

Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Services
Summer Food Service Program Data/Needs Analysis and
Expansion Recommendations Report

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The primary role of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is to provide free, nutritious meals to children and teens aged 18 and younger during the summer months when school is not in session. This program has also been integral to ensuring Maine children have access to nutritious meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it primarily operates in the summer months when school is not in session and children no longer have access to school meals. The Department received USDA grant funding to increase knowledge of and participation in the Summer Food Service Program throughout the State of Maine.

To increase knowledge of and participation in the SFSP, the Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition hired a statewide network of SFSP Outreach contractors for the project from mid-June through August 2021, each representing one of the nine Superintendent Regions in Maine. The regions being: Aroostook County; Penquis (Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Somerset counties); Washington County; Hancock County; Mid-Coast (Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc counties); Western Maine (Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties); Cumberland County; Kennebec Valley (Kennebec and Waldo counties); and York County.

Contractors were hired from within the regions they serve and worked to engage community partners, conducted grassroots outreach using materials from the DOE, as well as conducted a data/needs analysis of their region. The contractors hired were local school district food service individuals familiar with their respective area's SFSP. A data collection form/spreadsheet was created and dispersed for Coordinator use during the project and then self-organized for their own individual needs and capacities. Final data was received from eight of the nine SFSP Outreach Coordinators.

In conjunction with the SFSP Outreach Coordinators efforts, the following sections summarize data gathered and regional needs, along with areas of focus for 2022 and expansion recommendations for future Summer Food Service Programs. Some overlap in information presented is due to the overlapping of school districts within regions and county lines/sending towns. Data tables applying information received from the SFSP Outreach Coordinators can be found in the Appendix.

Superintendent Regions Data and Discussions

Aroostook County

During the course of this project, the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Aroostook County found that the programs that performed the best, served or delivered meals to convenient locations for families, i.e., serving at recreation centers and/or delivering to low-income housing developments. These programs saw a large growth in the number of meals served during Summer 2021 as opposed to previous years, such as an increase from an average of 25 served per day to an average of 65 served per day when delivered by Eagle Lake Rec Department. Also in Aroostook County, the opposite was found where several feeding sites were shut down due to low attendance, specifically in the towns of Littleton and Monticello. These were 'satellite' sites that large schools were preparing meals for and delivering to said feeding sites. The sites were in locations that should have been drawing enough children to remain open. More investigation may need to be done as to what caused numbers to drop at these sites, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Aroostook County. Nonetheless, staffing and transportation remain a key concern.

All areas that qualified for area eligibility by being at or above 50% on the Free & Reduced School Lunch Report operated sites except one, Woodland Consolidated School with 52.35% (NEO ED 534 2020). In discussions with the food service director at Woodland Consolidated, the Aroostook County SFSP Outreach Coordinator found that they serve several small communities but also have a very small population. While Woodland Consolidated may consider operating a SFSP in the future, they currently do not have the staff to do so. Other areas for SFSP expansion in Aroostook County include Ashland School District (RSU 32) and in the Southwestern Aroostook area along US Route 1 from Houlton/Hodgdon to Danforth. The aforementioned areas are sparsely populated, and the children are vastly underserved due to the great distance between available sites, making it difficult for families to travel to the feeding sites to pick up meals. Many towns have sites sponsored by a larger district. The primary reason these towns/districts do not run programs of their own is due to limited staffing, subsequently relying heavily on rec programs or volunteers to bring meals to the sites as some feeding sites are 30-35 minutes away from the preparation location. A table showing Free & Reduced eligibility percentages by school based on level of need in a portion of Aroostook County is shown below. Continuance of the data table can be found in the Appendix.

School	School F&R % 2020	District	District F&R % 2020
Limestone Community School	81.16%	Limestone Public Schools	81.16%
Dawn F Barnes Elementary School	80.43%	Caswell Public Schools	80.43%
Opportunity Training Center	79.41%	Opportunity Training Center	79.41%
Van Buren Elementary School	75.76%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	75.09%

Van Buren District Secondary School	73.33%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	75.09%
Fort Fairfield Elementary School	72.46%	RSU 86/MSAD 20	66.27%
Houlton Elementary School	72.15%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Houlton Junior High School	72.15%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Houlton High School	72.14%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Houlton Southside School	72.12%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Mill Pond School	71.96%	RSU 70/MSAD 70	61.95%
Central Aroostook Jr-Sr High School	67.94%	RSU 42/MSAD 42	44.5%
Connor Consolidated School	65.12%	Connor Consolidated School-EUT	65.12%
Southern Aroostook School	63.92%	RSU 50	63.92%

After speaking with those operating SFSPs in Aroostook County, Food Service Directors or site coordinators, exploring NEO ED 534 data, as well as conversing with local families, the Aroostook County Outreach Coordinator suggests a continuance of waivers as almost every sponsor agreed that the waivers allowing meals to be taken off site, picked up by parents, and multiple days/meals be given at once made the program easier for staff and families. This has been especially true in smaller communities where families are possibly only traveling to a larger town once or twice a week. Also suggested is the need to focus less on area eligibility and more on community need. A great deal of the feeding sites with good meal counts are not eligible for SFSP through their Free & Reduced percentages, thus operate a satellite site through a larger school. Many families view the program as a 'hand out' and don't want to participate because they perceive it as taking something away from someone who may need it more. In addition, many other people in Aroostook County, even those with children, were not

aware the existence of the program. Getting the word out needs to be top priority, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Aroostook County. The Outreach Coordinator also spoke with one site that had seen a drastic drop in numbers every time a certain meal was on the menu. If a local school was providing those meals, they would know to avoid certain items and to provide preferences. Smaller sponsors are able to cater more to what they know the area children enjoy, as they are typically the same staff that prepare school meals for them during the year. Connecting the current food service workforces with summer volunteers for area SFSPs and future delivery sites, along with increased year-long marketing of the encouraging aspects of the program, would increase widespread program visibility and positive community recognition.

Final Focus for Aroostook County SFSP

- Programs with delivery service saw growth in 2021. While other programs (without delivery) closed due to limited participation and staffing.
- Add SFSP feeding sites in Woodland area, Ashland School District (RSU 32), and in the Southwestern Aroostook area along US Route 1 from Houlton/Hodgdon to Danforth.
- Further marketing of the SFSP, along with delivery options of a variety of meals, would increase recognition and participation.

Penquis (Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Somerset Counties)

The SFSP Outreach Coordinator for the Penquis Superintendent Region started the project by compiling a list of all the districts and schools in these areas, then looked at what towns were associated with district before starting to collect any information that may be useful in the future for Summer Food Service Programs. The first data portion that the Penquis Outreach Coordinator assessed was information on which schools operated SFSPs and their respective locations and hours, Food Service Directors and/or Superintendents were contacted. For the most part, everyone was very helpful to the Outreach Coordinator, but there were a few districts or Directors that did not respond to emails sent. Information was also obtained from NEO Nutrition Reports, as well as from internet research. It was discovered that the areas of highest need include the greater Bangor area schools as several are at a 100%/CEP Free & Reduced eligibility percentage rate. Other areas of high need in the Penquis Superintendent Region include: RSU 41 with a 92.54% District Total; RSU 74 with 76.43% District Total; RSU 54 with 72.50% District Total; RSU 30 with 71.86% District Total; and RSU 67 with 66.35% District Total of Free & Reduced eligibility percentage (NEO ED 534 2020). A table showing Free & Reduced eligibility percentages constructed based on level of need for a portion of the Penquis Superintendent Region is shown below. Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

School District	District F & R % 2020
RSU 41	92.54%
RSU 74	76.43%
RSU 54	72.50%
RSU 30	71.86%
MSAD 46	69.66%
Greenbush Public Schools	68.24%

RSU 67	66.35%
RSU 31/MSAD 31	65.91%
RSU 89	64.84%
RSU 83/MSAD 13	63.04%
East Millinocket Public Schools	61.13%

All aforementioned areas of high need held SFSP feeding site locations during Summer 2021, except RSU 30. This district in the Lee, Winn, and Springfield, ME area did not have sites due to the sparse, spread-out population of the sending towns and subsequent lack of staffing. Delivery to homes by a mobile summer feeding unit deployed from the eligible school may be helpful in reaching the underserved children of the Penquis Region and provide additional/alternative employment opportunities.

