



Look How Much We've Grown!

Celebrating Child Nutrition in Maine

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Maine DOE Child Nutrition



RSU 14 (Windham Raymond)



Kittery School District, Maine



National School Lunch Program

**Richard B. Russell
National School Lunch Act
June 4, 1946**



NSLP was created as “a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s children and to encourage the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities.”

School Breakfast Program

School Breakfast Program

Pilot Begins: October 11, 1966

Permanent: 1975



President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 establishing the School Breakfast Program, stating “good nutrition is essential to good learning.”

Special Milk Program

Special Milk Program

October 11, 1966

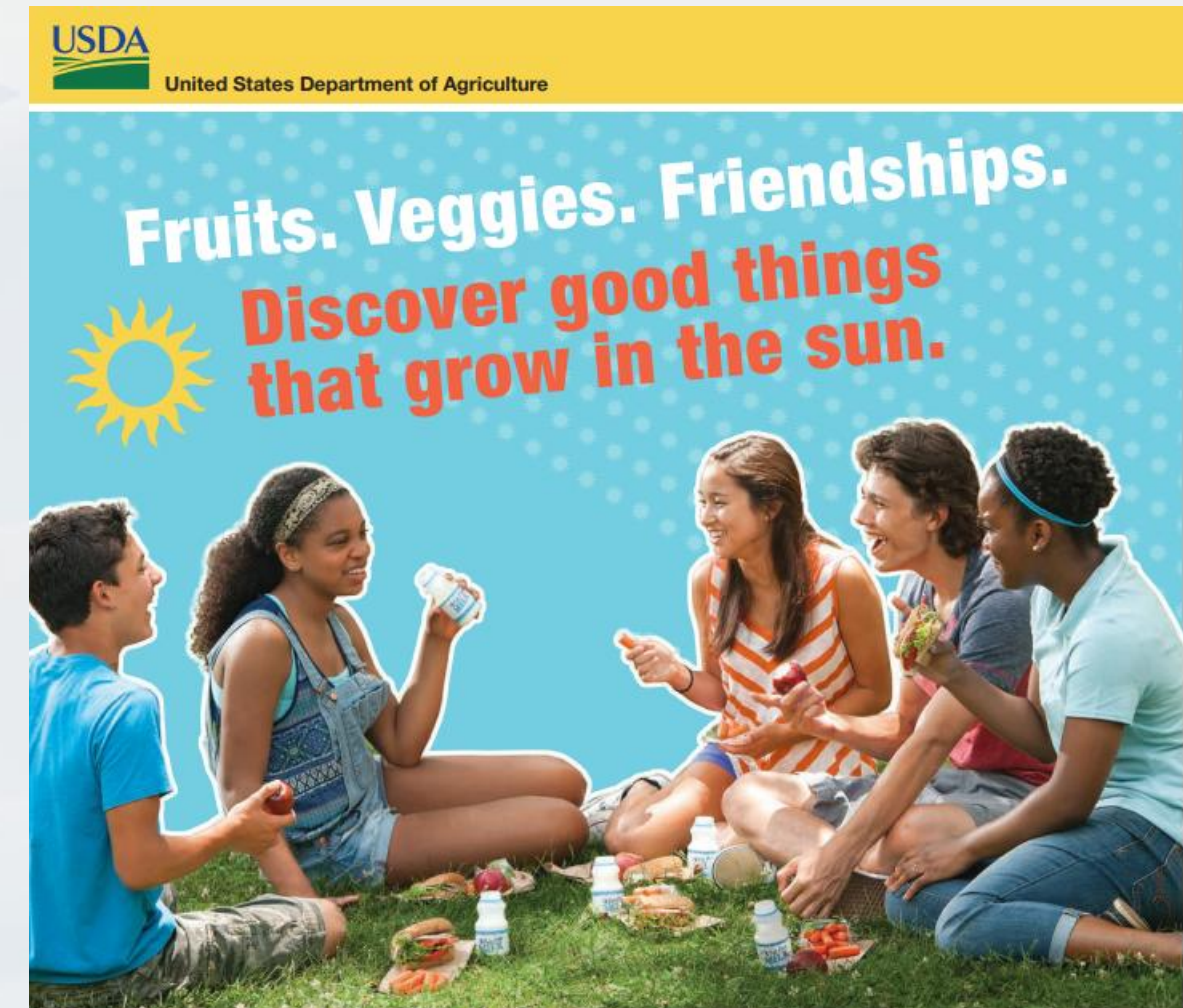


Child Nutrition Act of 1966 also established the Special Milk Program

Summer Food Service Program

Summer Food Service Program

3 Year Pilot began 1968
Permanent Program 1975



The pilot, which had two components: child care and summer, provided grants to states to assist in providing meals to children when school was not in session.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Child and Adult Care Food Program

3 Year Pilot with extensions began 1968
Authorized 1975
Permanent Program 1978



The name was officially changed to the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in 1989 to reflect the adult component of this program.

Our Programs Support the Whole Student

School **Breakfast** Program (SBP)

National School **Lunch** Program (NSLP)

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

After School **Snack** Program (ASSP)

Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP)

CACFP At-risk **Supper** and **Weekend Meals**

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/SUN Meals

Seamless **Summer** Option (SSO)

Pandemic EBT and **Summer** EBT/SUN Bucks in partnership with DHHS



National Milestones



1962 – National School Lunch Week

1989 – National School Breakfast Week

1998 – Afterschool Snack in NSLP

2004 – Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act – Local School Wellness Policies

2008 – Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

National Milestones



2010 – Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act: Food based meal pattern with whole grains, fruits and vegetable variety, lean protein and low-fat dairy

2010 – Direct Certification with Medicaid pilot established

2011 – Community Eligibility Provision pilot; Nationwide in 2014

