



Purchasing Notes Fall 2025

**Division of Purchasing and Food
Distribution**



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**



**OFFICE OF
CHILD NUTRITION**
MS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

New Items

The product management committee has been busy finding new items, testing items, and approving items for the order guide. We are excited about the variety of products that are being added. The following items will soon be on the order guide. As products become available, we will notify you using the alerts in MAPS.

New Line Item 1036 Chicken Breast, Fillet WG Breaded There is currently one brand approved for this line item: Tasty Brands - Product Code 60915 - Crediting: 1 oz m/ma and 0.5 oz grain	
New Line Item 1107 Taco, Rolled, Crispy, Chicken and Cheese There is currently one brand Approved for this line item: Don Lee CrispUps. - Product Code: GSCCR340 - Crediting: 1 oz meat/meat alternate and 1 oz grain (1 Taco)	
New Line Item 1128 and 1129 Sandwich, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Crustless sandwiches There are two new lines for PB&J Sandwiches: 1128(Grape Jelly) & 1128(Strawberry Jelly): There is currently one brand approved for these two line items: Smucker's UnCrustables. - Product Code: 5150006960 and 5150006961 - Crediting: 1 oz meat/meat and 1 oz grain	
New Line Item 1130 Sandwich, Breakfast Handheld, Pocket, WG Bread, Made with Scramble egg, Cheese, and Sausage There is currently one brand approved for this line item: Tony's Breakfast Stuffed Sandwich - Product Code 70257 - Crediting: 1 oz m/ma and 1 oz grain	 

New Line Item 1235 Bread, Roll, Garlic Knots WG There is currently one brand approved for this line item: Tasty Brands New York Style Garlic Knots • Product Code 81002 • Crediting: 2 oz grain	
New Line Item 1632 Rice, Brown, Fully Cooked, IQF There is currently one brand approved for this line item: Simplot Good Grains • Product Code 10071179035022	
New Line Item 2623 Fantastix, Ranch Flavor WG There is currently one brand approved for this line item: Cheetos Fantastix Ranch. • Product Code 00-0028400-74993-0 • Crediting: 1 oz grain per bag.	
New Line Item 2624 Cracker, Snack Spicy WG There is Currently one brand approved for this line item: CheezIT Spicy Buffalo. • Product Code 00-0028400-74993-0 • Crediting: 1 oz grain per bag.	
New Line Item 2314 Yogurt, 4 oz Low Fat, Shelf Stable There is currently one brand approved for this line item: Back Pack Vanilla Yogurt • Product Code BPYLFV101 • Crediting: 1 oz m/ma	

Item Changes

In addition to the new line items there are two items that the PMC has modified the bid specifications on, resulting in new products being added.

Line #	Old Bid Description and	New Bid Description
1100*	Bagel, Breakfast, WG	Pizza, Breakfast, WG Crust, White Gravy
1121**	Pizza, French Bread Garlic Cheese	Pizza, Portion, Garlic Cheese

1100* We will allow the distributors to deplete the existing inventory of breakfast bagels before bringing in the new breakfast pizza.

1121** This change allows the distributors an additional approved brand that they may choose to ship. The two products that are approved include the existing Schwan's French Bread pizza item 78359, and Nardone Brother's item 64WPG.

Buy American

USDA established in regulations a new threshold for school food authorities that use exceptions. The limit on the percent of **total** commercial food costs from non-domestic foods will be phased in over 7 school years.

- Beginning in SY 2025-26, the non-domestic food purchases cap will be 10 percent.
- Beginning in SY 2028-29, the non-domestic food purchases cap will be 8 percent.
- Beginning in SY 2031-32, the non-domestic food purchases cap will be 5 percent.

This phased-in approach will allow schools to gradually adjust to the new requirement and will allow USDA to continue to collect data on use of the Buy American exceptions. Items listed on the Federal Acquisitions Regulations Non-available articles list **must be counted** toward the cap on non-domestic purchases when it goes into effect.

More detailed information concerning this can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/buy-american-provisions>

Additionally on the next page you will find a list of items from each distributor that they have identified as non-domestic food items.

