

# **Child Nutrition Thursday Update**

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**Shout out!!**

Child Nutrition Website - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - [child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org](mailto:child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org)

# 2026 Claims

If you are new to submitting claims or your school has transitioned to a CEP or Provision II status, the Claim User Guide is available under the Help tab for your reference.



# Coming SOON to CNPWeb

## New password guidelines are coming for CNPWeb

To align with the State of Maine's (SOM) password policy, a mandatory CNPWeb Password Reset will be implemented beginning **Monday, September 8.**

**What to Expect:** Once the change is deployed, users will be prompted to update their passwords upon their next login to CNPWeb. The system will enforce this update, and users will be required to complete the password change at that time.

Users may not be able to log in until this new password has been set. The new password must meet the criteria below:

### **Password Guidelines:**

The password must have a minimum length of fifteen (15) characters.

Cannot contain any part of the user's account name.

Cannot contain any dictionary word, unless in conjunction with an additional eight (8) characters and meeting all other criteria in this section.

Cannot contain any common or standard phrase.

Cannot contain keyboard patterns or obvious sequences ("qwerty" or "345ertDFG").

Must contain a mixture of at least one (1) uppercase, and at least one (1) lowercase alphabetic character.

Must contain at least one (1) numeric character.

Must contain at least one (1) special character from amongst the following: ({}[],.<>:;'"/|\`~!@#\$%^&\*()\_ -+=).

# MEFS Funding Codes

jodi.truman@maine.gov

Please provide the **MEFS Funding Codes** to the Business Manager to ensure the correct codes are used for the Child Nutrition revenue.”

Description from Payment SY 2026			
CFDA	SNP Federal Funds for School Meals	MEFS Revenue #	MEFS Fund #
10.555	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, LUNCH (S.A.) Free and Reduced Meals	4553	2930
10.555	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, LUNCH (REG.) Paid Meals	4551	2930
10.553	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, BREAKFAST	4554	2930
10.582	FFVP PAYMENT	4559	2930
10.555	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, AFTERSCHOOL SNACK	4556	2930
10.556	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, MILK PROG.	4555	2930
<b>SFSP Federal Funds for Meals</b>			
10.559	SFSP ADMINISTRATIVE	4549	2930
10.559	SFSP OPERATIONAL	4380	2930
<b>CACFP Federal Funds for Meals</b>			
10.558	CHILD ADULT CARE, CENTER MEALS	4560	2930
10.558	CHILD ADULT CARE, FDCH MEALS	4560	2930
10.558	CHILD ADULT CARE, FDCH ADMIN	4560	2930
10.558	CHILD ADULT CARE, CIL	4560	2930
<b>State of Maine Funding for School Meals</b>			
	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, LUNCH REDUCED STATE	3254	2930
	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, LUNCH PAID STATE	3250	2930
	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, BREAKFAST REDUCED STATE	3258	2930
	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, BREAKFAST PIAD STATE	3258	2930
	EDUC. SCHOOL NUTRITION, STATE FUNDS LUN/BRK	3250	2930
	MEALS PUBLICLY FUNDED STUDENTS PRIVIATE ACADEMIES	3250	2930
<b>Special: Federal Funding Grants</b>			
10.579	School Meals Equipment Grant	4547	2930
<b>Special: Maine Funding</b>			
	Local Produce - Maine	3251	2930
<b>Funding from Outside Sources</b>			
	Other Federal Grant thru another Federal Sources	4790	2930
	Other Contributions from Outside Priviate Sources	192#	2930
	Interest Earned - Other Revenue from Local Sources	1900	2930

# USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

## September Monthly Order

The first of School Year 2026 is available and runs from September 1st-15<sup>th</sup>. Step by step directions on how to complete your order can be found on the the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.

## Please Check Your Annual Order

USDA has informed us of several shortfalls due to " vendor constraints" which is preventing them from purchasing trucks that we have requested. Please check your Annual Order to see what items have been adjusted.

## PFG Deliveries

**Orders cannot be refused or sent back to PFG once shipped.**

# Annual Public Notice Requirement

At the beginning of each school year, schools participating in the NSLP must provide a public notice to local newspapers so it may be printed as a public service to readers. A sample can be found on our website [here](#) under 'NSLP Sample News Release'.