2014 – Smart Snacks

2015 – Professional Standards

National Milestones

2020 – 2022/2023 – Nationwide Waivers to support COVID-19 pandemic

2023 – USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative

2024 – CEP Threshold decreased to 25%

2024 – Nutrition standards updated to address added sugars, sodium and add menu planning flexibilities

2024 – Geographic preference and Buy American

January 14, 2026 – Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025

2026 – Harvest to Hallways

Maine Legislation

2006 – Local Produce Fund established

2007 – First State Law that prohibits brand specific advertising in schools for unhealthy products

2007 – Nutrition/calorie posting requirements

2008 - LD 1997 An Act To Fully Fund School Breakfast from Kindergarten to Grade 12

2014 – LD 1353 An Act to Further Reduce Student Hunger



Maine Legislation

2018

An Act to Prevent Food Shaming in Maine's Public Schools

An Act Regarding the Providing of Human Food Waste to Swine Producers

Resolve, To Reduce Food Waste in Schools



Maine Legislation



LD 701 – An Act to Modernize the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

1159 – Resolve to End Hunger in Maine by 2030

Local Produce Fund received funding and Maine Farm and Sea to School Coordinator position created

2019 – Funding included in Maine's budget to cover the cost of reduced-price lunches

Maine Legislation

An Act To Address Student Hunger with a "Breakfast after the Bell" Program

577 – An Act To Increase Access to Nutritious Foods in Schools by Implementing an After-school Food Program for At-risk Students



You make a difference

2017 - The National School Lunch Program is the largest federal child nutrition program and the second-largest single source of federal funding for elementary and secondary schools.

2020 – School Nutrition Programs pivot on a dime and provide meals that fuel remote learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic



COVID-19 Response



Maine Thanks School Nutrition Teams Across Maine for Their Efforts Through COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY1wKGXAfdI>

114 Nationwide Waivers

Non-Congregate

Parent Guardian Pick-up

Mealtime Flexibility

SFSP During School Year

Meal Pattern Flexibility

Area Eligibility

Maine Legislation 2020 to present

Expansion of local produce
fund to the local foods fund

State Equipment Grant and
Dietary Accommodations

Key:
*** eligible if it is on approved processor list
eligible product
ineligible product
^ All meat and poultry must be slaughtered in a USDA or State inspected slaughterhouse.

