

A background image of a school cafeteria with students in a line. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent filter. A horizontal blue line is positioned across the middle of the image, passing behind the main title.

**MAINE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**
Child Nutrition Programs

DOE **Updates & Reminders**

Welcome Our New Staff Members

Kobi Chase and
Shawn Perry
to the
CACFP team!



Child Nutrition Home

Programs

CNPWeb/NEO

Student Eligibility &
Applications

Financial

Legal References

Webinars and Training

Contact Us

Child Nutrition



A hungry child cannot learn. The Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition is proud to support several federal programs for the health and well-being of Maine's children and youth. Each of these programs helps fight hunger and obesity by reimbursing organizations such as schools, childcare centers, and after-school programs for providing healthy meals to children. Resources for school food service professionals as well as access to guidance and regulatory information, are provided here to support these programs. Child Nutrition oversees several United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services programs and initiatives that provide healthy food to children.



[Join the Child Nutrition Mailing List](#)

[Join the CACFP Mailing List](#)



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



CHILD NUTRITION **THURSDAY UPDATE**

The Thursday Update is where we share all our important information!

Previous updates are available on our website

The link to the Thursday Update is sent out to the listserv, please read thoroughly.

Training information and registration links are in the Thursday Update

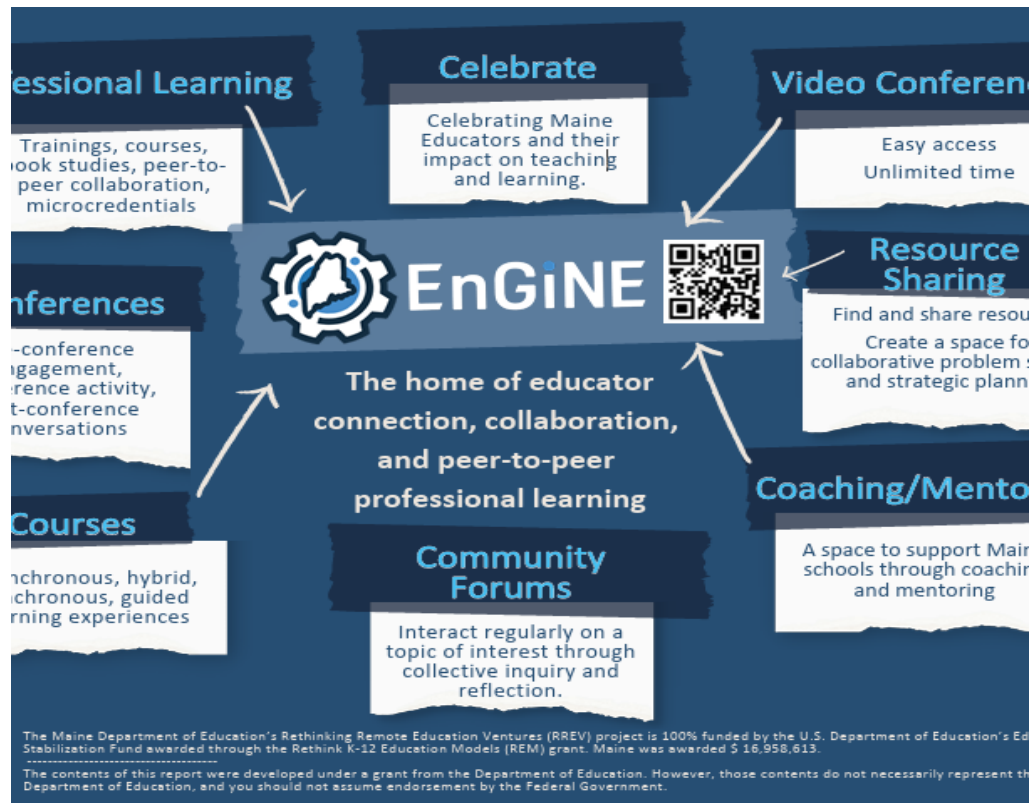
Speaking of the List Serv.....

They are discontinuing the service at the end of the year..... :-)

But, we have found a new service that will be great, called EnGiNE!

Hosted by our own RREV Team at the DOE!