Since the Buy American threshold percentage is based on a district's total purchases versus their non-domestic purchases, and since each school district does their own menu planning and purchases based on their student's preferences, it will be the responsibility of each school district to track their own non-domestic purchases.



	Briggs Non-Domestic Items
Line #	Desc
1500	Fruit Freeze, Wild Cherry
1501	Fruit Freeze, Orange / Pineapple
1502	Fruit Freeze, Mixed Berry, Lemon
1515	Juice, Apple 4 oz
1516	Juice, Grape 4 oz
1517	Juice, Orange 4 oz
1519	Juice, Apple 6 oz
1520	Juice, Fruit Blend
1601	Broccoli Florets 20 lb.
1607	Mustard Greens Chopped 6/3 lb.
1608	Chopped Turnip w/Turnip 6/3 lb.
1609	Okra Cut 30 lb.
1621	Spinach Chopped 12/3 lb.
1622	Squash Sliced CC 30 lb.
1623	Veg Blend Calif 30 lb.
1628	Collard Greens Chopped
1629	Guacamole 12/1 lb.
2404	Fruit Cocktail
2405	Tropical Fruit
2410	Mandarin Oranges
2411	Diced Peaches
2412	Sliced Peaches
2518	Tuna, Albacore 6/43 oz
2817	Pimentos, Red, Diced

	PFG Non-Domestic Items
Line #	Desc
1500	Fruit Freeze, Wild Cherry
1501	Fruit Freeze, Orange / Pineapple
1502	Fruit Freeze, Mixed Berry, Lemon
1515	Juice, Apple 4 oz
1517	Juice, Orange 4 oz
1519	Juice, Apple 6 oz
1520	Juice, Fruit Blend
1607	Greens Mustard IQF
1622	Squash Yellow Sliced IQF
1623	Vegetable Blend Calif Grade A, IQF
1629	Dip Guacamole Western Cup Fz
2026	SUGAR POWDERED 10X CONFECTIONERS BOX
2226	SWEETENER PINK PACKET SACCHARIN SGRSUB
2410	ORANGE MANDARIN WHL SEG LIGHT SYRUP
2415	PINEAPPLE TIDBIT I/ JC IMPORT
2717	PARSLEY FLAKES DRIED
2734	SEASONING ITALIAN
2738	ONION CHOPPED DEHY



Label Library

We have received many requests to make a label library available for directors. File sharing can be a security risk, so we have been working with the Office of Technology and Strategic Services (OTSS) at MDE to assist us with the creation of a label sharing system. OTSS has provided us with a solution called the Child Nutrition Navigator. You can access the Navigator from the MDE OCN webpage by clicking on the tab located in the resources section. Before accessing the site, you will be required to create an account using your district email address and credentials. Follow these steps for creating a login and accessing the site.

Label Library Access Steps

Step 1: Check if you registered on our MDE cloud IT service.

Click this site link (<https://mdek12.sharepoint.com/sites/guestuserportal/>) and see if you are able to access the guest portal. If you are able to access the portal, it means that you are registered on our cloud IT infrastructure. If you are registered, go to step 3. If you are not registered, go to step 2.

Step 2: If you are not registered on our MDE cloud IT service, click the following link and complete the registration using your work email and email password. You will have to click "Save" to submit.

<https://myaccess.microsoft.com/@mdek12.org#/access-packages/8d630bfa-ca34-4ecc-830c-52c8a43f0a0d>

Step 3: Fill out the access request form: ([New item](#) | [Request Access \(sharepoint.com\)](#))

Please mention your school district name, work email address, and reason for access (Child Nutrition Director wishing to view the Label Library). Once approved, you will be receiving an email with the permission to access the files.

Step 4: Access the navigator to view the files:

<https://mdek12.sharepoint.com/sites/ChildNutritionNavigator/OCN%20Labels%20All%20Distributors/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Once you are in the Navigator, you will be able to view all labels for the order guide items by selecting the tab "OCN Labels All Distributors". The labels are organized into categories by which they credit. For example, if you were trying to find fruit juice, you would utilize the following path OCN Labels All Distributors> Fruits> Fruit Juice> select the line item for which you need a label. In some cases, a label may be in two locations.