Category	Food	LFF (State) Grown OR Produced in ME
Dairy	Value-added dairy (Cheese, yogurt, sour cream)	
Dairy	Fluid milk	x
Grain	Pizza dough	
Grain	Rice, pasta	
Other	Beans & legumes	
Other	Honey & maple syrup	
Other	Marinara	
Other	Processed and value-added foods	***
Produce	Minimally processed foods	
Produce	Fruits and vegetables (whole, cut, pureed)	
Produce	100% Juice (pasturized)	
Protein	Apple cider (pasturized)	
Protein	Tofu & tempeh	
Protein	Livestock (whole animals for slaughter) ^	
Protein	Beef and pork (ground, patties, steaks) ^	
Protein	Processed meat (hot dogs, sausages) ^	***
Protein	Poultry (Boneless or bone-in) ^	
Protein	Fresh or frozen fish	

Meals At No Cost



[About](#) [Find Food](#) [Meal Providers](#) [Advocacy](#) [Ways to Give](#)



[Policy Home](#)

School Meals for All: A Historic Win

On July 1, 2021, Governor Janet Mills signed School Meals for All into law. Maine became among the first states in the nation to guarantee equal access to school meals for all students! This historic moment was decades in the making and affirmed that providing our students with full plates

Meals At No Cost



Maine becomes the second state in the nation to fund meals at no cost for public school students in schools that participate in NSLP

Maine DOE must ensure schools use the program type that brings in the most federal funds to the state – CEP/SP 2

LD 2064 beginning SY 2028 – Public Preschools: grant funds outside of child nutrition

How We've Grown

	Total School Breakfast	Average Daily Breakfast	Total School Lunch	Average Daily Lunch
SY 2019	8,409,406	40,207	15,372,074	73,437
SY 2026	11,011,414	56,083	18,509,197	92,135
	2.6 million increase	39.5% increase	3.1 million increase	25.5% increase

School Meals are Nutritious



Students consume more whole grains, milk, fruits, and vegetables during mealtimes and have better overall diet quality when they eat school meals

After the passage of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act in 2010, which included stronger school and early care nutrition standards, research has found significant improvements in the nutritional quality of school food

Between 2003 and 2018 – the proportion of poor nutritional quality food consumed from schools was cut by more than half



United States Department of Agriculture

School Meals Are More Nutritious After Updated Nutrition Standards



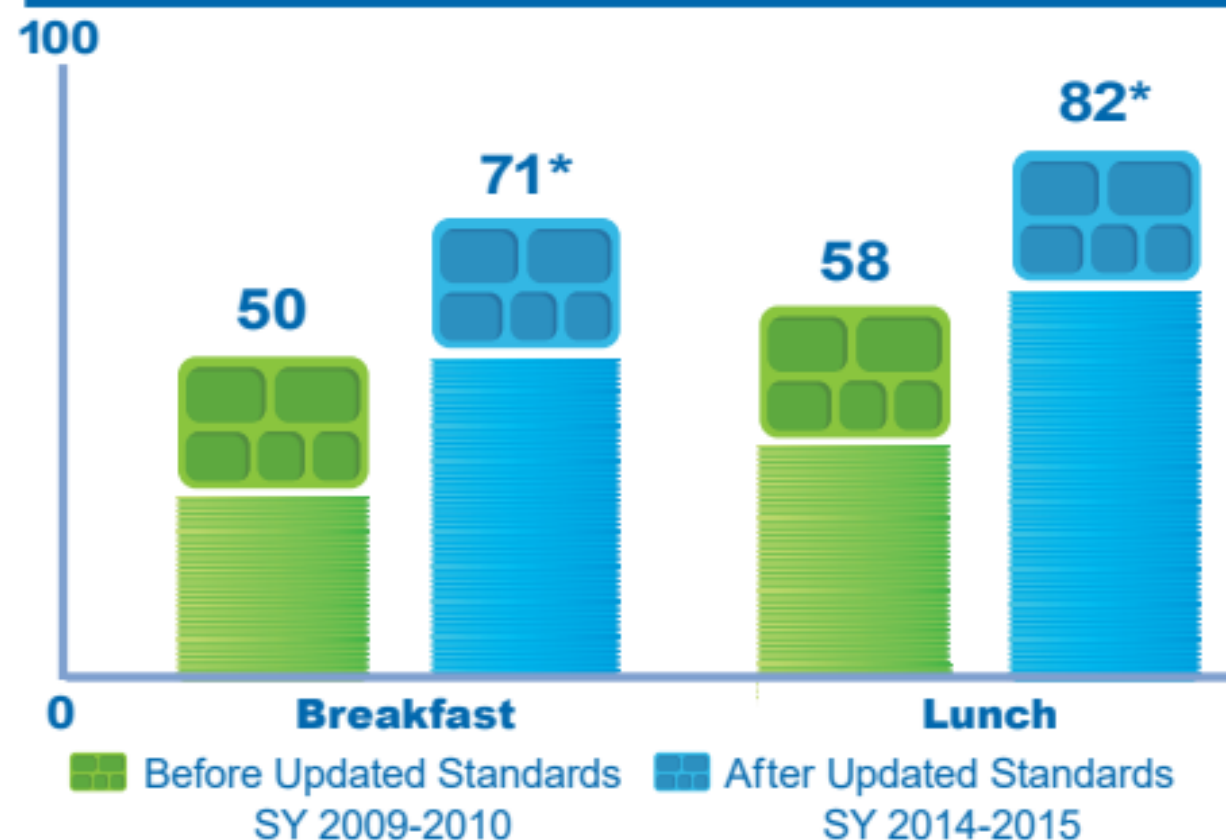
The Healthy Eating Index (HEI) assigns scores to meals based on how consistent they are with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Higher scores indicate higher nutritional quality.



