

MEMORANDUM

TO: Career and Technology Education Administrators
Food Service Directors

FROM: Vanesha Perrin
Director, Office of Health and Nutrition

DATE: August 18, 2026

RE: SC Farm to School Junior Chef Competition

The South Carolina Department of Education's (SCDE) Office of Health and Nutrition (OHN) is pleased to announce the 8th Annual South Carolina Farm to School Junior Chef Competition. Culinary teams consisting of a coach and 2-4 team members in grades 9-12 may enter. Only Local Education Authorities (LEA) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are eligible.

To enter, teams must submit a completed application packet along with their recipe and nutritional analysis by **October 7, 2026**. The application packet must be mailed to South Carolina Farm to School Junior Chef Competition, 849 Learning Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172 or emailed to farm2school@ed.sc.gov.

Submitted applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis, with the highest-scoring teams advancing for a chance to earn the title of South Carolina Junior Chef Champion. The in-person competition will be held at the University of South Carolina in Columbia on **October 26, 2026**. The winning team will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to the regional Farm to School Junior Chef Competition at Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky.

More information can be found at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/health-and-nutrition/special-programs/sc-junior-chef-competition/>. For questions about the competition, please contact Ben Sease at 803-734-8045 or farm2school@ed.sc.gov.