Watch the Thursday Update for more information



Upcoming Trainings and Events

Upcoming Webinars

USDA Foods
October 27, 2025
1:30PM

Train the Trainer
November 24, 2025
1:30PM

Afterschool Snack and
CACFP At Risk
December 15, 2025
1:30PM

Serv Safe Class & Exam

November 24 8am-3pm
November 25 8am – noon
Child Nutrition Office

Serv Safe Exam

January 27, 2026
Child Nutrition Office

Financial Open Office

Time Study/Labor Hours
November 13, 2025
1:30PM

Farm to School and Local Foods

The Good Crust
November 13, 2025

Seafood in the School Kitchen
December 16, 2025

Annual Financial Report



Program Year 2025 AFR

To Date there are **10 reports in error, 38 reports that need correction and 9 who have not started yet.**

AFR's must be submitted without error by **11/1/2025** to receive their October Claim Payment

Instructions are provided in the Help tab of CNPWeb

If you are unsure of your status, you can see Paula or Jodi at the registration table



Verification

For schools that collect F/R
Meal Applications

Verification of F/R
Applications starts October 1
Must be completed by
November 15

Recorded training available
here:

[https://www.maine.gov/doe/
schools/nutrition/studenteligi
bility](https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/studenteligibility)

Civil Rights Statements and Public Releases

It is required that the full Federal and State non-discrimination statements be on nutrition program websites.

Schools participating in the Child Nutrition Programs are required to post a Public Release of participation in the programs per 7 CFR 245.5.

This can be done by:

- Submission to local newspaper
- Posting on district website





CIVIL RIGHTS COURSE UPDATE

Civil Rights course will undergo a period of revision by USDA. Starting **October 10, 2025**, the Civil Rights course will be temporarily unavailable.

Thank you for your patience while we receive the updates and make these important improvements. Guidance and information regarding Civil Rights can be found by clicking below.

ICN Civil Rights Training

- ICN's Civil Rights course reflects the USDA, FNS, Civil Rights Division's review from Spring 2023; however, portions of the material are not aligned with recent policy changes.

Professional Development

STAFFING LEVEL	Yearly Hours
Director	12
Manager	10
All Other Staff	6
Part Time Staff, Less than 20 hours a week	4
Acting Temp Personnel	4