The HEI includes a total score and separate scores for different components of a healthy diet.

Average Total HEI Scores of Schools Meals



The updated nutrition standards went into effect in school year (SY) 2012-2013.
*Difference between SY 2009-2010 and SY 2014-2015 is statistically significant.

Maine Nutrition -- 2025 MIYHS 5-6 Report



Questions	Answers of Interest	Maine 2025 95% CI*	Maine 2023 95% CI*
Yesterday, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice) (en64/en64)	Percentage of students who ate fruit 2 or more times yesterday	67.3% (65.7% - 68.8%)	54.9% (52.4% - 57.4%)
Yesterday, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice) (en64_2/en64_2)	Percentage of students who ate less than 1 fruit yesterday	15.7% (14.6% - 16.9%)	22.2% (20.0% - 24.5%)
Yesterday, how many times did you eat vegetables, such as carrots, green salad, corn, or green beans? (Do not count french fries or other fried potatoes.) (enoneveg/enoneveg)	Percentage of students who ate vegetables less than 1 time yesterday	19.7% (18.5% - 20.9%)	22.2% (20.0% - 24.4%)

Yesterday, how many times did you eat vegetables, such as carrots, green salad, corn, or green beans? (Do not count french fries or other fried potatoes.) (enveg_2/enveg_2)	Percentage of students who ate vegetables three or more times yesterday	33.1% (31.8% - 34.5%)	28.5% (26.3% - 30.7%)
Fruit and Vegetables: at least five servings daily excluding juice (enfrvg_3/enfrvg_3)	Percentage of students who ate fruit and/or vegetables five or more times per day yesterday	43.6% (41.9% - 45.3%)	34.6% (31.7% - 37.5%)



Maine

Nutrition -- 2025 MIYHS Middle School Report

Questions	Answers of Interest	Maine 2025 95% CI*	Maine 2023 95% CI*
During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice.) (mn116/mn116)	Percentage of students who ate fruit two or more times per day during the past seven days	41.6% (40.0% - 43.2%)	29.3% (27.8% - 30.9%)
During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice.) (mn116_2/mn116_2)	Percentage of students who ate fruit less than 1 time per day during the past seven days	46.3% (44.6% - 48.1%)	58.2% (56.4% - 60.0%)