In reaching out to the different Penquis Superintendent Region areas and offering resources for those currently operating the SFSP, the Outreach Coordinator drove to different areas within the region to gain familiarity and to see if there were any specific locations that would be safe and fun places to have a summer feeding site in the future. Potential future SFSP locations within Penquis could include churches offering Vacation Bible School, farmers markets, food pantries, libraries, town offices, and drive-in or community-run theaters. The Penquis Outreach Coordinator was able to discuss the SFSP's mission with the owner of Center Theater in Dover-Foxcroft. Complimentary, a Summer Food Service Program informational sheet stating dates, times, and locations of local summer feeding sites was scanned into the theaters' credits and shown before all movies mid-July until the end of the summer months. Continuing this partnership would bring more SFSP awareness into the community.

Discussions with other local businesses in the Penquis areas about advertising

the SFSP more next year were had and well received, as well as above location suggestions and possible enrichment/involvement activities were also discussed with other Penquis Food Service Directors. An idea was brainstormed of making a 'commercial' with a student involvement/volunteer group to show at the local community movie theater during the opening credits. This would be a great way to advertise the SFSP while interacting with and involving the children that would benefit most from the Summer Food Service Program. Per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Penquis, this, or similar, project could have started earlier, in possibly April or May as the earlier start date could have provided enough time for a new SFSP to start this year instead of next.

Final Focus for Penquis Superintendent Region SFSP

- Delivery to homes by a mobile summer feeding unit may be helpful in reaching more children of the Penquis Region and provide additional/alternative employment opportunities.
- Expand SFSP feeding site locations within Penquis to include additional churches offering Vacation Bible School, farmers markets, food pantries, libraries, town offices, and drive-in or community-run theaters.
- Marketing/promotion of the SFSP should start as early in the year as possible.

Washington County

In reaching out to food service directors and the like in Washington County, few responses were received by the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Washington County, in part, the Outreach Coordinator believed, due to the summer months and vacations being taken away from the area. The Outreach Coordinator for Washington County switched focus from schools to food pantries during her on-the-road outreach for this project. Resources and outreach information in the form of SFSP rack cards were well received and were included in several Washington County food pantry offerings for the families served.

There is an unquestionably high need for the Summer Food Service Program in Washington County, with Machias Public Schools at 65.57% Free & Reduced eligibility and Machiasport Public Schools at 80% eligibility, for example (NEO ED 534 2020). Washington County is widespread with very few summer resources or activities for children and few to no feeding sites open/available. Delivery to rural homes, mobile feeding units, and/or feeding at a future established summer camp would be best for Washington County children and community members, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator.

Also, during discussions with the Washington County SFSP Outreach Coordinator, it was determined that more education is needed throughout Washington County regarding proper P-EBT usage. Further education, marketing, and publicizing of the appropriate and positive usage and corresponding impact of all State programs may assist in developing a more confident community stance on all State funded programs. (Ultimately, the above was formulated having not received any Coordinator collected

Free & Reduced eligibility percentages, regional needs, etc. data from the Washington County SFSP Outreach Coordinator, save for individual and group meetings and emails, as communications ceased, and no further responses were received post July.)

Final focus for Washington County SFSP

- High level of need within the county with limited resources/centers for children.
- Delivery to rural homes, mobile feeding units, and/or feeding at a future established summer camps would reach more children.
- Additional education is needed regarding proper P-EBT usage.

Hancock County

Per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Hancock County, the issue of staffing was, and continues to be, a key barrier and need during Maine's Summer Food Service Program. Many of the school sponsored sites lack the summer kitchen staff needed to run the program. The Hancock Coordinator spoke at length with the Director of Nutrition for RSU 24. The Director noted that coordinating multiple sites for summer students with access to only one kitchen and limited staff put a strain on the process. The schools serviced in RSU 24 are a distance apart and getting accurate meal counts for the summer students did prove challenging at times. Additionally, when asked if more marketing for the program would encourage more participation, the Nutrition Director stated that the added numbers would be a strain on her already limited work staff. While acknowledging the need, the RSU 24 Nutrition Director highlighted that the area

serviced is geographically widespread and individual ability to get to sponsored sites daily is not feasible to most Hancock County children and families.

The SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Hancock County noted that the state requirements mandating 50% or higher eligibility in the school districts for a site to be sponsored puts an additional strain on those smaller communities that are associated with communities that have a heavy influence of financial stability. AOS 91, the Bar Harbor/Mount Desert Island communities, as a school district, only have roughly a 15% Free & Reduced eligibility percentage. While looking at the individual towns in the school district, Trenton for example, has a 51.95% Free & Reduced percentage (NEO ED 534 2020). During the school year, those children in need receive meals. However, during the summer months, those same families may struggle with no access to a local site for meal distribution. A sponsored site on MDI would be beneficial to those in need, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Hancock County. Determining the eligibility of the area may prove difficult but could be investigated through census data. In addition, while families may utilize the services, access to the site(s) might prove an additional hardship as transportation could be a factor. A table showing Free & Reduced eligibility percentages constructed based on level of need for a portion of Hancock County is shown below. Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

School District	F & R % 2020
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD	60.86%
Sedgwick Public Schools	58.14%
RSU 24	56.3%
Airline CSD	56.1%
RSU 25	52.93%
Trenton Public Schools	51.95%
Hancock Public Schools	50.74%
Otis Public Schools	50.55%

Individual Schools	F & R % 2020
G Herbert Jewett School – RSU 25	91.55%
Mountain View School – RSU 24	63.18%
Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary/H.S.	60.86%
Cave Hill School – RSU 24	59.38%
Sedgewick Elementary School	58.15%
Airline CSD	56.1%
Miles Lane School – RSU 25	54.17%
Peninsula School	52.88%
Trenton Elementary School	51.95%
Bucksport Middle School – RSU 25	51.27%
Hancock Grammar School	50.74%
Sumner Memorial H.S. – RSU 24	50.56%
Beech Hill School	50.55%

In almost all Hancock County SFSP Outreach Coordinator correspondences with entities such as farmers markets, food pantries, and HUD housing offices, there was a definite willingness to help promote the program, as well as discussions on how best to serve the communities. The rack cards and promotional material were well received, but the resources listed for finding participating sites were not accurate, possibly due from the information provided to the State of Maine by the school districts themselves. Accurate reporting and printing of marketing materials is crucial to the success of the program.

In conjunction with the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Hancock County, it is recommended that the State coordinate with local businesses, or facilitate the partnership between businesses/organizations, to sponsor Summer Food Service Program feeding site opportunities/mobile feeding units. Marketing should be done on a wide-scale stage and begin in May for SFSP 2022, if not sooner, per the Hancock

County SFSP Outreach Coordinator. Social media, radio, and television spots should be highlighted early on. Printed materials for the sites themselves could be reduced as mobile units would promote the SFSP message and be visibly recognizable.