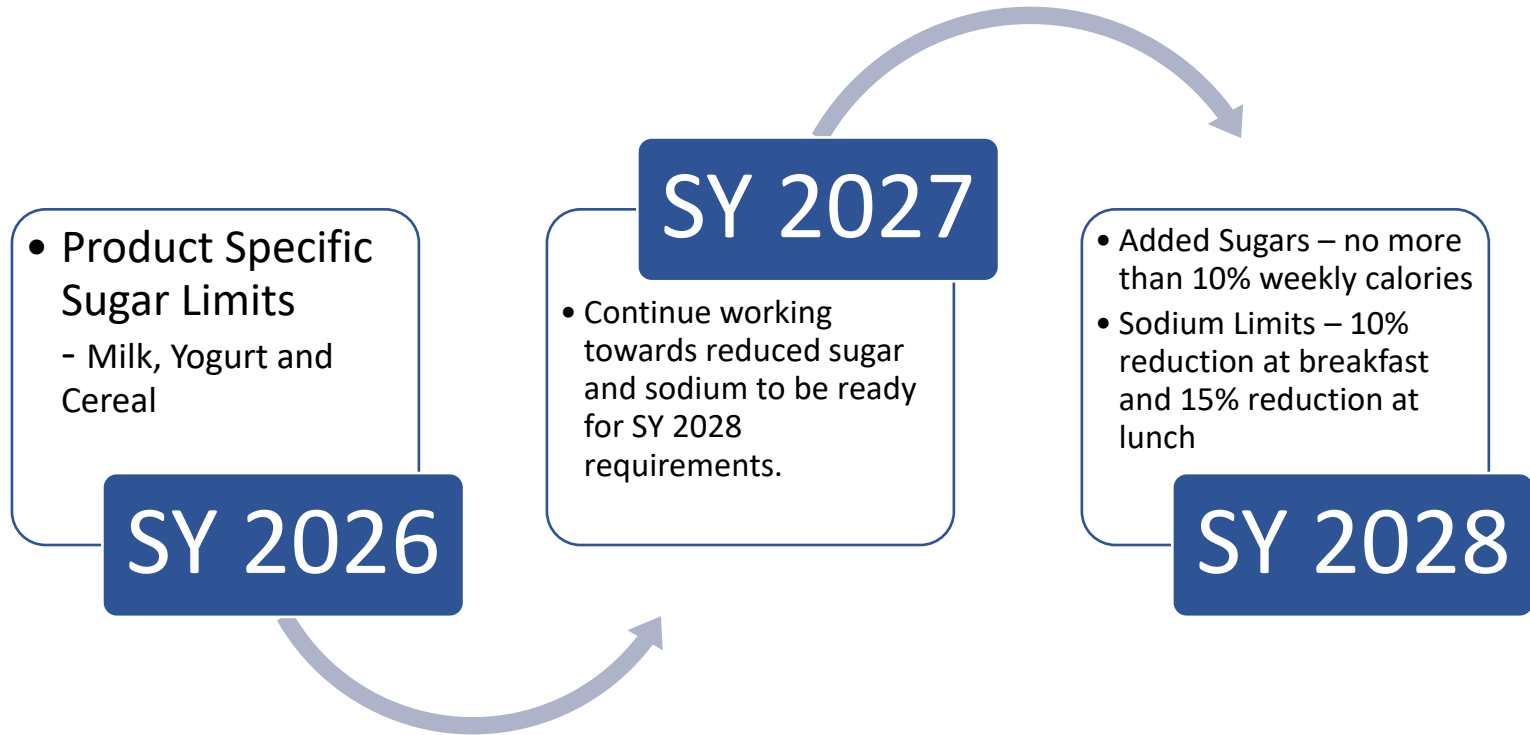
Recorded Trainings

- We are currently in the process of updating our library of recorded trainings.
- Recorded trainings can be found here on our website:

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

Let us know if you have and ideas or requests for future training topics!

Dietary Guidelines Timeline



M/MA at breakfast and product sugar limits

M/MA at Breakfast

- Grains and M/MA are now interchangeable at breakfast.
- If serving PreK separately you need to follow the CACFP meal pattern and M/MA can only replace the grains up to 3 days a week

SY 2026 Sugar Limits

- Flavored Milk:
10g per 8 fl oz
- Yogurt: 12g per 6oz
- Cereal: 6g per dry ounce

2025 Farm to School Cookoff

Congratulations to The Flavor Knights of RSU 60-
David Vargas and Andre Roy, the 2025 Farm to
School Cook-Off Champions!



Thank you to our Teams!

Madawaska Public Schools

RSU 33

RSU 52

MSAD 27

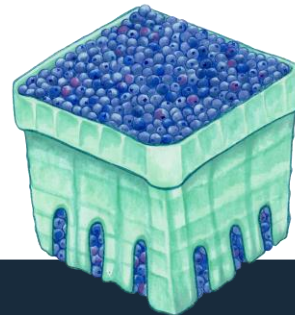
RSU 17

RSU 21

RSU 60

Farm to School Cook-Off 2026!

- Two-person team: child nutrition staff member and one other school person (student, teacher, etc.).
 - Extra points if student is part of team!
- Teams can choose own recipe, or pick from our resource library
- Interest form coming soon!
 - Goal is 4 regions: north, south, east, west
- Local, challenge ingredients:
 - Breakfast: wild blueberries
 - Lunch: ground beef





1st Apple Crunch Day Event

Legislative Updates

from 132nd Leg First Special Session

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 258, L.D. 577,

“An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools” Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's School Meals Programs' Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Committee Amendment to S.P.258 L.D 577

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment provides that a public school or private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least 60% publicly funded students and that participates in the National School Lunch Program in accordance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 (2007) that serves breakfast and lunch **must** maximize the amount of federal reimbursement the school receives in order to receive state funding. The amendment requires the Department of Education to **annually communicate** school food service program options to participating schools to maximize federal funding in the school food service program. A school that does not enroll in a school food service program option provided by the department may not receive state funding. The amendment also provides state funding for eligible schools.

Legislative Updates

Proposed changes for upcoming session:
132nd Second Special Session

Requested a repeal of the meal debt language

Submitted revision to reword some of the Breakfast after the Bell Language

Working with DHHS, to use the SUNBucks Application to replace Nutralink starting next year

Federal Government Shutdown

Shutdown started on October 1st

Now in the 23rd day of the shutdown

It is now the 2nd longest shutdown in history

For us, funds are trickling in and we are good with our funding streams for now. We have received funds for reimbursements for October Claims for both NSLP and CACFP as well as funds to keep our office open.



Loss of SNAP Funding

- Share with families that Child Nutrition still has its funding and remind them that meals to children are complimentary
- Encourage families to fill out F/R Benefit forms if their circumstances have changed, to leverage federal funds
- Prepare for an uptick in participation
- Collect information to share about places for families to receive food and services during the lapse of funding
- <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/news/due-federal-government-shutdown-usda-notifies-states-snap-benefits-wont-be-issued-november-tue-10212025-1200>



Questions

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form* which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

(1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

(2) fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email:

program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

(Federal statement updated 5/18/2022)

State

The Maine Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, religion, ancestry or national origin.

Complaints of discrimination must be filed at the office of the Maine Human Rights Commission, 51 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0051. If you wish to file a discrimination complaint electronically, visit the Human Rights Commission website at <https://www.maine.gov/mhrc/file/instructions> and complete an intake questionnaire. Maine is an equal opportunity provider and employer.