

to encourage their participation in school breakfast programs. We'll explore how AI tools, effective marketing, and alternative service methods can empower schools to ensure every student starts their day with a healthy meal.

Plant-Powered Menus: Why Plant-Based School Meals are Important and How to Successfully Implement Them in Your District **Wildwood 23-24**

Sponsored by Humane World For Animals: Dorrie Nang; Chef Chaundra Simmons, Humane World For Animals

There's never been a better time to highlight and market plant-based menus. In light of growing public health concerns and the climate crisis, as well as increased student demand, cost savings, diversity and inclusion, and concerns for animal welfare, there's a compelling need for more delicious, innovative and sustainable school menu offerings. From coast to coast, school districts are increasing plant-based offerings and highlighting educational initiatives centered on healthy, sustainable plant-based proteins. Come see the reasons behind the Forward Food Collaboratives popularity, why and how institutions are successfully rolling out their programs, and the FREE resources available that make it easy and fun for everyone.

12:30 – 1:30pm

Lunch & NJSNA Updates

Wildwood 16/27

1:45 – 2:45pm

Breakout Sessions

AI's Biggest Questions, Myths, & Mysteries

Wildwood 18-19

Beth Ziesenis, Your Nerdy Best Friend

Artificial Intelligence (AI) often feels like a blend of buzzwords and bewilderment. Will robots take our jobs? Does ChatGPT steal our data? Are AI tools big fat liars? Join Beth Z, Your Nerdy Best Friend, in a lively exploration of AI's most puzzling questions and common myths. With nerdy humor mixed with practical tips, Beth Z makes the enigmatic world of AI a tad less intimidating and a lot more intriguing. In this session, you'll learn ways to future-proof your job from an AI takeover, understand why AI makes up facts and how to combat misinformation, examine the issue of data privacy, gain insight into AI challenges with plagiarism and copyright infringement, and discover the newest AI tools and how to stay on top of emerging technology and opportunities.

CACFP and Preschool Meals - Requirements for Contracted Private Child Care Providers

Wildwood 20-22

New Jersey Department of Agriculture: Stephanie Mullin, CACFP Coordinator;

Kristin Lento, CACFP Nutrition Program Specialist; Holly Atkinson, CACFP Nutrition Program Specialist

This session will guide districts in building their CACFP PEA-funded contracted private childcare meal programs. Including outlining the benefits to the district for becoming the CACFP Sponsoring Organization of the preschool programs. Come learn about the USDA participation flexibilities and streamlining for schools that can make participating in CACFP an asset to your school.

Procurement and Direct Diversion

Wildwood 23-24

Marianne Dayton, Affinity Group

Make every dollar count! This session dives into how to strategically allocate, spend, and track your USDA Foods entitlement to get the most value for your program. Learn how Direct Diversion works, how to plan effectively throughout the year, and how to navigate procurement decisions that support both compliance and cost savings.

3:00 – 4:15pm

General Session | How to Make Your Administrative Review Successful (All Staff)

Wildwood 20-22

New Jersey Department of Agriculture: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, Coordinator; Elizabeth Gartlan, Assistant Coordinator; Erlisa Levin, Nutrition Program Specialist; Marianella Martins, Nutrition Program Specialist; Emily Frank, Legal Specialist; Casey Miller, Nutrition Program Specialist; Lauren Renn, Nutrition Program Specialist; Genel Cook-Wright, Nutrition Program Specialist; Jill Dailey, Nutrition Program Specialist; Katie Hunter, Nutrition Program Specialist

Join the School Nutrition team for an engaging and informative workshop focused on mastering the Administrative Review (AR) process. The session will include helpful tips, best practices, common findings, and pitfalls. Cell phones required!

4:00 – 6:00pm

Headshots Available – Pre-Registration Required

Wildwood PF 14-19

6:30 – 8:00pm

Evening Reception

Rum Point

Costumes encouraged: come dressed for your favorite decade!

Friday, November 7, 2025

7:30am – 2:00pm	Registration & Check-In	Wildwood PF 14-19
7:30 – 8:30am	Breakfast	Wildwood PF 20-26
8:30 – 9:30am	<u>Breakout Sessions</u>	
	Morning Campfire Solutions: Modern, Popular, and Fun K-12 Dining Commons with AmTab	Wildwood 19
	<i>Sponsored by AmTab Manufacturing; Harrison Catalano, Regional Manager, Education Partnerships</i>	
	<i>This presentation highlights how AmTab is transforming traditional cafeterias into vibrant, student-centered Dining Commons that are modern in design, popular with students and staff, and fun to experience every day. We'll showcase how these upgraded spaces not only enhance the student dining experience but also deliver a clear return on investment (ROI) for school districts. By increasing student participation in meal programs, improving operational efficiency, and extending the space's use for multipurpose activities, these projects often pay for themselves over time. This session will foster a sense of community and belonging, support collaboration and multipurpose use beyond lunch periods, drive measurable ROI through increased participation, improved traffic flow, and long-term durability, and align with the latest trends in student wellness and future-focused learning environments.</i>	
	Bringing Local to the Table: Practical Steps for Local Food Procurement in Food Service New Jersey Department of Agriculture (For Directors)	Wildwood 18
	<i>Nicole Broadwater, NJDA Division of Food and Nutrition; Alfred Wisniewski, NJDA Division of Food and Nutrition; Beth Feehan, Zone 7; Denise Menza, Maschio's Food Services, Inc</i>	
	<i>Explore the proven benefits of sourcing local foods and learn actionable steps, both small and strategic, for incorporating local items into your menu. This workshop includes a live apple pressing demo and a panel of industry experts sharing real-world strategies and stories to inspire your local procurement journey.</i>	
9:45 – 11:00am	Culinary Clash	Wildwood 20-24
11:00am – 2:00pm	Exhibit Hall	Wildwood 14-17/27/29