



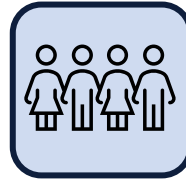
MAINE DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION  
Child Nutrition Programs

# Overview of USDA School Nutrition Programs

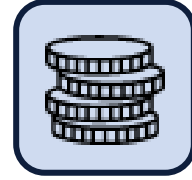
# Objectives



USDA  
SCHOOL MEAL  
PROGRAMS



SPONSOR  
RESPONSIBILITIES  
& PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENTS

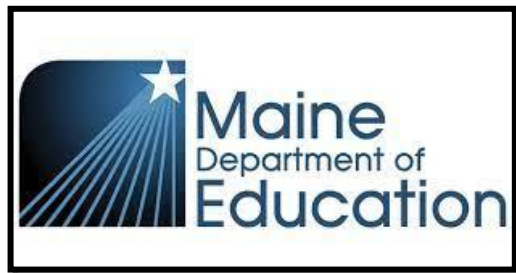


REIMBURSEMENT

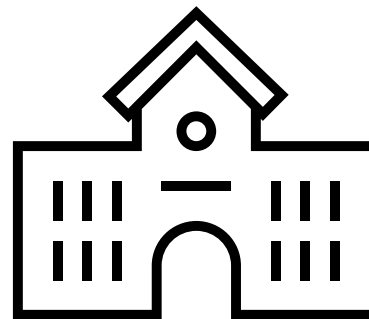
FEDERAL




STATE



SPONSOR

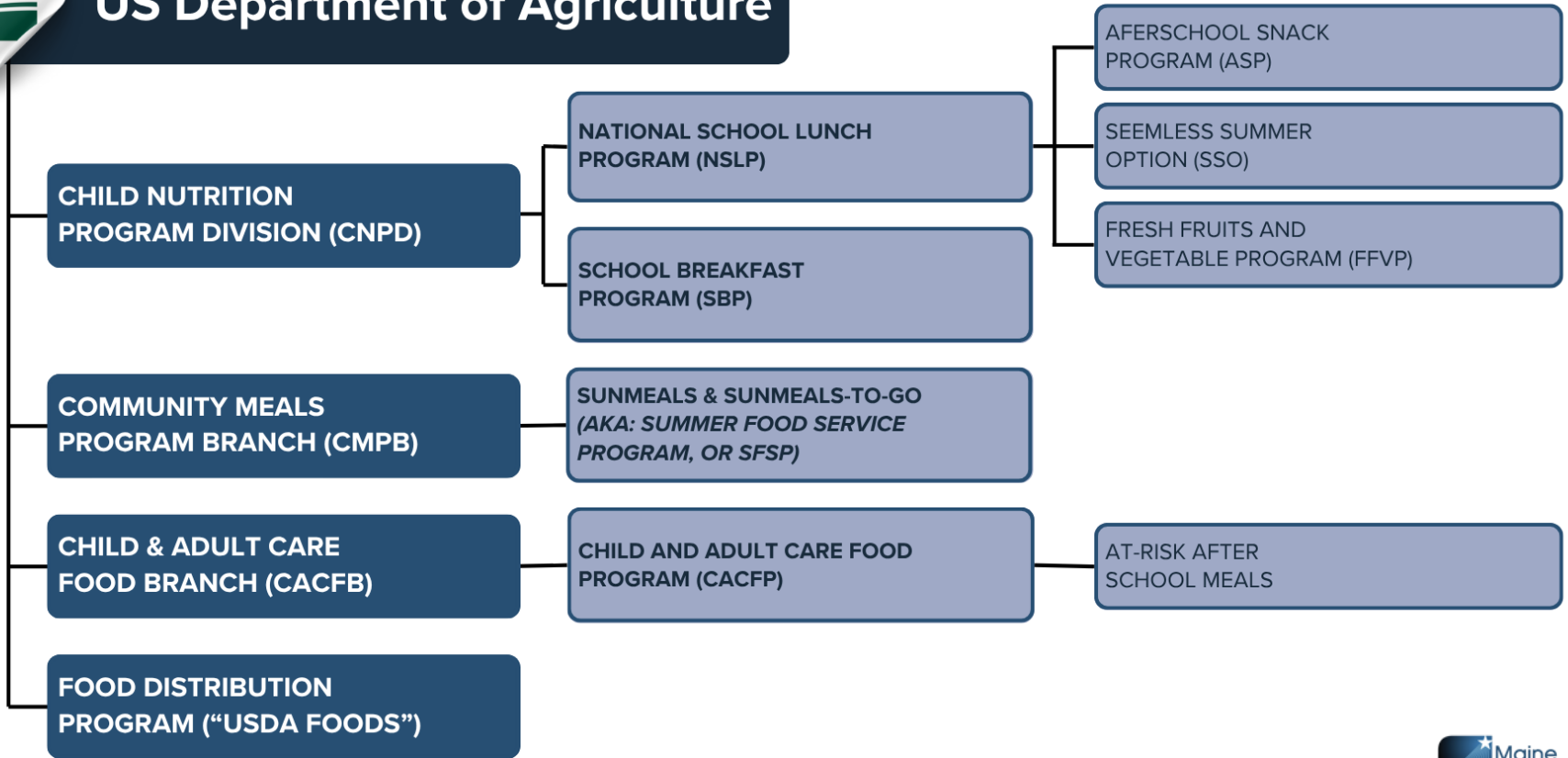


A group of diverse students, including a young girl with blonde hair, a boy with a beard, and a girl with dark hair, are smiling and looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a blue tint. The text is centered over the image.

**Goal: Ensure students have access to nutritious meals and snacks during the school year as well as during the summer months.**



# US Department of Agriculture





# National School Lunch Program

- Offers meals to students during the school day (10:00-2:00)
- Nutrition standards & meal pattern requirements by grade groups
- One complete meal served to student/school day may be reimbursed
- Must be eaten on-site



Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, meat/meat alternate (protein), & low-fat milk must be offered every day



# School Breakfast Program

- Ensures students have a healthy start to the school day
- Nutrition standards and meal pattern requirements by grade groups
- One complete meal served to student/school day may be reimbursed