**Sample NSLP News Release** – is for schools that are collecting F/R Meal Applications and participating in Maine’s “no charge” meals

**Sample NSLP News Release for Private or Non-Public Schools** – is for schools that are collecting F/R Meal Applications and NOT participating in Maine’s “no charge” meals

**Sample NSLP News Release for Special Provision Schools** – is for schools that are NOT Collecting the F/R Meal Application due to participation in special provisions

The news release will need to be customized and must include the federal and state non-discrimination statements. Keep a copy of the information sent to the newspaper as documentation.

# Changes to the Buy American Requirements for SY 2026 – Tracking of Non-Domestic Food Purchases

The Buy American provision requires school food authorities to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. Exceptions have been made for items that are significantly less expensive than the domestic version and items not grown and produced domestically in significant quantity.

Starting in SY26, there will be a threshold for non-domestic food purchases – including items on the [Federal Acquisitions Regulations Non-available articles](#) list.

The new thresholds will be phased in over seven school years as follows:

- **Beginning in SY 2025-2026, the nondomestic food purchases cap will be 10%.**
- Beginning in SY 2028-2029, the nondomestic food purchases cap will be 8%.
- Beginning in SY 2031-2032, the nondomestic food purchases cap will be 5%.

**What does this mean for your program?** The purchase of non-domestic food purchases cannot exceed the annual threshold. Therefore the school nutrition program needs to track food purchases and identify any item(s) that are not Buy American compliant, including those that meet the exceptions. You will be asked to provide this information during Administrative Reviews. To assist with tracking, USDA has provided an optional [Buy American Tracking Form](#) is available on our [website](#) under the Procurement & Buy American header.

**Does this requirement apply to FFVP and a la carte foods as well?** No. This requirement applies to any food component offered in the NSLP (including the Afterschool Snack Program) and the SBP that is not Buy American compliant.

# Product-based Added Sugar Limits in Effect for SY 2026



**Flavored milk** may contain no more than 10 grams of added sugar per 8 ounces

**Breakfast cereal** may contain no more than 6 grams of added sugar per dry ounce

**Yogurt** may contain no more than 12 grams of added sugar per 6 ounces (2 grams per ounce)

Check out [USDA's Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#) guide!

# Requests for Meal Accommodations

The start of the school year means you may be receiving requests for meal accommodations. We have resources available for you as you navigate these requests.

- [Meal Accommodations Quick Guide](#)
- [Sample Medical Statement Form](#)
- [Allowable Milk Substitutes in School Meal Programs](#) (recorded training)
- [Dietary Accommodations](#) (recorded training)

# Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Reminders

September funds: The balances from SY 2025 are what schools have available to spend for September 2025 only. Please note, you can only claim September FFVP expenses if you were selected to participate in SY 2026.

SY 2026 Allocations: Funds can be used starting October 1st. The allocations can be accessed by going to the CNP web Reports tab>Accounting Reports>FFVP Usage. Then select 2026 and your School District. See example below of how to read the report. The “Amount” heading and “Oct-Sept” column lists the allocations for each participating school. As a note, FFVP funds run from October 1st through September 30th of the following school year.

A list of awarded schools for SY 2026 can be found on our website:  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/ffvp>.

## FFVP Usage Report

Filter Criteria :

Fiscal Year	District	As Of
2026	Athens Public Schools	8/20/2025 11:14:07 AM

School	Amount		Balance		Usage	
	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept
<b>District: Athens Public Schools (1629)</b>						
Athens Community School (906)	\$1,659.11	\$6,528.00	\$1,659.11	\$6,528.00	0.00%	0.00%
<b>District Total</b>	<b>\$1,659.11</b>	<b>\$6,528.00</b>	<b>\$1,659.11</b>	<b>\$6,528.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,659.11</b>	<b>\$6,528.00</b>	<b>\$1,659.11</b>	<b>\$6,528.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Department of Education

Report Generated on 8/20/2025 11:14 AM

For questions on any of the above, please contact Stephanie at [stephanie.stambach@maine.gov](mailto:stephanie.stambach@maine.gov).

# NEW FFVP Promo Materials and Resources for SY 2026!

We are excited to share new Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) resources for schools participating in this program. They can be found here on our webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/ffvp>.

