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Four Idaho School Districts Honored with USDA's 'Turnip the Beet! Award'

(BOISE) – Four Idaho school districts have been recognized for outstanding dedication to ensuring that their students and communities have access to nutritious food during the summer months with the USDA's Turnip the Beet! Award. The award recognizes Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors that go above and beyond program requirements to serve high-quality meals to children while school is not in session.

SFSP sponsors Boise School District, Lake Pend Oreille School District and West Ada School District were honored in the award's silver category and sponsor Bonneville School District was honored in the bronze category. One hundred ninety-nine sponsors from all seven USDA Food and Nutrition Regions across the United States were recognized, with a total of 86 awarded gold, 91 awarded silver and 22 awarded bronze. The awards are aligned with USDA's priorities to create new opportunities to connect America's farmers to nutrition assistance programs and to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes and healthy families.

In order to be considered for the honor, sponsors must clearly illustrate how the meals they serve go above and beyond program expectations by meeting criteria that include serving local foods, a variety of vegetables and fruits, whole grains and low-fat and fat-free milk.

"Each and every Summer Food Service Program sponsor in Idaho has made a significant commitment to their communities by ensuring kids have a reliable, healthy source of food throughout the summer months," said Idaho Department of Education SFSP Program Coordinator Mary Ann Liby. "To have sponsors recognized by USDA for excelling in their service is fantastic, and I'd like to commend each of Idaho's winners on this well-earned honor."

Winners receive a certificate and will be featured on [USDA's Turnip the Beet! Award webpage](#).

Organizations interested in learning more about how to give back to their community by taking part in the 2026 SFSP can find sponsorship information about on the Idaho Department of Education's website at <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/sfsp/>.

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