**DOE/CN Contact:** [Kaitlin.fayle@maine.gov](mailto:Kaitlin.fayle@maine.gov)



# Afterschool Snack Program

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- For NSLP sponsors only
- Offered after the school day ends to school-sponsored enrichment programs
- Reimbursable snack is 2 different food components
  - Ex. 1 oz cereal and 8 oz milk
  - Ex. 1 oz crackers and 1 oz cheese





# Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Program

- Offer fresh fruits/vegetables outside of meal service
- Nutrition education
- K-8 schools may apply
  - Competitive grant, preference given to higher F/R schools

## DOE/CN Contact:

[Stephanie.Stambach@maine.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Stambach@maine.gov)





## SunMeals & SunMeals-to-Go (“SFSP”)

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- Offered in summer months when school is not in session
- Qualifying locations provide meals at no cost to children
- Follow the SFSP meal pattern

**DOE/CN Contact:** [Kaitlin.fayle@maine.gov](mailto:Kaitlin.fayle@maine.gov)





# Seamless Summer Option

- Offered in summer months when school is not in session & unanticipated closures
- Qualifying locations provide meals at no cost to children
- Follow the NSLP meal pattern
- Less administration / Lower reimbursement rate than SFSP





# Food Distribution Program (“USDA Foods”)

- Planned Assistance Level (PAL) - \$ Value
  - USDA Food
  - DOD Fresh
  - Net-Off Invoice (NOI)
- What is on your Annual Order?
- Participating in DOD Fresh? NOI?