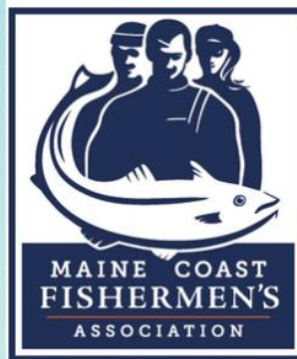
Vegetables: at least three servings daily (mnveg/mnveg)	Percentage of students who ate vegetables three or more times per day during the past seven days	20.2% (19.2% - 21.2%)	14.2% (13.2% - 15.2%)
Vegetables: less than one serving daily (mnoneveg/mnoneveg)	Percentage of students who ate vegetables less than 1 time per day during the past seven days	45.6% (43.9% - 47.4%)	51.6% (49.8% - 53.5%)
Fruit and Vegetables: at least five servings daily (mnfrvg_2/mnfrvg_2)	Percentage of students who ate fruit and/or ate vegetables five or more times per day during the past seven days	23.0% (21.8% - 24.2%)	14.4% (13.4% - 15.4%)

Maine Nutrition -- 2025 MIYHS High School Report



Questions	Answers of Interest	Maine 2025 95% CI*	Maine 2023 95% CI*
During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice.) (hn157/hn157)	Percentage of students who ate fruit two or more times per day during the past seven days	33.4% (31.9% - 34.8%)	23.8% (22.4% - 25.2%)
During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat fruit? (Do not count fruit juice.) (hn157_2/hn157_2)	Percentage of students who ate fruit less than 1 time per day during the past seven days	53.5% (51.8% - 55.2%)	63.5% (61.7% - 65.2%)
During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat vegetables, such as carrots, green salad, corn, or green beans? (Do not count french fries or other fried potatoes.) (hnveg/hnveg)	Percentage of students who ate vegetables three or more times per day during the past seven days	14.5% (13.8% - 15.1%)	10.5% (9.8% - 11.1%)

During the past 7 days, how many times did you eat vegetables, such as carrots, green salad, corn, or green beans? (Do not count french fries or other fried potatoes.) (hnoneveg/hnoneveg)	Percentage of students who ate vegetables less than 1 time per day during the past seven days	49.5% (47.7% - 51.2%)	55.2% (53.2% - 57.1%)
Fruit and Vegetables: at least five servings daily (hnfrvg_2/hnfrvg_2)	Percentage of students who ate fruit and/or vegetables five or more times per day during the past seven days	16.4% (15.6% - 17.2%)	10.5% (9.7% - 11.2%)



***Maine Fish in
Maine Schools***

**MAINE
FARM & SEA
TO SCHOOL
NETWORK**



**USDA School Food System
Transformation Challenge**

Bringing More Local Foods to Maine Schools

Maine Loves Local

**Local Food
Switchboard**





MAINE
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION **FARM & SEA
TO SCHOOL**

MAINE'S LOCAL FOODS FUND

History & Evolution

Bill passed to fund LPF
Schools reimbursed \$1 for
every \$3 spent on local
produce directly
purchased from farm, up
to \$5,000 per district.
Only \$38,438 reimbursed
first year.

LFF expanded to
include value-added
and processed local
foods like bread,
marinara, soup, &
more!