Final focus for Hancock County SFSP

- The area is geographically widespread and individual ability to get to sponsored sites daily is not feasible to most Hancock County children and families.
- SFSP delivery services coordinated with local businesses, or partnerships between businesses/organizations to sponsor Summer Food Service Program feeding opportunities/mobile units is key in reaching more Maine children.
- State requirements mandating 50% or higher eligibility in school districts for a site to be sponsored puts an additional strain on those smaller communities that are associated with communities that have a heavy influence of financial stability. A sponsored site on MDI would be beneficial to those in need.

Mid-Coast (Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc Counties)

Most of the areas in the Mid-Coast Superintendent Region are well covered with existing programs, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator, especially through the Healthy Lincoln County program, which includes meals delivered by 'Lulu the Lunch Wagon'. Per the Mid-Coast SFSP Outreach Coordinator, there are a few areas that need more sites. RSU 2 could benefit from a feeding site in Dresden, with that town specifically being at 53.33% eligibility (NEO ED 534 2020). The Outreach Coordinator was contacted by a resident of the Hallowell/Farmingdale area (RSU 2), the resident also

being a local guardian ad litem, who feels that there needs to be open sites in that area, even though it is not reflected in their eligibility percentage of 35.33%. RSU 12 has some underserved areas with their eligibility percentages being in the high forties to low fifties per individual schools, 53.32% Free & Reduced eligibility total for the district. RSU 13 also has a need with most individual school percentages in the low sixties, 52.13% district eligibility total, but in discussions with the food service director, they are struggling to regularly staff locations that need a summer program. A table constructed based on level of need in a portion of the Mid-Coast Superintendent Region is shown below using Free & Reduced eligibility percentages. Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

School District	F & R % 2020
RSU 12	53.32%
RSU 13	52.13%
Wiscasset Public Schools	49.33%
RSU 40	44.05%
RSU 1	40.47%
RSU 8	37.79%
AOS 93	37.68%
RSU 2	35.61%

Individual Towns	F & R % 2020
Cushing	64.95%
Rockland	64.44%
Thomaston	64.25%
South Thomaston	64.25%
Dresden	53.33%
Waldoboro	51.16%
Bristol	50.51%
Bath	50.24%
Somerville	50%

Staffing appears to be a barrier and need everywhere, per the Mid-Coast SFSP Outreach Coordinator, especially since food service is not a high paying field. The areas that are doing the best include sites at non-profit locations such as local YMCAs, Head Starts, and programs like Healthy Lincoln County.

In the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Mid-Coast Maine's recent experience, if a school district has a summer program that works in conjunction with a feeding program, the programs work well (closed site). If a school district does not have the captive audience of a summer school program, and tries to have a feeding site, the sites are not financially viable. There are not enough participants in rural areas to pay for the expenses of keeping a site open, the Outreach Coordinator found. While the case may be different in more urban areas of Maine, the towns in the Mid-Coast Superintendent Region are almost all rural and many families lack transportation to feeding sites. Programs such as Lulu the Lunch Wagon, along with continued mobile feeding expansion, are the most effective ways to reach children and families in rural areas in the State of Maine.

Final focus for Mid-Coast Superintendent Region SFSP

- Most of the areas are well covered with existing programs, especially with meals delivered by 'Lulu the Lunch Wagon'. Expansion of this style of program in the Region and adoption of this model across the state would increase SFSP reach.
- RSU 2 could benefit from a feeding site in Dresden. There are also areas such as Hallowell/Farmingdale area (also in RSU 2) that could benefit from a site, even though it is not reflected in their eligibility percentage.

- Staffing appears to be a barrier and need everywhere. The areas that are doing the best include sites at non-profit locations.

Western Maine (Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties)

In discussions during this project, the Western Maine SFSP Outreach Coordinator found many Food Service Directors have concerns over the future of the summer feeding program if the criteria to qualify remains the same. If Meal Benefit applications are not turned in, Free & Reduced eligibility percentages drop drastically, which disqualifies many districts from being able to run a summer program. Also, per the Western Maine SFSP Outreach Coordinator's findings, the fear is if the percentages are not met, there won't be waivers to run the summer feeding program next year. It is imperative that additional marketing for and education on filling out and returning the Meal Benefit application be updated and dispersed state-wide as soon as readily available. The following is a quote from the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Western Maine herself, also of RSU 16, "I am the Food Service Director. I have 10 summer feeding sites, which included two summer school programs. We have had a great summer feeding the children of RSU 16, in July we fed over 10,000 breakfasts and lunches. We never would have had the opportunity to do that if the waivers were not in place. I worry about next summer and being able to sustain the program".

The Nutrition Director of the Lisbon School District, where none of the four schools are over 50% eligibility, despite this, ran a successful SFSP based on community need. Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program also had two pick up sites in Lisbon. The Nutrition Director feels she is not reaching her district adequately and feels

she could feed more children, but her obstacles this summer have been staffing and ‘getting the word out’ about the SFSP. During outreach at a farmers market in Norway, the Western Maine SFSP Outreach Coordinator connected with many people and families that 1) didn’t know about the SFSP, and/or, 2) didn’t know where in the area they could find the summer sites. Additional marketing and education on the program and meal sites is vital to the program’s sustained success. The following table shows the highest level of need in Western Maine using Free & Reduced eligibility percentages. Additional data tables can be found in the Appendix.

School District	F & R % 2020
Lewiston Public Schools	99.16%
RSU 10	72.19%
RSU 56	63.32%
RSU 55	59.45%
RSU 73	58.70%
RSU 17	56.67%
Auburn Public Schools	53.50%
RSU 58	53.31%
RSU 4	50.17%

Another barrier that many of the more Western school district’s face is the fact being in such rural areas, transportation to meal sites, or lack thereof, is a common subject matter. Many districts this year used COVID-19 Pandemic grant funds to purchase food service vans and utilized them as mobile meal delivery sites, the Western Maine SFSP Outreach Coordinator found. Another widespread need was staffing this summer’s program. In the Outreach Coordinator’s personal experience at the MSNA annual summer conference, staffing was a thoroughly discussed topic. Many districts raised the hourly rate of pay to entice staff to work the summer program, she learned, while others in the district have adopted a mobile concept and did quite well.

The Food Service Director of RSU 58 ran two summer feeding sites and had a delivery service that parents would have had to signed up for previously as she has a large geographic area. Delivery worked well for her program and staffing was not an issue this summer, as RSU 58's pay rate has been traditionally higher than other local school districts.

During the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Western Maine's on-the-road outreach dropping off information and resources regarding the summer food service program, discussions with town clerks and librarians took place. A librarian in Waterford stated that there is no summer feeding program in the area; it had been talked about but was never set up. Interest in the SFSP is noticeable in Western Maine, and throughout the State of Maine. Community involvement to initiate and sustain programs such as this is essential for future Summer Food Service Program successes.

Final focus for Western Maine Superintendent Region SFSP

- It is imperative that additional marketing for and education on filling out and returning the Meal Benefit application be updated and dispersed state-wide as soon as readily available. There is concern about losing funding due to low return rate and therefore eligibility percentages.
- Additional marketing and education on the program and meal sites is vital to the program's sustained success as many families in Maine still do not know about the SFSP.
- Delivery worked well for programs that offered such and staffing was not an issue there this summer. Other locations saw staffing issues and low participation

potentially due to widespread rural communities within the region, lack of transportation to sites, no delivery option, etc.