## **This includes:**

- FFVP calendar template and fruit and vegetable fun fact sheet templates.
- Sample fun fact sheets, menus, morning announcements, and word searches to engage students!
- Sample, customizable parent and teacher letters to share information about the program and ways they can support FFVP in your schools.

Thank you to our UNE dietetic intern, Emily Weinrich, for creating these wonderful materials. We hope they will be useful in your FFVP programs!



## Breakfast After the Bell Requirement – School Year 2026

In School Year (SY) 2026, the schools listed below will be required to implement Breakfast After the Bell service model.

Eligibility is determined using the October 2025 School Nutrition Survey, where Schools with over 50% Free/Reduced enrollment are required to participate.

### Exemptions:

High schools (any building serving grades 9–12).

Schools with 70% or higher free/reduced-price breakfast participation (as determined in October 2025).

All other schools must operate a Breakfast After the Bell model starting in SY26.

School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25	School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25
Airline CSD	Airline Community	80.00%	Bangor Public Schools	Fairmount School	56.87%
Andover Public Schools	Andover Elementary	66.67%	Bangor Public Schools	Mary Snow School	56.88%
Athens Public Schools	Athens Community	55.88%	Bangor Public Schools	Fruit Street School	56.91%
Auburn Public Schools	Walton School	64.33%	Bangor Public Schools	Vine Street School	56.92%
Auburn Public Schools	Fairview School	64.37%	Bangor Public Schools	William S. Cohen School	56.95%
Auburn Public Schools	Park Avenue Elementary	64.39%	Bangor Public Schools	James F. Doughty School	56.98%
Auburn Public Schools	Auburn Middle School	64.46%	Bangor Public Schools	Abraham Lincoln School	56.99%
Auburn Public Schools	Sherwood Heights	64.46%	Bangor Public Schools	Downeast School	57.04%
Auburn Public Schools	East Auburn Community	64.52%	Beals Public Schools	Beals Elementary School	60.42%
Auburn Public Schools	Washburn School	64.68%	Biddeford Public Schools	Biddeford Intermediate	55.99%
Augusta Public Schools	Farrington School	50.66%	Biddeford Public Schools	Biddeford High School	56.00%
Augusta Public Schools	Lincoln School	56.55%	Biddeford Public Schools	Biddeford Middle School	56.11%
Baileyville Public Schools	Woodland Jr-Sr High School	52.00%	Biddeford Public Schools	Biddeford Primary School	56.15%
Bangor Public Schools	Fourteenth Street School	56.77%	Biddeford Public Schools	John F Kennedy Memorial School	56.33%
Bangor Public Schools	Bangor High School	56.86%	Brooklin Public Schools	Brooklin School	64.91%

School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25	School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25
East Millinocket Public Schools	Schenck High School	59.63%	ME Sp.Ed./ M.H. Collaborative	ME Sp. Ed./M.H. Collaborative	60.00%
East Millinocket Public Schools	Opal Myrick Elementary	64.52%	Medway Public Schools	Medway Middle School	56.07%
Eastport Public Schools	Eastport Elementary	61.25%	Milford Public Schools	Dr Lewis S Libby School	63.84%
Fayette Public Schools	Fayette Central School	59.72%	Millinocket Public Schools	Granite Street School	52.15%
Glenn Stratton Learning Center	Glenn Stratton Learning Center	82.35%	Millinocket Public Schools	Stearns Jr-Sr High School	55.02%
Greenbush Public Schools	Helen S Dunn Elementary	71.54%	Moosabec CSD	Jonesport-Beals High School	55.17%
Harmony Public Schools	Harmony Elementary	77.59%	MSAD 46	Ridge View Community	71.56%
Indian Island	Indian Island School	53.93%	MSAD 46	Dexter Regional High School	71.58%
Jonesboro Public Schools	Jonesboro Elementary	55.56%	MSAD 76	Swans Island Elementary	55.17%
Jonesport Public Schools	Jonesport Elementary	50.98%	Opportunity Training Center	Opportunity Training Center	70.83%
Lewiston Public Schools	Thomas J McMahon	91.97%	Perry Public Schools	Perry Elementary School	51.39%
Lewiston Public Schools	Raymond A. Geiger	91.98%	Pleasant Point	Sipayik Elementary	88.41%
Lewiston Public Schools	Robert V. Connors	91.99%	Portland Public Schools	Peaks Island School	63.41%
Lewiston Public Schools	Farwell Elementary	92.00%	Portland Public Schools	Presumpscot School	64.53%
Lewiston Public Schools	Lewiston High School	92.02%	Portland Public Schools	King Middle School	64.56%
Lewiston Public Schools	Lewiston Middle School	92.02%	Portland Public Schools	Lyman Moore Middle School	64.56%
Lewiston Public Schools	Montello School	92.05%	Portland Public Schools	Deering High School	64.60%
Limestone Public Schools	Limestone Community	92.25%	Portland Public Schools	Howard C Reiche Community Sch	64.62%
Long Island Public Schools	Long Island Elementary	50.00%	Portland Public Schools	Gerald E Talbot Community	64.63%
Machias Public Schools	Machias Memorial High	50.00%	Portland Public Schools	East End Community	64.65%
Machias Public Schools	Rose M Gaffney School	55.00%	Portland Public Schools	Amanda C Rowe School	64.68%
Maine Academy of Natural	Maine Academy of Natural	71.11%	Portland Public Schools	Lincoln Middle School	64.71%