2006

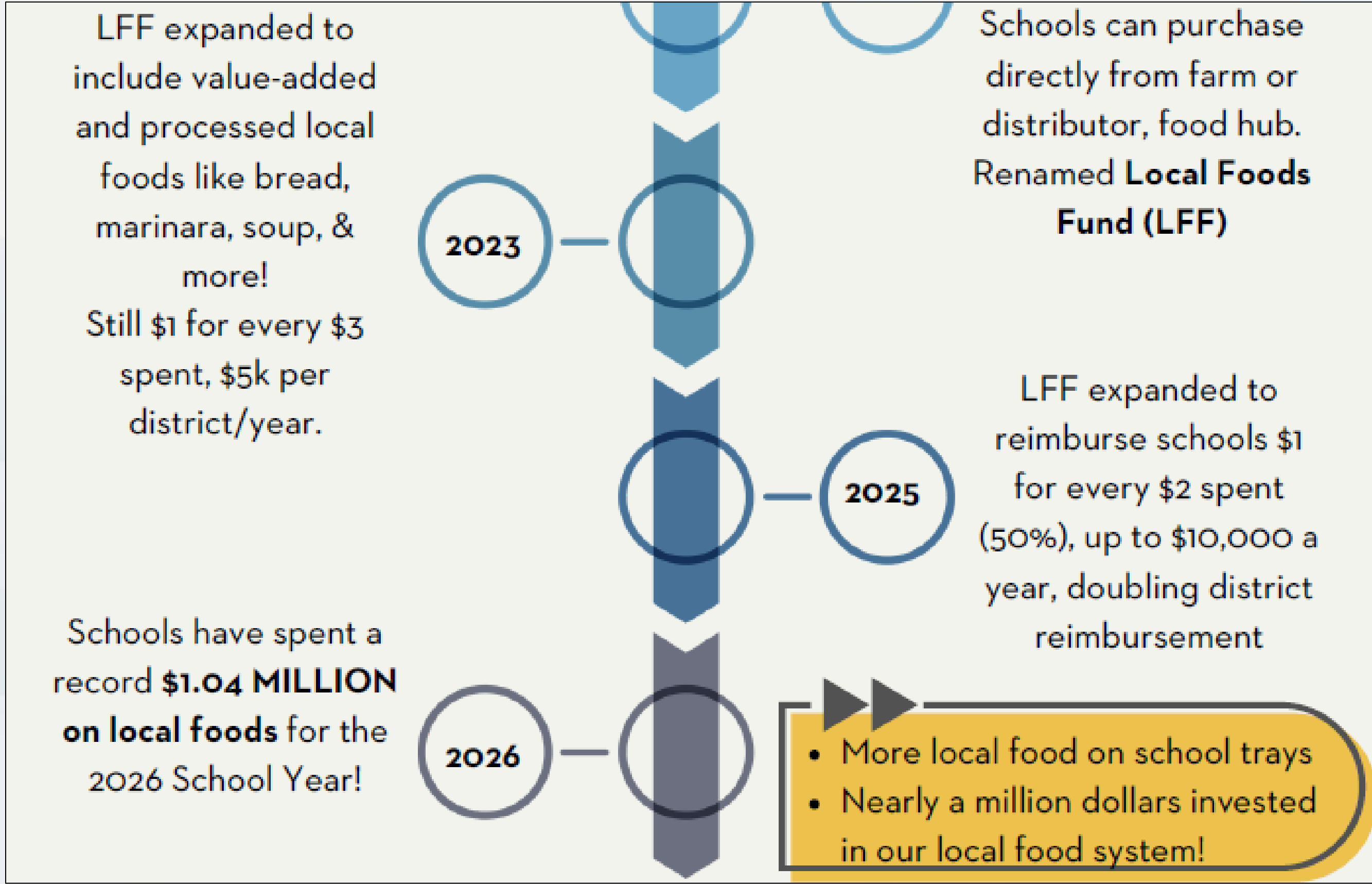
Local Produce Fund (LPF) established but never funded--to reimburse schools \$1 for every \$3 spent on local produce

2019

2021

LPF expanded to include produce, protein, grains, and value-added dairy. Schools can purchase directly from farm or distributor, food hub. Renamed **Local Foods Fund (LFF)**