Cumberland County

Cumberland County encompasses roughly 35 communities in Maine which vary in Free & Reduced eligibility percentage rates. During the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Cumberland County's research, it was discovered that the highest rates of need are found in the Portland area school districts, with an average of 53.40% District Total, and Westbrook, having a 63.87% District Total Free & Reduced eligibility percentage. However, several additional areas of Cumberland County are also eligible, or are closely approaching the 50% eligibility: South Portland (40% District Total); Harrison (52.99%); parts of Gray/New Gloucester (~40%); Standish (~46-49%); Bridgton (~53-58% District Total, 100% at NFI North Bridge Crossing); Casco; and Naples, both at roughly 53% Free & Reduced eligibility, respectively (NEO ED 534 2020). All the above listed areas had active sponsor sites during Summer 2021, except in the Harrison area. Standish only had one active closed site at Camp Sebago. Additional site locations within the more sparsely populated areas of Cumberland County would be beneficial to those children in need of additional summer nutritional support through the Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Summer Food Service Program. The following table shows level of need in a portion of Cumberland County using Free & Reduced eligibility percentages. Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

District	F & R % 2020
Arthur R. Gould School @ Long Creek Youth Development Center	100%
NFI North	100%
Youth Alternatives Inc	100%
Spurwink School Inc	72.04%
Westbrook Public Schools	63.87%
RSU 17 (Harrison Elementary School)	56.67%
Portland Public Schools	53.40%
RSU 61	52.22%

Numerous school districts in Cumberland County participate in the SFSP as sponsor sites providing free summer meals for children, along with some communities supported in this effort by non-profit organizations and/or municipal offices. There is an encouraging county-wide dedication in Cumberland County to collaborate amongst community partners to successfully feed as many children as possible during the summer months. It was not entirely shocking for the Cumberland County SFSP Outreach Coordinator to learn that School Nutrition Directors and staff are often overextended in their labor and have expressed frustrations over wanting to reach more children in need, but not seeing the numbers increase as anticipated. Additional support from the DOE for SFSP sponsors creating and managing robust marketing/social media campaigns, along with attractive, fresh, and local food offerings would be welcomed additions to most established programs and enticing to potential undecided future sponsors.

Additionally, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Cumberland County's findings, the system for distributing and collecting Free & Reduced eligibility forms (Meal Benefit applications) remains one of the most burdensome factors of working to reach more children in need. Such could be approached in an entirely new way to engage the

populace, potentially with a name change of the application itself, online completion option, or inclusion of brief yet explanatory information as to how the application and collected information directly affects the school district's federal funding, etc. Many school districts already do include information regarding how filling out the Meal Benefit application influences the amount federal funds received. Nevertheless, additional publicizing of and making available informational resources throughout the school year on the benefits of filling out the application, and the negative impact not filling out the application could have on the school districts regardless of LD 1679 Universal Meals' standings, may be advantageous in overall Meal Benefit application return rate.

Regarding grassroots outreach for this project, the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for Cumberland County focused mostly on early childhood education centers, food pantries, and public libraries to distribute SFSP rack cards, as well as some community centers, churches, and parks. A successful sponsor site in Portland at North Deering Gardens was noted and sparked some ideas about how to build more capacity and engage communities. North Deering Gardens is an affordable housing neighborhood that is managed privately, also being one of the delivery locations of the Portland Public Schools summer feeding program. On delivery days, there are often other enrichment activities occurring at the same time, such as a mobile library. This site also has a community garden that is in a preliminary phase of development as the community navigates stewardship and maintenance. The combination of these factors, along with additional community participation and marketing assistance from the DOE, may have a direct impact on visibility of the program as well as in its participation and forthcoming creation of similar programs.

In conjunction with the Cumberland County SFSP Outreach Coordinator, one major recommendation is to further identify opportunities for overlap or partnerships with existing community-oriented environments. Partnering with community garden programs and potential sites such as food pantries, parks, and community/recreation centers would attract further positive attention to the SFSP. Portland, for example, has several community gardens throughout the city and a robust farmers market every Wednesday and Saturday that occurs year-round. Many preschools, libraries, and other community centers in Cumberland County showed interest in providing community engagement that comes from a public garden partnership, and the opportunity for enrichment and education that such provides for children, the Outreach Coordinator found during on-the-road outreach discussions. Embracing this movement and finding a way to align these shared goals to feed more children throughout the summer would be beneficial for countless children and families throughout Maine for years to come.

Final focus for Cumberland County SFSP

- Additional site locations within the more sparsely populated areas of Cumberland County, i.e. Harrison, would be beneficial to those children in need of additional summer nutritional support.
- Identify opportunities for overlap or partnerships with existing community-oriented environments, i.e. community gardens, parks, and community/recreation centers.
- Further support from the DOE for SFSP sponsors creating and managing marketing/social media campaigns would be welcomed additions to most established programs and enticing to potential undecided future sponsors.

- Additional publicizing of and making available informational resources throughout the school year on the benefits of filling out the Meal Benefit application, and the negative impact not filling out the application could have on the school districts regardless of LD 1679 Universal Meals' standings, may be advantageous in overall Meal Benefit application return rate.

Kennebec Valley (Kennebec and Waldo Counties)

During grassroots outreach of the Kennebec Valley Superintendent Region, the SFSP Outreach Coordinator stopped at several food pantry locations in the region. Though, at one particular location in the China area, they were happy to hand out the SFSP materials, but to the Outreach Coordinator's surprise, the woman that runs the food pantry was quite irritated of the potential of free meals for all students SY 2023 (Universal Meals LD 1679) and "doesn't think it's fair that hard-working taxpayers should be responsible for feeding lazy people's kids". While it is understood everyone's opinion is not going to be the same on this subject, this sentiment came from a retired kindergarten teacher. Further education, marketing, and publicizing of the positive impact of the SFSP, as well as Universal Meals LD 1679, could assist in more confident community engagements and future partnerships.

Farmers markets were also an area of focus for the Kennebec Valley SFSP Outreach Coordinator. In attending and distributing resources at a farmers market in Waterville, it was discovered that many people, even families with school-aged children, had no knowledge of the SFSP. Also received was the commonly heard "we don't need it" response. The Outreach Coordinator also conversed with a woman there who, again,

strongly disagreed with Universal Meals LD 1679. An outreach individual from SNAP-ed, partnered with SFSP for farmers market outreach, were great influences on the market and on local outreach efforts as the local to Waterville WIC office took a large amount of SFSP rack cards to put in their offices, along with a list of sites in the area prepared by the Outreach Coordinator not previously available. All schools in Waterville are over the 50% eligibility percentage and have many sites available, as well feeding sites in the surrounding areas (NEO ED 534 2020). Additional, constructive marketing and promotion of the SFSP’s mission and feeding site locations at establishments that are frequented by young families and children, such as the local WIC office, pediatricians’ office, etc., is essential in reaching the demographic that could benefit most from the Summer Food Service Program.

In more rural extents of the Kennebec Valley Superintendent Region, such as in the Fayette Public Schools area, there also appears to be a need at 44.87% eligibility (NEO ED 534 2020). As the Outreach Coordinator discussed with a staff member in Fayette, “they stopped doing summer feeding because even though they would most likely qualify via census, they never had any participation”. The following table shows level of need in a portion of the Kennebec Valley Superintendent Region using Free & Reduced eligibility percentages. Continued data tables can be found in the Appendix.