School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25	School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25
Portland Public Schools	Cliff Island School	66.67%	RSU 20	Searsport District Middle School	79.17%
Princeton Public Schools	Princeton Elementary	51.38%	RSU 20	Searsport Elementary	84.78%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Mt View High School	57.41%	RSU 20	Searsport District High School	88.38%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Mt View Elementary	61.48%	RSU 25	Miles Lane School	56.51%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Mt View Middle School	62.77%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	Houlton Southside School	70.05%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Unity Elementary School	66.67%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	Houlton Junior High School	70.17%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Troy Central School	68.18%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	Houlton High School	70.19%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Monroe Elementary	70.31%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	Houlton Elementary	70.21%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Morse Memorial School	70.59%	RSU 31/MSAD 31	Enfield Station Elementary	61.32%
RSU 03/MSAD 03	Walker Memorial School	72.00%	RSU 31/MSAD 31	Hichborn Middle School	62.00%
RSU 10	Meroby Elementary	72.09%	RSU 37/MSAD 37	Daniel W Merritt School	54.44%
RSU 10	Hartford-Sumner Elementary	72.11%	RSU 37/MSAD 37	Harrington Elementary	62.59%
RSU 10	Mountain Valley Middle School	72.13%	RSU 37/MSAD 37	Milbridge Elementary	72.73%
RSU 10	Rumford Elementary	72.17%	RSU 40/MSAD 40	Warren Community	50.70%
RSU 10	Mountain Valley High School	72.22%	RSU 40/MSAD 40	Miller School	51.55%
RSU 10	Buckfield Jr-Sr High School	72.25%	RSU 40/MSAD 40	Medomak Middle School	52.71%
RSU 16	Elm Street School-Mechanic	59.00%	RSU 41/MSAD 41	Brownville Elementary	89.47%
RSU 17/MSAD 17	Agnes Gray School	51.85%	RSU 41/MSAD 41	Milo Elementary School	89.71%
RSU 17/MSAD 17	Guy E Rowe School	58.88%	RSU 41/MSAD 41	Penquis Valley Middle/High	89.74%
RSU 17/MSAD 17	Oxford Elementary	59.87%	RSU 42/MSAD 42	Central Aroostook Jr-Sr H	50.32%
RSU 19	Etna-Dixmont School	51.61%	RSU 42/MSAD 42	Fort Street School	56.82%
RSU 19	Somerset Elementary	73.82%	RSU 50	So Aroostook School	59.59%

