



Expression of Interest

Participation in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program

September Intake

The BC School Fruit & Vegetable Nutritional Program (BCSFVNP) is the result of a unique collaboration between the BC Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture. Funding is provided by the BC Ministry of Health. It is administered through the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC), a non-profit dedicated to working with educators to bring BC's agriculture to students.

The objectives of the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program are:

- ✓ *To increase the acceptability of, exposure to, and willingness to try fruits and vegetables*
- ✓ *To increase awareness of local fruits and vegetables*
- ✓ *To increase the awareness of safe handling practices for fresh produce*
- ✓ *To increase the availability of local fruits and vegetables in BC schools*
- ✓ *To support the local economy through business for farmers and distributors*
- ✓ *To build relationships with produce partners and collaborate*

The Program is designed to deliver 1 serving of fresh fruits or vegetables to your school every other week (bi-weekly) for 12 selected weeks. The snacks provided are not intended to replace breakfast, recess or lunch. The produce is meant to be consumed in a classroom setting, to provide the teachers an opportunity to teach the students about the product, using our product information sheets. The produce supplied is never to be sold.

Delicious BC Grown Produce

All fruits and vegetables provided will be BC grown when possible. Our goal is to introduce children and communities to new varieties of produce. Whenever we choose to out-source produce we will continue to use BC suppliers so that we are still contributing to BC's agriculture.

The fruits and vegetables provided in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional program have been on a journey since their harvest at the grower so it is always a good idea to wash them prior to consumption. This can be easily achieved right in their packaging, with the exception of the sealed sliced products which are ready to eat. Tree fruits have all been water bathed, but again a good idea to rinse prior to consumption. This is a good opportunity to emphasize with students one of the BCSFVNP objectives of safe food handling, no different than washing ones hands. In some cases you will need to transfer produce from a bulk package into an individual or classroom portions.

Support Materials

The BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation will provide schools with the materials they require to successfully execute the BCSFVNP. Materials include product distribution bins, an instructional DVD, teacher guides, an In School Coordinator Guide, and student/parent brochures. Bi-weekly information about the produce will be available from the BC SFVNP school log in page

<http://www.aitc.ca/bc/myschool/login> .

Participation in the BCSFVNP is at NO COST to your school throughout the school year. A one-time stipend cheque of \$250.00 will be issued when you are accepted to the BCSFVNP to cover any small auxiliary costs, such as gloves, plastic sealable bowls or containers, toothpicks, etc.

Coordination of the BCSFVNP

Schools who wish to participate will be responsible for the implementation and coordination of all operations associated with the distribution of the fruit or vegetables within their school. This includes the appointment of personnel who have their Level One FOODSAFE training to ensure proper handling and inspection of the produce.

Before the Program begins:

- ✓ *Assemble your BCSFVNP distribution team and ensure that at least one volunteer or staff has the minimum Level One FOODSAFE training and is certified before the Program starts in your school*
- ✓ *Ensure one copy of the volunteer's Level One FOODSAFE certificate is sent to the BCAITC Programs office*
- ✓ *Ensure the school has adequate refrigeration to store 1 serving of the fruits or vegetables*
- ✓ *Record and prepare to manage allergy alerts by being aware of any student or staff allergy profile*
- ✓ *Coordinate reverse permission forms and ensure each student receives the BCSFVNP information pamphlet*
- ✓ *Send a list of any dates where there will be no one at the school to sign for and store the produce properly for the school year, to the BCAITC Programs office*

All BC Public and First Nations schools are eligible to participate. School selection is on a first come first served basis as well as the school's geographic location. After the school's initial acceptance, an online yearly annual form must be completed to remain on the BC SFVNP +Milk.

**Application Forms for September entry must be received by:
5:00p.m. April 1st**

Opportunity for a Refrigerator

As a Public or First Nations school in BC, your school may be eligible to receive a grant to put towards the purchase of a refrigerator. Grants are awarded based on a school's need for adequate fridge space to promote healthy eating in your school.

For more information on the Fridge Program Grant please e-mail laura@aitc.ca .

Participation in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program +Milk September Intake

Would you like +Milk with those Fruits and Vegetables??

In keeping with the BC Government's Healthy Families initiative, milk will be made available to schools enrolled in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program, for K-5 students. This initiative will be funded by both the BC Ministry of Health and BC Dairy Association; administered by BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation (BCAITC), the team that also administers the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program (BCSFVNP).

What you Need to Know

- ✓ +Milk is specifically for students in Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, grade 3, grade 4, and grade 5 (and any grade 6 students in a split 5/6 classroom).
- ✓ Schools must be currently enrolled in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program.
- ✓ There is no charge to the school or parents.
- ✓ +Milk will be delivered with your regular fruit and vegetable delivery.
- ✓ You will continue to receive your fruit and veggies whether or not you choose to enroll in +Milk.
- ✓ A small amount of fortified soy beverage will be provided as an alternative to milk.
- ✓ +Milk will come in 120 mL foil top cups. Cups are recyclable (no. 5 plastic).
- ✓ The fortified soy beverage is served in 250 mL tetra pack boxes.
- ✓ Refrigeration ~ make sure you have adequate refrigerator space for your milk:
 - A standard plastic square dairy case holds 64, 120 mL foil top cups of milk.
 - There are 4 sturdy cardboard trays in each dairy case: 16x120 mL x 4 trays = 64, 120 mL servings per full case. Your school population that you identify at the time of enrollment will determine the number of full and/or partial cases your school will receive.
 - You will not have to store the plastic square dairy case in the fridge. The school receiver and/or BC SFVNP Coordinator will work with the driver to remove the +Milk from the crates and ensure the +Milk is put directly into your refrigerator, in the cardboard trays. The driver will take away the crates.
- ✓ If you are currently on BC Dairy Association's school milk program, the new +Milk initiative is separate and apart. Continue to contact the BC Dairy Association regarding their School Milk BC program.