County	School	School F & R % 2020	District
Kennebec	George J Mitchell School	74.11%	Waterville Public Schools
	Farrington School	71.43%	Augusta Public Schools
	Albert S Hall School	69.17%	Waterville Public Schools
	Waterville Jr. High School	67.01%	Waterville Public Schools
	Clinton Elementary School	65.83%	RSU 49
	Albion Elementary School	62.61%	RSU 49
	Sylvio J Gilbert School	59.41%	Augusta Public Schools
	Windsor Elementary School	56.9%	RSU 12

	Lincoln School	56.49%	Augusta Public Schools
	Chelsea Elementary School	55.39%	RSU 12
	Waterville Sr. High School	54.93%	Waterville Public Schools
	Benton Elementary School	54.44%	RSU 49
	Vassalboro Community School	54.18%	Vassalboro Public Schools
	Winslow Elementary School	53.96%	Winslow Schools
	Cony Middle School	53.1%	Augusta Public Schools
	Libby-Tozier School	51.05%	RSU 4
	Carrie Ricker School	50.86%	RSU 4
	Winslow Jr. High School	48.87%	Winslow Schools
	Lillian Parks Hussey School	48.23%	Augusta Public Schools
	Palermo Consolidated School	45.76%	RSU 12
	Mt. Vernon Elementary School	45.45%	RSU 38
	Winslow High School	45.17%	Winslow Schools
	Fayette Central School	44.87%	Fayette Public Schools

County	School	School F & R % 2020	District
Waldo	East Belfast School	81.25%	RSU 71
	Walker Memorial School	78.16%	RSU 3
	Unity Elementary School	65.52%	RSU 3
	Troy Central School	65.28%	RSU 3
	Searsport Elementary	62.39%	RSU 20
	Mt View Middle School	61.03%	RSU 3
	Monroe Elementary School	59.7%	RSU 3
	Morse Memorial School	59.13%	RSU 3
	Mt. View Elementary School	57.39%	RSU 3
	Kermit S Nickerson School	56.38%	RSU 71
	Captain Albert W Stevens School	55.03%	RSU 71

Final focus for Kennebec Valley SFSP

- Further education, marketing, and publicizing of the positive impact of the SFSP, as well as Universal Meals LD 1679, could assist in more confident community engagements and future partnerships.

- Feeding site locations and/or SFSP delivery is needed in more rural areas of Kennebec Valley, though eligibility percentages are less than 50%.
- Additional, constructive marketing and promotion of the SFSP's mission and feeding site locations at establishments that are frequented by young families and children, such as the local WIC office, pediatricians' office, etc., is essential in reaching the demographic that could benefit most from the Summer Food Service Program.

York County

As discovered by the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for York County, more rural areas of the county have fewer opportunities for sponsor locations, creating quite an access barrier. The Outreach Coordinator was able to host a Zoom meeting with York County School Nutrition Directors in the more populated areas of Old Orchard Beach, Saco, and Kittery. This was very helpful in understanding efforts already in place and Nutrition Directors were able to get some ideas off each other as well. Kittery offered a drive-up service for summer feeding, and during the COVID-19 school year, offered a home drop-off for the area children. Kittery also utilizes a local community center, which is a benefit to many families in the area. This site crosses with members of the community, summer camps, and programs or events held there. Due to its location and usage, the population is predictable, within a sliding margin. This situation is most ideal, but not attainable for all. Old Orchard Beach utilizes their local Domino's Pizza. There is a specialty rate program called Smart Slice for use by schools, and this drives participation. While Old Orchard Beach is well within the Free & Reduced eligibility

percentile with 51.72% District Total for RSU 23 (NEO ED 534 2020), this year, they struggled getting families to take advantage of the free meals, despite their substantial promotion of their SFSP. Saco struggled with staffing for the summer, which the Outreach Coordinator for York County continued to find as being an issue in many districts. An echoed sentiment was, even if there was an influx of participation, the staffing and resources very well could not meet the need.

Another beneficial opportunity for the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for York County during this project was in attending the Sanford Farmer's Market on July 31st, 2021. This introduced the district, the geography, and some of the population as the Outreach Coordinator saw many families at the farmers market, stayed throughout the market, and observed that it was a well utilized, great opportunity for materials and outreach. Most farmers market attendees conversed with were aware of the Summer Food Service Program and where to access feeding sites. Still, there were some people and families, mostly with preschool age children, that were unfamiliar with the SFSP. Sanford has one of the highest Free & Reduced percentages in York County with 50.22% District Total for Sanford Public Schools (NEO ED 534 2020) but is also rural with few site opportunities. A representative for Maine's SNAP-ed program was at the farmers market with a tent set up for educational materials, games, and small prizes. This continued partnership would source awareness, outreach recognition, and sustained access to the SFSP and other similar programs within the community. The following table shows the highest level of need in a portion of York County using Free & Reduced eligibility percentages. Additional data can be found in the Appendix.

School District	F & R % 2020
Biddeford Public Schools	52.97%
RSU 23	51.72%
Sanford Public Schools	50.22%
RSU 57	37.67%

The most successful way to reach the underserved populations, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for York County, would be in further promoting, or even feeding, at local events; farmers markets, craft fairs, parades, plays, etc. After conversations the Outreach Coordinator had with some of the vendors at the Sanford farmers market, it was found that events such as these seemed to bring out the most people. Also, during on-the-road outreach by the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for York County, a drive by Sanford High School resulted in the observation of a large, well-constructed greenhouse. While the Outreach Coordinator was unable to make contact with the Nutrition Director for Sanford High School to discuss use of the greenhouse in their feeding programs, future school/community partnerships would be an opportunity for more greenhouse involvement year-round and familiarize the surrounding populations with a site location.

York County has several volunteer and organization feeding programs, ranging from a delivery service to meal gatherings and community/rec centers. These all have potential to be great information access points. It could be beneficial to survey those utilizing these resources, per the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for York County. Having SFSP materials available continually, including a questionnaire that could be left and then collected on a rolling basis, could provide better insight as to where the gap lies in some of these high-need areas, and the underutilization experienced at some sites.

During the course of this project, the SFSP Outreach Coordinator for York County realized the need for SFSPs through the county, regardless of recorded Free & Reduced eligibility percentage. Being able to work with groups/school districts under the 50% eligibility, as well as over, gave a visual to the data for the Outreach Coordinator. Below 50% eligibility is still experiencing a need and held some of the highest feeding site participation this summer, the Outreach Coordinator for York County found, in part due to being in a more populous of area with a strong community presence in its community center, seen in Kittery. Areas more north in York County, such as Sanford, struggle against access factors such as transportation, distance, and minimal central community centers. Collaborating seasonally with farmers markets and town/community events year-round as a potential site, or at least an outreach point, could be a more successful means to access the rural population reflecting high need in York County.

Final focus for York County SFSP

- More rural areas of the county have fewer opportunities for sponsor locations, creating quite an access barrier. Home delivery and/or SFSP delivery to higher activity areas may increase participation. Even if there was an influx of participation, the staffing and resources very well could not meet the need.
- There continues to be some people and families, mostly with preschool age children, unfamiliar with the SFSP. A way to reach the underserved populations would be in further promoting, or even feeding, at local events; farmers markets, craft fairs, parades, plays, etc.

- Having SFSP materials available continually at community locations, perhaps including a questionnaire that could be left and then collected on a rolling basis, could provide better insight as to where the gap lies in some of these high-need areas, and the underutilization experienced at some sites.

Conclusions and Recommendations for Areas of Focus for SFSP 2022

After extensive discussions regarding Summer Food Service Program outreach, needs, and expansion throughout Maine at individual and group meetings with the statewide network of nine SFSP Outreach Coordinators hired for this project, data/needs analysis using information obtained from the Outreach Coordinators and personal demographic research, as well as evaluation of currently used SFSP resources by different school districts and the State of Maine Department of Education, recommendations and areas of focus were developed for the Maine Department of Education USDA Summer Food Service Program of 2022 onward.