School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25	School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25
RSU 53/MSAD 53	Warsaw Middle School	51.74%	RSU 68/MSAD 68	Se Do Mo Cha Middle School	50.00%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	Skowhegan Area High School	51.60%	RSU 70/MSAD 70	Hodgdon Middle/High	54.03%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	Mill Stream Elementary	56.63%	RSU 70/MSAD 70	Mill Pond School	71.63%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	Canaan Elementary	66.46%	RSU 72/MSAD 72	Brownfield Denmark	64.94%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	Skowhegan Area Middle School	66.46%	RSU 72/MSAD 72	Molly Ockett School	65.01%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	Margaret Chase Smith Sch -	66.48%	RSU 72/MSAD 72	New Suncook School	66.67%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	Bloomfield Elementary	66.67%	RSU 73	Spruce Mountain Primary School	54.76%
RSU 54/MSAD 54	North Elementary School	66.67%	RSU 74/MSAD 74	Garret Schenck School	73.81%
RSU 55/MSAD 55	Sacopee Valley Middle School	56.78%	RSU 74/MSAD 74	Carrabec High School	73.99%
RSU 55/MSAD 55	Sacopee Valley High Sch	58.46%	RSU 74/MSAD 74	Carrabec Community	74.12%
RSU 55/MSAD 55	Sacopee Valley Elementary	60.44%	RSU 74/MSAD 74	Solon Elementary School	74.19%
RSU 56	Dirigo High School	52.78%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	Eva Hoyt Zippel School	56.60%
RSU 56	Dirigo Elementary	55.52%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	Pine Street Elementary	61.08%
RSU 56	T W Kelly Dirigo Middle School	61.88%	RSU 80/MSAD 04	Piscataquis Community	54.07%
RSU 58/MSAD 58	Day Mountain Regional Middle	51.77%	RSU 83/MSAD 13	Moscow Elementary	58.70%
RSU 58/MSAD 58	Phillips Elementary Sch	69.03%	RSU 84/MSAD 14	East Grand School	76.22%
RSU 59/MSAD 59	Madison Jr/Sr High School	54.73%	RSU 85/MSAD 19	Lubec Consolidated	65.91%
RSU 59/MSAD 59	Madison Elementary	64.86%	RSU 86/MSAD 20	Fort Fairfield Elementary	68.78%
RSU 59/MSAD 59	Main Street Middle School	65.19%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	Van Buren District	67.24%
RSU 61/MSAD 61	Lake Region Middle School	50.26%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	Van Buren Elementary	67.66%
RSU 61/MSAD 61	Crooked River Elementary	53.37%	Sanford Public Schools	Carl J Lamb School	55.53%
RSU 61/MSAD 61	Stevens Brook School	55.29%	Sanford Public Schools	Margaret Chase Smith	55.61%

School District	School	Free/Reduced% October SY25
Sanford Public Schools	Sanford Pride Elementary	55.63%
Sanford Public Schools	Sanford Middle School	55.69%
Sedgwick Public Schools	Sedgwick Elementary	52.24%
Waterville Public Schools	Waterville Senior High School	55.76%
Waterville Public Schools	Waterville Junior High School	67.39%
Waterville Public Schools	Albert S Hall School	70.29%
Waterville Public Schools	George J Mitchell School	70.96%
Westbrook Public Schools	Saccarappa School	65.09%
Westbrook Public Schools	Congin School	66.46%
Westbrook Public Schools	Westbrook High School	66.52%
Westbrook Public Schools	Oxford-Cumberland	66.67%
Westbrook Public Schools	Westbrook Middle School	66.71%

# Opting Out of Breakfast After the Bell

## Step 1: Hold a Public Hearing

- A public hearing must be scheduled and posted at least 10 days in advance.
- Notice must be made available to the community in a clear and accessible way.

## Step 2: Prepare Documentation

- A detailed cost-benefit analysis is required.
- Documentation must show that implementing Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) would create undue financial or logistical hardship.
- Both the public and the SAU's governing body must review and evaluate the analysis and supporting materials.

## Step 3: Governing Body Vote

- Within 30 days of the public hearing, the governing body of the SAU must vote.
- By majority vote, the body may determine that alternative breakfast delivery is not financially or logistically viable.
- If approved, the SAU officially opts out of Breakfast After the Bell.

## Step 4: Notify Maine DOE

- The SAU's governing body must notify Maine DOE Child Nutrition of the decision to opt out.
- The opt-out is valid for 2 years and must be renewed before the end of the second school year.
- Renewal requires repeating the opt-out process and documentation.

## Reporting an Opt-Out

1. In CNPweb, ensure that:
  - Question #59 and Question #60 in the individual school's site application are answered correctly to reflect the opt-out status.
2. Be prepared to provide additional documentation:
  - DOE Child Nutrition may request copies of the public hearing notice, cost-benefit analysis, governing body vote minutes, and notification letter to validate that the process was completed.