Managing BCSFVNP +Milk at your School

Should you choose to enroll your school's K-5 students in the BCSFVNP +Milk initiative, we suggest you use your current BCSFVNP Coordinator to coordinate the addition of milk. There will however, be an option to add an alternate Coordinator in the application form itself.

FAQ's

FAQ's in support of the BCSFVNP +Milk can be found on both the BC Dairy Association and BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program's website.



BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program Application Form: September Intake

Requirements to participate:

- The school must have at least one Level One FOODSAFE certified coordinator.
A copy of your Level One FOODSAFE certificate MUST accompany this form to be considered for the September enrollment.
- Schools must take a whole-school approach to the BCSFVNP i.e. all classrooms participate.
- Schools agree that product will be consumed in a classroom setting and not replace recess or lunch items.
- The school principal must support the participation of the school in the BCSFVNP and must sign this form and provide his/her contact information.
- In addition to the Coordinator, the schools must designate one contact person for communication purposes (a staff member other than the principal).
- After acceptance, schools must gather parental consent to participate in the BCSFVNP.
- Once approved, schools must complete the monthly product report which is an on-line form, available through your School Log In page (assigned after acceptance).
- In joining this program, the school understands it is their responsibility to provide adequate refrigeration for produce when required.
- The school understands there may be unexpected changes to scheduled items, as we are dealing with fresh product.
- The Coordinator must manage the school's allergy records and notify AITC via the online School Login, if an order of the fruits and veggies is to be cancelled.

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program +Milk

As above and as follows,

- BCSFVNP +Milk is available to those schools with K-5 students only
- You must have adequate refrigeration for your +Milk
- In lieu of cancelling the +Milk delivery due to an allergy, a fortified soy beverage will be made available as an alternative.

School District Number (ie: SD 36):

Official School **Full Name:**

School Phone Number: ()..... Fax Number: ().....

Language (ie: English/French/French Immersion):

Grade levels in your school: Grade to
(Program Requirement: minimum Age 4, Kindergarten to Grade 12). Please note, +80% of your class must be Age 4+.)

Physical Address of School including postal code:

.....

Mailing address of school (if different from above):

Principal's name:

Principal's email address:

Principal's signature:.....

Yes; I have read and understood the above requirements and wish to apply.

Contact Details:

Coordinator Name: _____

Coordinator Email Address: _____

Coordinator Phone Number: _____

Coordinator mobile/home Phone Number (Optional): _____

**Coordinators will be emailed all notices, fruit & vegetable information, delivery alerts, policy notices, and program information.*

Secondary Contact Name: _____

Secondary Contact Phone Number: _____

Secondary Contact Email Address _____

**A Secondary contact is a measure to ensure communication to volunteers, in case the Coordinator is away or unavailable.
All notices, fruit & vegetable information, delivery alerts, policy notices, and program information will also go to this email address.*

FOODSAFE Level 1 Certified Designate Name: _____

FOODSAFE Level 1 Certified Designate Email: _____

(A copy of the FOODSAFE Level 1 certificate must be attached in order to complete the application process)

School Details:

- We are a September to June School
 We are a 12 month year round school
 We are a small satellite school, the name of our affiliate school is:

We are a 4 day/week school & our closed day is: _____

As a 4 day school, if a stat holiday is on a Monday our school will be in session

- Tuesday to Thursday
 Tuesday to Friday
 We are a First Nations school

Number of Staff & Teachers: _____

Number of washrooms & kitchens: _____

Number of Students: _____

School WEB site address: _____

Number of Classrooms: _____

+Milk Enrollment

- Enroll
 Decline Enrollment

*The fields below are required **only** if you choose to enroll in +Milk.*

Number of K-5 Students: _____

Contact Details (if different from SFVNP Coordinator):

Coordinator Name: _____

Coordinator Email Address: _____

Coordinator Phone Number: _____

Coordinator mobile/home Phone Number (Optional): _____

**Coordinators will be emailed all notices, fruit & vegetable information, delivery alerts, policy notices, and program information.*

Application deadline:

Please return this form no later than 5:00 p.m. April 1st. Please keep a copy of this form for your records, **then fax or email** to the BCAITC Program office, **then mail** the original to:

BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program
 c/o **BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation**
 Abbotsford Agriculture Centre
 1767 Angus Campbell Road Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3
 Toll free Fax: 1.877-825-6068
 Email: laura@aitc.ca

Selected schools will be contacted by the first week of May
Thank you for your application