2023





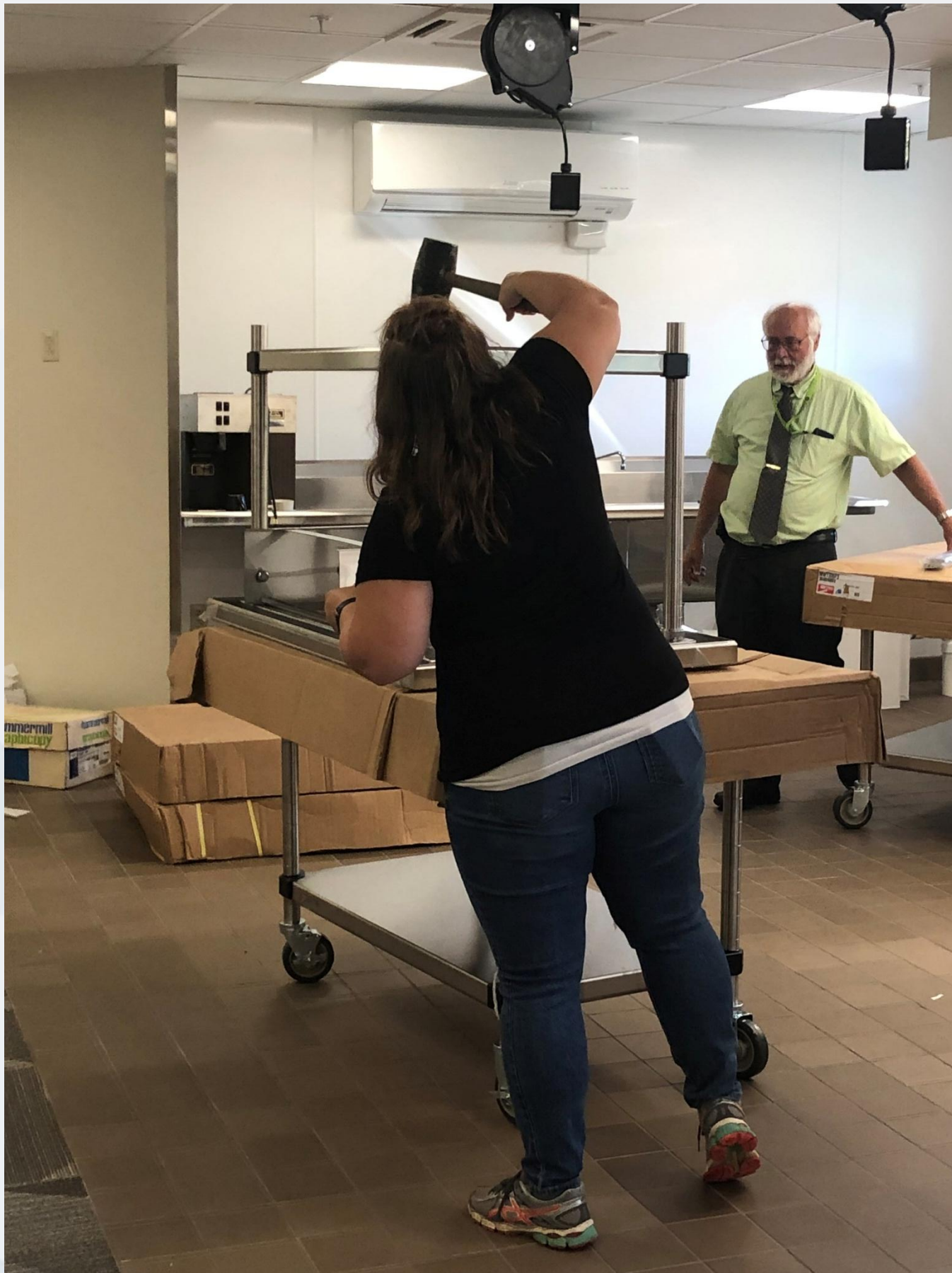
In SY 2023, the total Local Foods Fund reimbursement was \$168,469.26.

- This was the year that value added food products were added to expand use of the fund.