# School Kitchen Supplies Mini-Grant - Applications Open!

Peak Season Maine, in partnership with Full Plates Full Potential, is excited to announce the **K-12 School Kitchen Supplies Mini-Grant** program. These grants provide up to **\$4,000 per school district** to help purchase kitchen equipment and supplies that make it easier to prepare and serve more Maine-grown foods in school meals.

## Key details:

- **Application deadline:** September 15, 2025
- **Eligible applicants:** Public K-12 school districts in Maine (applications must be submitted by School Nutrition Directors)
- **Award amount:** Up to \$4,000 per district
- **Use of funds:** Kitchen equipment and supplies that improve your ability to prepare, store, and serve Maine-grown foods

The Request for Applications (RFA) is attached, with full details on eligibility, approved vendors, and examples of allowable equipment.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [jessie@peakseasonmaine.com](mailto:jessie@peakseasonmaine.com)

## Native Maine Update on Buy American Exception Tracking:

We've been working with our 3rd party IT partners on making changes to our system since the beginning of last year, to reflect country of origin and therefore domestic vs nondomestic.

We are proud to announce our invoices will be updated with that info by mid September. We can still send out Domestic Verification lists and / or District Recap Reports for those who have confirmed wanting them.

Thank you! - Nichole, [nicholen@nativeme.com](mailto:nicholen@nativeme.com)



# Farm & Sea to School Events

Email Katie Knowles with any questions [Katie.Knowles@maine.gov](mailto:Katie.Knowles@maine.gov)



## MAINE HARVEST LUNCH WEEK

September 15th-19th, 2025

### **Celebrate Local Food with Maine Harvest Lunch Week!**

For over 20 years, Maine Harvest Lunch Week (MHLW) has brought schools together to support local farmers and teach students about the importance of Maine's food system. Held during the third week of September (September 15-19th), MHLW encourages schools to serve fresh, seasonal, Maine-grown meals and get creative with activities that highlight the value of eating local. From farm visits and taste tests to menu planning and farmer meet-and-greets, students across the state learn where their food comes from—and why it matters.

If you are celebrating Maine Harvest Lunch Week & want to share, please email [katie.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov)

# Farm & Sea to School Events

Email **Katie Knowles** with any questions [Katie.Knowles@maine.gov](mailto:Katie.Knowles@maine.gov)



## Maine

### Apple Crunch Day

October 15th, 2025

#### **Get Ready to CRUNCH!**

Celebrate Maine farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities by joining the 1st Annual Maine Apple Crunch this October! At noon on Wednesday, October 15th, schools and communities across the state will bite into crisp, local apples together in a statewide CRUNCH. This fun, educational event highlights the importance of fresh, local food in school cafeterias and teaches students where their food comes from. Participating is easy: buy, serve, and CRUNCH into a Maine-grown apple!

Click [HERE](#) to Register

Click [HERE](#) to view our Apple Crunch Toolkit!

# State Local Foods Fund- Changes & Updates

Starting in **October**, changes to Maine's Local Foods Fund (LFF) will go into effect! This includes:

- State Local Foods Fund Claims will be **back in CNP Web!**
- **New** Claim Sheet!
- **New** higher reimbursement rate!
  - 50% reimbursement (previously 33%)
- **New** higher maximum reimbursement amount!
  - **\$10,000** per year (up from \$5,000)

That means if you claim in September (via email) you will receive the old reimbursement rate! Therefore, it is recommended you wait until October and submit with your claim to maximize your reimbursement!

In order to file a LFF claim in October, you must view our new training slides (or video coming to website soon!) and fill out an [attestation statement](#) that you understand the new changes! please email [katie.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov) with any questions!

# Child Nutrition Training

**AI of any kind will be removed  
from the virtual training.**

The links to register are in the training titles.  
(unless otherwise noted)

**We are unable to hold virtual and in person  
training simultaneously.**

All of our webinars are recorded and put on our  
website within a week of the training.

**If there is a registration fee - Per Maine DOE  
policy, payment is due by credit card at the time  
of registration.**

**Please mark your calendars once  
you have registered.**

# Webinars

## Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program

September 9, 2025

1:30pm

This webinar is intended for schools participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in SY 2026. Please note, this is different than the DOD fresh program! Come learn all about the FFVP, including allowable costs, tracking your spending and best practices. We will also discuss any new changes to the program for SY 2026.

