Leader (<i>Dr. J. Bryan Martin</i>)	Auditorium
	OR	
	Oh No, They Didn't! Cash Management Missteps and How to Avoid Them (<i>Pam Sheets, Kim McCall, and Cathie Masters</i>)	Imperial 67