For example, you may find a cheese product in the meat/meat alternate section because the item credits as a meat alternate or you may find cheese in the dairy section. For some fruits and vegetables, USDA product information sheets are being utilized instead of specific brand name nutrient labels. This label library is a work in progress as this is the first time this resource has ever been available to directors.

The label library is a tool to help provide information about the ingredients available on the order guide. It is imperative that you do not solely look at labels provided in the label library when determining accommodations for allergens and special diets. Sometimes replacement products are delivered to schools or manufacturers change their labels prior to us receiving updated labels to utilize in our library. While it is our goal to store current labels, the best practice is to always look at the physical labels on the boxes you are receiving at every delivery.

Allergen precautions and any other special diet requests should be made based on the actual products utilized in your kitchen. If you have any questions, trouble locating products, or find errors, please contact Bpennington@mdek12.org for assistance. The label library will continue to be a work in progress as we develop methods for keeping it updated and consistent with the order guide.



Product Management Committee Members and Terms		
Group	Representation	Term
Superintendents	Dr. Catterria Payton Pascagoula-Gautier School District	July 1, 2025– June 30, 2027
Supt. Proxy	Sara Busby Pascagoula-Gautier School District 228-938-6525 sbusby@pgsd.ms	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
Region 1	Alexandra Hallmark Desoto County Schools 662-449-7267 Alex.hallmark@dcsorg	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028
Region 2	Turner Sanderson Itawamba County School District 662-862-2159 itsanderson@itwambacountyschools.com	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027
Region 3	Gail Hodo Humphreys County School District 662-247-6072 ghodo@humphreys.k12.ms.us	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028
Region 4	Leigh Pickard Rankin County School District 601-825-2257 Lei510@rcsd.ms	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028
Region 5	Christell Hicks Clinton Public School District 601-924-4002 ext. 126 chicks@clintonpublicschools.com	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026
Region 6	Sabrina Jones Laurel School District 601-649-6391 sajones@laurelschools.org	July 1, 2023– June 30, 2026
Region 7	Ashley Harris Jackson County 228-826-2133 ashley.harris@jcsd.ms	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027
Private Schools	Martha Montiforte Nativity B.V.M. 228-432-2269 mlmontiforte@yahoo.com	July 1, 2023– June 30, 2026
Head Start Programs	Mary Maiten Reed Washington County Opportunities 662-332-1521 mmaiten@wcoihs.com	July 1, 2022– June 30, 2025

Food Distribution Advisory Committee Members and Terms		
Area	Representative	Term
Region 1	Mark Carpenter Tunica County Schools 662- 363-2811 carpenterma@tunicak12.org	September 11, 2022- December 31, 2025
Region 2	Valeria Weivoda Lee County School District 662-680-5770 Valeria.weivoda@leecountyschools.us	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 3	JoAnn Martin Hollandale School District 662-827-2276 jmartin@hollandalesd.org	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 4	Ginny Hill Starkville Consolidated Schools 662-615-0028 ghill@starkvillesd.com	January 1, 2023- December 31, 2025
Region 5	Danielle Hall Walthall County School District 601-876-3401 dhall@wcsd.k12.ms.us	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 6	Elisabeth Hollinghead Greene County Schools 601-394-2364 erhollinhead@greene.k12.ms.us	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027
Region 7	Karen Albrecht Hancock County Schools 228-255-0376 kalbrecht@hancockschools.net	January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027



MDE OCN Staff Directory		
Name and Title	Contact Information	Main Responsibilities
Steven Webb Director of Purchasing and Food Distribution	601-576-4991 swebb@mdek12.org	Purchasing and Food Distribution
Patricia Lewis	601-576-4977 plewis@mdek12.org	Contracts Specialist
Ashlea Seals	601-576-4978 asjackson@mdek12.org	USDA Foods
Larry Hill	601-576-4987 lhill@mdek12.org	Product Specialist