## Top 10 Most Common Program Findings

September 29, 2025

1:30pm

Those recurring challenges and areas that often come under scrutiny during evaluations, audits, and reviews.

Whether you're looking to improve your program's outcomes, prevent common pitfalls, or simply stay ahead of the curve, this session will provide valuable insights that can help you optimize your work. We'll be covering everything from financial mismanagement to reporting inconsistencies, and we'll discuss practical solutions to address these findings effectively.

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## **Civil Rights Training**

The Civil Rights training can be found on the [Civil Rights](#) page of our website. Scroll past the Non-discrimination statements to the Civil Rights Training dropdown.

# SY2026 Review Training

Is your district up for an Administrative & Procurement Review this year? Come learn what the review process involves, and how to successfully prepare for your review.

**September 11, 2025**

9:00-12:30

Registration begins at 8:30

Child Nutrition Office  
Deering Building, Room 101  
90 Blossom Lane  
Augusta

**IN PERSON  
TRAINING!**

## Verification Training

This training will cover the Verification process.

- \*When the process should be started;
- \*How to complete the process more easily;
- \*The time line for completion;
- \*Uploading into CNPWeb

**September 23, 2025**

1:00-3:30

Registration begins at 12:30

Child Nutrition Office  
Deering Building, Room 101  
90 Blossom Lane  
Augusta

# ServSafe Exam

**2:00pm**

October 20, 2025

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

Augusta

Arrive early, testing begins promptly at 2:00. Bring photo ID (you will not be able to take the exam if you do not have your ID), pens or pencils, erasers.

Once test has begun no late arrivals will be allowed to take the exam.

**Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by  
credit card at the time of registration.**

# Fall Info Meeting

October 23, 2025

9:00am - 3:00pm

Registration begins at 8:30am

## University of Maine, Orono - Wells Conference Center

- Hear the latest DOE Updates to keep us aligned with state and federal priorities.
- Learn more about the Regional Local Foods Project and explore its possibilities.
- Discuss rules and best practices around Bulk Milk Service to ensure safe and compliant operations.
- Go over the ins and outs of the new Buy American Tracking Requirement, providing clarity on compliance and implementation.
- ...and more, as we look at ways to strengthen and streamline our programs.

This meeting is designed not only to share information but also to foster conversation.

Registration deadline - **October 15, 2025**

Use this [link](#) to register

Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by credit card at the time of registration.

# Basic Sanitation Training

david.hartley@maine.gov

**This is NOT ServSafe**

**This class is intended for Kitchen Staff doing the daily tasks.**

October 10, 2025

8:30am

Old Town High School  
203 Stillwater Avenue, Old Town

This will be a three (3) hour class pertaining to the daily activities School Nutrition staff completed. At the end of the class (approximately 12:00pm) there will be a short test.

**[Click HERE to register!](#)**

# ADOPT A COW

for your classroom  
this school year!

» [discoverdairy.com/adopt](https://discoverdairy.com/adopt)



Looking for creative ways to build excitement in your school cafeteria? Sign up for the FREE Adopt a Cow program for the 2025-26 school year! Adopt a cow for your cafeteria, make farm-to-table connections, and learn all about dairy nutrition.

The Discover Dairy “Adopt a Cow” program is an exciting, year-long experience for your classroom. Throughout the program, you’ll get an inside look at dairy farming and be paired with a calf from a working Maine dairy farm. You’ll find out what her name is, when her birthday is, where she lives, and how the farmer takes care of her. You’ll also receive progress updates, photos of the cow, live chats from the farm, activity sheets for your students, suggested lessons that follow Common CORE standards, and even opportunities to write letters to your calf! All updates are easily accessible via an online portal and app for Apple and Android.

You have until **September 15** to enroll in the free program!

➔ Learn more: [discoverdairy.com/adopt](https://discoverdairy.com/adopt)

# **Shout Outs!!**

Don't forget to send Paula your  
Shout Outs!!

Please remember to have a  
signed consent form on file if  
you are submitting pictures  
with students.

[Paula.Nadeau@Maine.gov](mailto:Paula.Nadeau@Maine.gov)