The engagement in the Summer Food Service Program is not solely that of what a district can provide, but also of who is able to be there to receive the support. Awareness of and access to the program are key factors in expanding the SFSP. As previously detailed, Maine communities are geographically large and widespread with many levels of socioeconomic status. It is important to consider access to sponsored sites as an influencing factor in SFSP participation rates with respect to families' ability to get to those sites daily. Mobile feeding units, with the ability for home drop-offs, may assist rural families, some with limited or no transportation, in gaining access to the

SFSP. An example of such was noted in the Mid-Coast Region with Healthy Lincoln County's 'Lulu the Lunch Wagon'.

If school districts were to coordinate with local businesses, or if the State of Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Team were to logistically assist/facilitate the partnership between businesses/organizations to sponsor Summer Food Service Program feeding opportunities, a local business could partner with a site/school that has a USDA approved kitchen and/or a mobile unit to transport meals to multiple locations. An example of this would be in community partnering of transportation and food service individuals. Stanley Subaru of Ellsworth, as they are a contributor to many locally sponsored programs including Maine Coast Memorial Hospital's Mary Dow Center and Women's Breast Health, and Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital could partner together, with the hospital serving as the meal preparation site and Stanley Subaru donating a van, which could be wrapped with SFSP promotional marketing. In doing so, meals could be transported to multiple locations throughout the greater Ellsworth area and reach far more children in need. This model could be replicated throughout the State of Maine and would reach a much greater audience of underserved children during the summer months.

As noted particularly in Washington County, along with other perceived potential problematic occurrences of pandemic assistance/program misuse in other parts of Maine, further education on the appropriate usage and corresponding impact of use and misuse of all State programs is crucial and may assist in developing a more confident community stance on all State funded programs.

Staffing continues to be a key barrier and need during Maine's Summer Food Service Program. Local community organizations, perhaps with a previously established volunteer base (i.e., food pantries, libraries, Chamber of Commerce offices, local school Key Clubs, ATV and recreation clubs, etc.), may be able to assist in the staffing of feeding sites and support in bringing potential sponsors and sites together to reach more Maine children and families. A network of volunteers specifically for Child Nutrition Programs could be established comprised of the previous volunteer possibilities, along with current and former/retired food service workers as they have unsurpassed knowledge of the children being served food preferences and program attendance behaviors.

Menu updates, variation of meals, along with increased inclusion of fresh, local produce and food offerings would be well received by the children served and further support local farmers and partnerships in the community. Requiring New SFSP Sponsor and Experienced SFSP Sponsor trainings to include Brighton Training Group's pending Spring 2022 online modules "Promoting and Marketing Summer Meals" and "Boosting Menu Appeal in the SFSP" will be helpful to all sponsors in achieving increased program satisfaction. A Child Nutrition SFSP specific dashboard could be formed for the field's use in which to share SFSP highlights and positive recommendations, as well as negatives and unclear subjects, offer support in the inner workings of the SFSP, and menu ideas and variations, with the guidance and supervision on the dashboard through the Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Team.

Offering enrichment activities, such as cooking classes highlighting local produce found in the days SFSP meal, hosting a mobile library, or offering games/activities along

with the SFSP may increase participation (when able to safely congregate due to COVID-19 concerns). Holding feeding sites at or near community gardens would further facilitate those partnerships and local produce use, as well as being an educational tool.

It may also be beneficial to do outreach for the SFSP year-round. In addition to providing materials to go home with children at schools regarding the SFSP from early Spring onward, a tangible presence at events and community establishments throughout the year might reach more people, carry over recognition, and drive participation into the forthcoming summer programs. Local schools should begin promoting community awareness of SFSP sponsored sites and/or mobile units simultaneously with television and radio ads to reinforce the program and increase participation. Social media, radio, and television marketing and promotion of the SFSP's mission is vital to the program's continued success. Amounts of printed materials could be limited in an effort to decrease waste, while digital media marketing and promotions could be increased as this route remains increasingly effective in how countless families and children in the demographic that would benefit from the Summer Food Service Program receive pertinent information.

Along with rack cards for community/school/business distribution, business-card sized SFSP printed resources or refrigerator magnets to disperse to families with accurate summer meals site finding information may be helpful in program recognition and increase future participation. Larger text and logo on SFSP site signage, larger signage for site locations, additional signage local to sites, and easy to follow arrows or easily identifiable markers of the program would further facilitate ease of use, especially for those children and families in need of the program that may be unwilling to ask for

assistance or directions to the feeding site. T-shirts on staff/volunteers at feeding sites coordinated with the SFSP signage and logo may aid in this effort as well.

Before and during the months SFSPs are held, signage placement not only limited to the area within a few blocks of the SFSP feeding site, but SFSP signage and site location resources available at town offices, libraries, food pantries, coffeeshops, local general stores, movie theaters/drive-ins, doctors/pediatricians offices, farmers markets, gyms, rec centers, community gardens, beaches, parks, and playgrounds would all have a constructive impact on program visibility and therefore participation. Year-long promotional advertising, marketing, and outreach of the SFSP would increase program participation, in the children served as well as in staffing and/or volunteer rates through positive program visibility and service.

**Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Services Summer
Food Service Program Data/Needs Analysis and Expansion
Recommendations Report Appendix**

Aroostook County Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by School and District Applying
Information Received from the Aroostook County SFSP Outreach Coordinator

School	School F&R % 2020	District	District F&R % 2020
Limestone Community School	81.16%	Limestone Public Schools	81.16%
Dawn F Barnes Elementary School	80.43%	Caswell Public Schools	80.43%
Opportunity Training Center	79.41%	Opportunity Training Center	79.41%
Van Buren Elementary School	75.76%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	75.09%
Van Buren District Secondary School	73.33%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	75.09%
Fort Fairfield Elementary School	72.46%	RSU 86/MSAD 20	66.27%
Houlton Elementary School	72.15%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Houlton Junior High School	72.15%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Houlton High School	72.14%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Houlton Southside School	72.12%	RSU 29/MSAD 29	72.14%
Mill Pond School	71.96%	RSU 70/MSAD 70	61.95%
Central Aroostook Jr-Sr High School	67.94%	RSU 42/MSAD 42	44.5%
Connor Consolidated School	65.12%	Connor Consolidated School-EUT	65.12%
Southern Aroostook School	63.92%	RSU 50	63.92%
Fort Fairfield Middle/High School	60.95%	RSU 86/MSAD 20	66.27%
Eva Hoyt Zippel School	59.40%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	43.87%
Caribou Community School	56.13%	RSU 39	52.36%
Caribou Middle School	55.91%	RSU 39	52.36%
Woodland Consolidated School	52.35%	Woodland Public Schools	52.35%
Pine Street Elementary School	51.41%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	43.87%
Washburn District Elem School	50.53%	RSU 45/MSAD 45	48.41%
Madawaska Elementary School	50.23%	Madawaska Public Schools	45.89%

Wisdom Middle High School	50%	RSU 33/MSAD 33	39.04%
Hodgdon Middle/High School	47.57%	RSU 70/MSAD 70	61.95%
Caribou High School	46.46%	RSU 39	52.36%
Washburn District High School	44.09%	RSU 45/MSAD 45	48.41%
Presque Isle Middle School	43.70%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	43.87%
Madawaska Middle/High School	41.55%	Madawaska Public Schools	45.89%
Ashland District School	39.46%	RSU 32/MSAD 32	39.46%
Easton Elementary School	38.46%	Easton Public Schools	35.92%
Fort Kent Elementary School	36.81%	MSAD 27	34.1%
Dr Levesque Elementary School	34.81%	RSU 33/MSAD 33	39.04%
Mapleton Elementary School	33.78%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	43.87%
Presque Isle High School	33.67%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	43.87%
Easton Junior-Senior High Sch	33.04%	Easton Public Schools	35.92%
Fort Street School	32.69%	RSU 42/MSAD 42	44.5%
Fort Kent Community High School	30.80%	MSAD 27	34.1%
Valley Rivers Middle School	30.16%	MSAD 27	34.1%
St John Valley Technology Center	0%	RSU 33/MSAD 33	39.04%
Caribou Regional Technology Center	0%	RSU 39	52.36%
Presque Isle Reg Career & Tech Center	0%	RSU 79/MSAD 01	43.87%
Van Buren Regional Technology Center	0%	RSU 88/MSAD 24	75.09%

