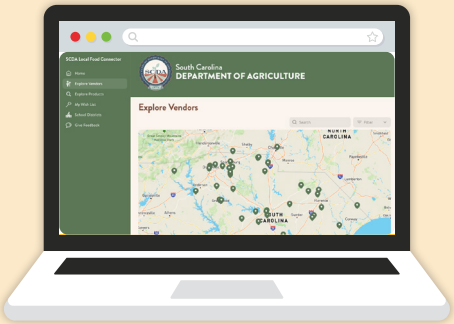
Local Food Connector

The Local Food Connector is an online communication tool designed to connect South Carolina school food authorities with South Carolina farmers and agribusinesses. SFAs can create accounts and browse farm profiles to find information about available products, delivery capabilities, and contact information.





The platform will **not** facilitate transactions or sales. Instead, it will make it easier for schools to find and connect directly with local producers. By bringing this information into one place, the Local Food Connector will help streamline the search for local food and increase opportunities for schools to purchase South Carolina-grown products.

Produce Safety

For questions about grower certifications, reach out to:

Kelly Johnson
SCDA Federal-State Inspection Services Department Assistant Director
kjohnson@scda.sc.gov | 803-753-7267 | agriculture.sc.gov/produce-safety

Contact Us

For all other program questions, please contact:

Anne Vaughn
SCDA Farm to School Coordinator
FarmtoSchool@scda.sc.gov | 803-973-2872 | certifiedsccafeteria.com



Investing in our future, one meal at a time

Certified SC Cafeteria Resource Guide

What is Certified SC Cafeteria?

Certified SC Cafeteria is a state-funded program coordinated by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) to bring more South Carolina grown food into public school cafeterias across our state. With an annual investment of $1 million, the program supports schools in purchasing fresh, local produce while strengthening South Carolina farms and communities. Districts will be reimbursed directly for buying South Carolina grown fruits and vegetables.



Who can join this program?

All South Carolina School Food Authorities who participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program are eligible to participate in Certified SC Cafeteria.

Who can a School Food Authority buy from through this program?

School Food Authorities can buy from any farmer, distributor, or agribusiness that they choose. Funds awarded under this program will be used exclusively to reimburse purchases of minimally processed fresh fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, nuts, grains, and honey grown or produced in South Carolina. All food safety requirements must be vetted and ensured by the SFA themselves.

How to Report

1. Go to certifiedsccafeteria.com.
2. Scroll to the Reporting Tool box and click on the button.
3. On the login screen, enter your school name and then click “Use my one-time passcode instead.” You will be emailed a code. You will then set a password, which you’ll use for all following logins.
4. Once logged in, you’ll be taken to the dashboard, where you can check your running balance, start an invoice, and see your invoice history.
5. To submit a monthly claim, click the Start Invoice button on the dashboard. Select the month and year, then fill in the product information. Add as many items as needed. Drag & drop or click to upload your receipt files. You may click the Save Draft button to come back to the invoice at a later point, or click the Submit Claim button when ready to submit. You will be emailed a copy of the invoice.



Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a SCEIS Vendor Profile?**
  - » A SCEIS Vendor Profile is an official online account in the South Carolina Enterprise Information System that businesses and individuals must create to sell goods or services/accept payment from South Carolina state government agencies. Therefore, in order to receive reimbursements through Certified SC Cafeteria, you will need to identify your School District’s SCEIS Vendor Number.
- **How do I find my SCEIS Vendor Number?**
  - » Your SCEIS Vendor Number can be found online, however, our first suggestion would be to reach out to your finance department, as they should be aware of this number and have it on file for you. If they do not have it on file, the SCEIS number can be found at apps.sceis.sc.gov/SCVendorSearch/supplierSearch.do
  - » Here is an example on how to search for your SCEIS profile: If you are Greenville County School District, you would search “*Greenville County School*” with the asterisks included. Your profile should pop up.
- **Why do I need a SCEIS Profile?**
  - » Your SCEIS Profile will provide an address which is where all of your reimbursement checks will be sent. If your district is set up as an ACH (Automatic Clearing House), your reimbursements will go directly to your district’s bank account.

We strongly suggest that your nutrition team and your finance department have a meeting to discuss the Certified SC Cafeteria funding and how it will be coming through to them. They need to be aware of what the checks are for and how you would like them to be coded. Certified SC Cafeteria funding is reimbursements for purchases of South Carolina grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, honey, or grains and they are state funds.