**DOE/CN Contact:** [terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov](mailto:terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov)

**USDA FOODS**



HEALTHY CHOICES  
AMERICAN GROWN



## CACFP At-Risk Afterschool (“At-Risk”)

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- Qualifying afterschool programs may serve a snack or a supper meal “super snack” at no charge to children
- At least 50% Free/Reduced eligibility and an afterschool enrichment program


**DOE/CN Contact:** [kobi.chase@maine.gov](mailto:kobi.chase@maine.gov)



# Annual Agreement & Participation Packet

- Annual agreement between the SAU and the SA to participate in federal child nutrition programs
- Completed in CNPweb
- Approved by the State Agency prior to operation of meal service
- Sponsor agrees to:
  - Offer free and reduced-price meals to eligible students
  - Offer meals that meet meal pattern & other requirements
  - Operate a non-profit food service program
  - Not overtly identify or discriminate against any student

# CNPweb

- Child Nutrition Software Program
  - All programs: SNP/FDP/CACFP/SFSP
  - Annual program agreement
  - Monthly Claim for reimbursement
  - Reports

Welcome to 



Child Nutrition  
Maine Department of Education

Sign In

Enter User Id:

Enter Password:

[Forgot User ID?](#)  
Contact Maine DOE at (207)624-6842 or (207)624-6843  
[Forgot Password?](#)

# Sponsor Responsibilities

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Follow federal and state regulations



Process eligibility for free & reduced-price meals



Accurately counting reimbursable meals for reimbursement



Plan & serve meals that meet federal meal pattern requirements

# Sponsor Responsibilities

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## Food safety requirements

Food safety plan

Licensed kitchen

Certified food protection manager



## Civil Rights & nondiscrimination



## Professional standards



## Policies

Wellness

Procurement

# Sponsor Responsibilities

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Procurement Regulations



Manage a non-profit food service program

# Maine's “No Charge Meals”

	<b>Federal</b> Reimbursement Rate	<b>State</b> Reimbursement Rate	Total Reimbursement Rate
Free	\$4.54	\$0	\$4.54
Reduced	\$4.14	\$0.40	\$4.54
Paid	\$0.53	\$4.01	\$4.54

For Maine public, charter, 60/40 private, and special purpose private schools that are NSLP sponsors

\*Example uses SY2025 rates for schools that receive 9-cent PBR and >60% F/R price lunches (“severe need”)

# Reimbursement for Student Meals

- Reimbursement = # of meals served (F/R/P) X reimbursement rate (F/R/P)
- No reimbursement for adult meals
- No reimbursement for second student meals
- No reimbursement for incomplete meals
- Meals must be tracked properly (accountability)
- Sponsor has up to 60 days to file a claim for reimbursement



# Food Based Menu Planning & Reimbursable Meals

## 5 Food Components

1. Fruits
2. Vegetables
3. Grains
4. Meat/Meat Alternate
5. Milk



Reimbursable Meal – a single meal unit that offers all of the USDA daily required meal pattern components for the grade group being served, in the minimum required amounts.

# Maine DOE CN Communication

- “Thursday Update”
- Monthly CN Updates Webinars
- Fall Information Meeting

Child Nutrition Home

- Programs
- CNPWeb/NEO
- Student Eligibility & Applications
- Financial
- Legal References
- Webinars and Training
- Contact Us

## Child Nutrition Thursday Update



[February 5, 2026](#) - USDA Foods Monthly Order, USDA Foods Annual Order, Community Eligibility Provision & Special Provision II, Serving Meals to Students Off-site, Buy American, Financial Open Office Hours, Paula's Going Out on Medical Leave - Who you going to call?, SUN Meals (SFSP) Training, Child Nutrition Training, Webinars, Production Records and Cycle Menus Workshop, ServeSafe Exam - Last one of the School Year, Local Foods Training - Cooking with Early Maine Harvest, Shout Out!!

[January 29, 2026](#) - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), PAL Entitlement, USDA Foods Monthly Order, Black Bean Burgers, USDA Foods & Menu Planning, Culinary Classroom Resources, Financial Open Office Hours, Child Nutrition Training, Webinars, Production Records and Cycle Menus Workshop, ServSafe Exam - Last one of the School Year, National School Lunch Program Information Portal

[January 22, 2026](#) - List Serve has changed, PAL Entitlement, USDA Foods Annual Order, Black Bean Burgers, FFVP Fund Usage, USDA Memo, Financial Open Office Hours, Child Nutrition Training, Webinars, Production Records and Cycle Menus Workshop,



## Questions?

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Maine DOE Child Nutrition  
[child.nutrition@maine.gov](mailto:child.nutrition@maine.gov)  
(207) 624-6842



Stay Connected!

# Find Us Online!

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