Penquis Superintendent Region Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table
Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by District Applying Information
Received from the Penquis SFSP Outreach Coordinator

School District	District F & R % 2020
RSU 41	92.54%
RSU 74	76.43%
RSU 54	72.50%
RSU 30	71.86%
MSAD 46	69.66%
Greenbush Public Schools	68.24%
RSU 67	66.35%
RSU 31/MSAD 31	65.91%
RSU 89	64.84%
RSU 83/MSAD 13	63.04%
East Millinocket Public Schools	61.13%
Millinocket Public Schools	59.33%
RSU 80/MSAD 4	58.10%
RSU 53	57.84%
RSU 49	57.01%
RSU 49	57.01%
Bangor Public Schools	54.69%
RSU 68	54.58%
RSU 19	54.17%
Greenville Public Schools	52.97%
RSU 64	49.67%
RSU 82/MSAD 12	43.54%
Brewer Public Schools	39.49%
RSU 26	25.79%

Hancock County Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by District and School Applying
Information Received from the Hancock County SFSP Outreach Coordinator

School District	F & R % 2020
Deer Isle-Stonington CSD	60.86%
Sedgwick Public Schools	58.14%
RSU 24	56.3%
Airline CSD	56.1%
RSU 25	52.93%
Trenton Public Schools	51.95%
Hancock Public Schools	50.74%
Otis Public Schools	50.55%
Tremont Public Schools	48.78%
Brooklin Public School	44.07%
Penobscot Public Schools	43.48%
MSAD 76	40.63%
Blue Hill Public Schools	40.54%
Ellsworth Public Schools	38.52%
Brooksville Public Schools	37.29%
Surry Public Schools	32.89%
Southwest Harbor Public Schools	32.14%
Lamoine Public Schools	27.97%
Bar Harbor Public Schools	15.57%
Dedham Public Schools	14.77%
Mount Desert Public Schools	14.2%
Mt. Desert CSD	13.22%

Individual Schools	F & R % 2020
G Herbert Jewett School - RSU 25	91.55%
Mountain View School – RSU 24	63.18%
Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary/H.S.	60.86%
Cave Hill School – RSU 24	59.38%
Sedgwick Elementary School	58.15%
Airline CSD	56.1%
Miles Lane School - RSU 25	54.17%
Peninsula School	52.88%
Trenton Elementary School	51.95%
Bucksport Middle School – RSU 25	51.27%
Hancock Grammar School	50.74%
Sumner Memorial H.S. – RSU 24	50.56%

Beech Hill School	50.55%
Tremont Consolidated School	48.78%
Brooklin School	44.07%
Penobscot Elementary School	43.48%
Swans Island Elementary/MSAD 76	40.63%
Swans Island Elementary School	40.63%
Blue Hill Consolidated	40.54%
Ellsworth Public Schools	38.52%
Bucksport High School - RSU 25	37.71%
Brooksville Elementary	37.29%
Surry Elementary School	32.89%
Pemetic Elementary School	32.14%
Lamoine Consolidated School	27.97%
Castine - Adams School	15.69%
Adams School	15.69%
Connors Emerson	15.57%
Dedham Public Schools	14.77%
Mt. Desert Elementary	14.2%
Mt Desert High School	13.22%
Longfellow School	12.5%

Mid-Coast Superintendent Region Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by District and Sending Town Applying Information Received from the Mid-Coast SFSP Outreach Coordinator

School District	F & R % 2020
RSU 12	53.32%
RSU 13	52.13%
Wiscasset Public Schools	49.33%
RSU 40	44.05%
RSU 1	40.47%
RSU 8	37.79%
AOS 93	37.68%
RSU 2	35.61%
St. George Public Schools	34.98%
RSU 75	32.41%
AOS 98	32.24%
West Bath Public Schools	25.44%
Five Town Schools	20.28%

Individual Towns	F & R % 2020
Cushing	64.95%
Rockland	64.44%
Thomaston	64.25%
South Thomaston	64.25%
Dresden	53.33%
Waldoboro	51.16%
Bristol	50.51%
Bath	50.24%
Somerville	50%
Alna	49.33%
Westport	49.33%
Nobleboro	48.48%
Whitefield	47.37%
Warren	46.83%
Owls Head	45.83%
Washington	42.72%
Jefferson	42.42%
Edgecomb	42.31%
Monmouth	42.11%
Appleton	40.94%
Phippsburg	39.80%
Richmond	39.73%

Boothbay – Boothbay Harbor	38.51%
Union	38.36%
Hallowell & Farmingdale	35.33%
Friendship	34.94%
Damariscotta	32.10%
Newcastle	32.10%
Woolwich	30.19%
Breman	29.09%
South Bristol	29.09%
Southport	28.57%
Hope	25%
Camden	20.28%
Rockport	20.28%
Georgetown	19.57%
Monhegan	No data, 6 recorded students SY 2021
Isle au Haut	No data, 5 recorded students SY 2021
Arrowsic	No data
North Haven (RSU 7)	No data

Western Maine Superintendent Region Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by District and School Applying Information Received from the Western Maine SFSP Outreach Coordinator

School District	F & R % 2020
Lewiston Public Schools	99.16%
RSU 10	72.19%
RSU 56	63.32%
RSU 55	59.45%
RSU 73	58.70%
RSU 17	56.67%
Auburn Public Schools	53.50%
RSU 58	53.31%
RSU 4	50.17%
RSU 72	46.21%
RSU 9	44.60%
RSU 44	43.66%
Lisbon Public Schools	43.19%
RSU 16	35.31%
RSU 52	33.45%
RSU 78	32.52%

County	Individual School	F & R % 2020
Androscoggin	MacMahon Elementary School	99.21%
	Geiger Elementary School	99.19%
	Montello School	99.19%
	Connors Elementary School	99.17%
	Lewiston High School	99.15%
	Farwell Elementary School	99.09%
	Lewiston Middle School	99.09%
	Washburn School	96.18%
	Park Avenue Elementary School	81.37%
	Walton School	75.98%
	Spruce Mountain Middle School	65.50%
	Sherwood Heights Elementary School	63.54%
	Spruce Mountain Elementary School	62.76%
	Libby-Tozier School	58.23%
	Spruce Mountain Primary School	57.32%
	Sabattus Primary School	51.41%
	Spruce Mountain High School	51.16%
	Elm Street School	48.31%
	Leeds Central School	48.17%