Connect with your Regional Local Foods Coordinator

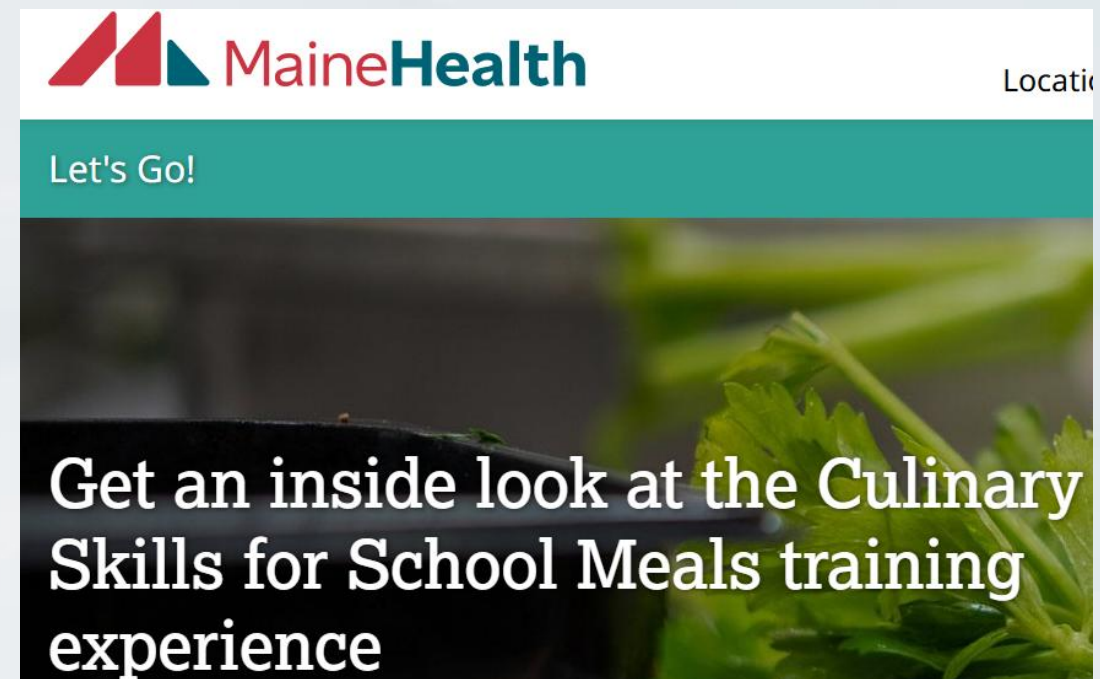
Coordinators can assist with:

- **Building relationships** within Maine's local food chain
- **Identifying local food options** and utilizing Maine's Local Food Fund
- **Participating** in Harvest of the Month (HOM) and Fishermen Feeding Mainers (FFM) programs
- **Navigating** local procurement policies and purchasing pathways
- **Executing** local food taste tests in school cafeterias
- **Developing and evaluating** new scratch-cooking recipes
- **Sharing resources**, tools, and educational materials
- **Planning and assisting** with local-food-focused culinary trainings
- **Building** scratch-cooking skills and kitchen confidence
- **Sharing best practices** utilized across school districts



**MEDIA RELEASE: RSU 22 Wins Maine
DOE 2026 Farm-to-School Cook-
Off Championship**

Culinary Professionals



What about Summer?

2023 – Permanent Rural Non-Congregate Program

2023 – Summer EBT made permanent

2024 – SUN Meals Rebrand



Fuel Your Kids' Summer With SUN Programs!

**USDA's Summer Nutrition
Programs for Kids**

Make this summer unforgettable! SUN Programs offer a variety of nutrition options to keep your kids and teens energized and smiling all summer long.

Healthy Meals Incentives for Schools

[HOME](#) > [PROGRAMS](#) > [MEALS FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE](#) > [HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOLS](#)

► Strengthening School Meal Programs Nationwide

We created the Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Initiative to strengthen school meal programs nationwide by elevating best practices, advancing food systems innovation, recognizing high-performing school food authorities (SFAs), and sharing meaningful technical assistance.



USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Breakfast Trailblazer Awardees

Easton School District

MSAD 1

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Innovation in Nutrition Education

Easton School District

RSU 14

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals

Westbrook School District

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals

RSU 89

RSU 22/MSAD 22

Regional School Unit 40

RSU 10 Western Foothills

Millinocket School

Department

Easton School District

Madawaska School District

MSAD 27

RSU 33/MSAD 33

York School District

Sheepscot Valley RSU 12

Wells - Ogunquit Community School
District

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Innovative School Lunch Makeover

Easton School District

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Lunch Trailblazer Awardees

Easton School District

MSAD 1

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Small or Rural School Food Authority Breakfast Trailblazer Awardees

RSU 87/MSAD 23

Community Regional Charter School

RSU 33/MSAD 33

Madawaska School District

MSAD 27

Easton School District

USDA Healthy Meals Incentives Recognition Awards

Small or Rural School Food Authority Lunch Trailblazer Awardees

Easton School District

MSAD 27

RSU 14

Madawaska School District

RSU 33/MSAD 33

York School District

Community Regional Charter School

RSU 2

AOS 91 Tremont

Millinocket School Department

RSU 89



What do you want to celebrate?

Thank You!



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Maine Department of Education



@mainedepted



@MaineDOEComm



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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

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