	Lisbon Community School	46.66%
	Edward Little High School	45.85%
	Carrie Ricker School	45.83%
	Oak Hill Middle School	45.71%
	Oak Hill High School	42.06%
	Phillip W Sugg Middle School	40.34%
	Auburn Middle School	38.42%
	Greene Central School	38.58%
	Lisbon High School	38.55%
	Whittier Middle School	37.60%
	Poland Community School	35.85%
	East Auburn Comm. School	35.00%
	Turner Elementary School	34.51%
	Minot Consolidated School	32.59%
	Tripp Middle School	31.74%
	Fairview School	31.32%
	Leavitt Area High School	28.62%
	Poland Regional High School	27.89%
	Turner Primary School	26.12%
Franklin	Phillips Elementary School	59.86%
	Cushing School	59.50%
	Strong Elementary School	59.06%
	Cape Cod Hill Elementary School	56.21%
	Academy Hill School	51.32%
	Mount Abram Regional High School	50.24%
	W.G. Mallett School	45.32%
	Mt. Blue Middle School	45.20%
	Kingfield Elementary School	43.90%
	Cascade Brook School	41.20%
	Mt. Blue High School	38.26%
	Rangely Lakes Regional School	32.52%
Oxford	Mountain Valley High School	86.87%
	Meroby Elementary School	86.78%
	Rumford Elementary School	86.78%
	Mountain Valley Middle School	86.68%
	Harrison Elementary	81.42%
	T.W. Kelly Dirigo Middle School	79.89%
	Waterford Memorial School	70.00%
	Guy E. Rowe School	69.64%
	Paris Elementary School	69.60%
	Oxford Elementary School	69.52%

	Agnes Gray School	69.34%
	Sacopee Valley Middle School	62.60%
	Dirigo Elementary School	61.73%
	Sacopee Valley High School	59.46%
	Sacopee Valley Elementary School	55.90%
	Otisfield Community School	55.46%
	Woodstock Elem - Bryant Pond	54.41%
	Dirigo High School	53.15%
	Oxford Hills Middle School	50.38%
	Molly Ockett School	49.37%
	Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School	46.59%
	Telstar Middle School	43.56%
	Telstar High School	43.02%
	Crescent Park School	41.67%
	Hartford-Sumner Elementary School	40.51%
	Denmark Elementary School	38.55%
	Buckfield Jr-Sr High School	37.23%
	New Suncook School	36.28%
	Fryeburg Academy	24.66%
	Hebron Station School	23.20%

Cumberland County Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by District Applying Information
Received from the Cumberland County SFSP Outreach Coordinator

District	F & R % 2020
Arthur R. Gould School @ Long Creek Youth Development Center	100%
NFI North	100%
Youth Alternatives Inc	100%
Spurwink School Inc	72.04%
Westbrook Public Schools	63.87%
RSU 17 (Harrison Elementary School)	56.67%
Portland Public Schools	53.40%
RSU 61	52.22%
South Portland Public Schools	40%
RSU 6	36.66%
Sebago Public Schools	36.11%
RSU 75	32.41%
RSU 15	28.81%
RSU 14	28.68%
Brunswick Public Schools	25.92%
RSU 5	24.53%
Gorham Public Schools	16.14%
Long Island Public Schools	12.50%
Holy Cross School	12.38%
Scarborough Public Schools	10.34%
Yarmouth Schools	8.41%
Falmouth Public Schools	6.97%
Cape Elizabeth Public Schools	6.15%
RSU 51	5.79%

Kennebec Valley Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by School and District Applying
Information Received from the Kennebec Valley SFSP Outreach Coordinator

County	School	District	School F & R % 2020
Kennebec	George J Mitchell School	Waterville Public Schools	74.11%
	Farrington School	Augusta Public Schools	71.43%
	Albert S Hall School	Waterville Public Schools	69.17%
	Waterville Jr. High School	Waterville Public Schools	67.01%
	Clinton Elementary School	RSU 49	65.83%
	Albion Elementary School	RSU 49	62.61%
	Sylvio J Gilbert School	Augusta Public Schools	59.41%
	Windsor Elementary School	RSU 12	56.9%
	Lincoln School	Augusta Public Schools	56.49%
	Chelsea Elementary School	RSU 12	55.39%
	Waterville Sr. High School	Waterville Public Schools	54.93%
	Benton Elementary School	RSU 49	54.44%
	Vassalboro Community School	Vassalboro Public Schools	54.18%
	Winslow Elementary School	Winslow Schools	53.96%
	Cony Middle School	Augusta Public Schools	53.1%
	Libby-Tozier School	RSU 4	51.05%
	Carrie Ricker School	RSU 4	50.86%
	Winslow Jr. High School	Winslow Schools	48.87%
	Lillian Parks Hussey School	Augusta Public Schools	48.23%
	Palermo Consolidated School	RSU 12	45.76%
	Mt. Vernon Elementary School	RSU 38	45.45%
	Winslow High School	Winslow Schools	45.17%
	Fayette Central School	Fayette Public Schools	44.87%
	River View Community School	RSU 11	44.2%
	China Primary School	RSU 18	43.53%
	Laura E Richards School	RSU 11	43.24%
	Maine Arts Academy	Maine Arts Academy	41.26%
	Ralph M Atwood Primary	RSU 18	40.65%
	Pittston-Randolph School	RSU 11	39.91%
	Cony	Augusta Public Schools	38.79%

	Gardiner Regional Middle School	RSU 11	38.44%
	Williams Elementary School	RSU 18	37.32%
	Winthrop Grade School	Winthrop Public Schools	33.63%
	Belgrade Central School	RSU 18	32.77%
	China Middle School	RSU 18	32.77%
	Messalonskee Middle School	RSU 18	32.06%
	Winthrop Middle School	Winthrop Public Schools	30%
	Gardiner Area High School	RSU 11	29.23%
	Helen Thompson School	RSU 11	28.32%
	Readfield Elementary School	RSU 38	27.57%
	Messalonskee High School	RSU 18	26.96%
	Wayne Elementary School	RSU 38	26.87%
	Manchester Elementary Sch	RSU 38	25.73%
	Winthrop High School	Winthrop Public Schools	24.89%
	Erskine Academy	Erskine Academy	24.12%
	James H Bean School	RSU 18	19.12%

County	School	District	School F & R % 2020
Waldo	East Belfast School	RSU 71	81.25%
	Walker Memorial School	RSU 3	78.16%
	Unity Elementary School	RSU 3	65.52%
	Troy Central School	RSU 3	65.28%
	Searsport Elementary	RSU 20	62.39%
	Mt View Middle School	RSU 3	61.03%
	Monroe Elementary School	RSU 3	59.7%
	Morse Memorial School	RSU 3	59.13%
	Mt. View Elementary School	RSU 3	57.39%
	Kermit S Nickerson School	RSU 71	56.38%
	Captain Albert W Stevens School	RSU 71	55.03%
	Troy A Howard Middle School	RSU 71	53.47%
	Leroy H Smith School	RSU 22	52.49%

	Samuel Wagner Middle School	RSU 22	51.98%
	Searsport District Middle School	RSU 20	51.61%
	Searsport District High School	RSU 20	46.9%
	Gladys Weymouth Elementary School	RSU 71	46.73%
	Ames Elementary School	RSU 71	45.16%
	Belfast Area High School	RSU 71	42.83%
	Mt. View High School	RSU 3	39.13%
	Edna Drinkwater School	Northport Public School	33.33%
	Lincoln Central School	Lincolnville Public School	30.04%
	Isleboro Central School	Isleboro Public School	25%

York County Free & Reduced Eligibility Percentage Table

Highest Percent Need to Lowest Percent Need by District Applying Information
Received from the York County SFSP Outreach Coordinator

School District	F & R % 2020
Biddeford Public Schools	52.97%
RSU 23	51.72%
Sanford Public Schools	50.22%
RSU 57	37.67%
Acton Public Schools	37.12%
RSU 6	36.66%
Saco Public Schools	30.52%
RSU 60	29.25%
Kittery Public Schools	28.53%
Wells-Ogunquit Community School District	20.96%
RSU 21	19.96%
RSU 35	18.96%
Dayton Public Schools	16.54%
York Public Schools	8.42%