



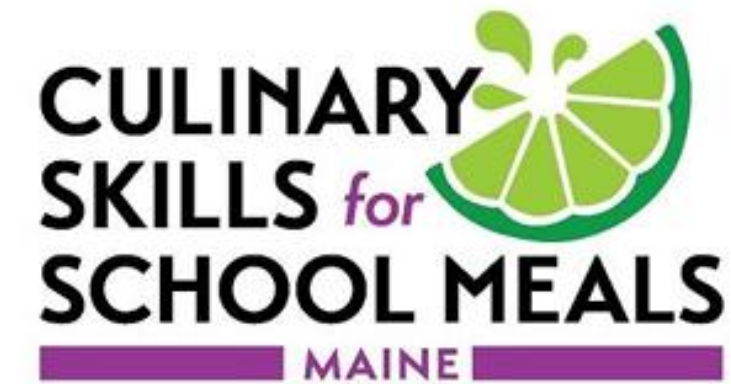
School Nutrition Program Annual Training

Presented by:
The Child Nutrition Team



Child Nutrition Team

Let's
celebrate all
the new
graduates!



The Culinary Skills for School Meals training is a 5-day hands-on intensive culinary training for school nutrition professionals focusing on foundations for food service, including knife skills, cooking techniques, and kitchen efficiencies, to improve the culinary skills of school nutrition professionals.

2025 Training Details

- August 4-8 | Mt. Blue High School, Farmington
- August 11-15 | Edward Little High School, Auburn
- August 18-22 | Kennebunk High School, Kennebunk
- September 19-October 3 | Presque Isle High School, Presque Isle



Today's Agenda



- SUN Bucks
- Unanticipated School Closures
- PreK & State Funding
- Regional Coordinators
- Cook Off
- Buy American & Buy American Automate
- Annual Checklist

- Maine Harvest Week
- National School Lunch Week
- Apple Crunch – Oct 15th

- Harvest to Hallways
- DEPEND Grant

Direct Certification & SUN Bucks Approval List

Direct Certification Hierarchy			Use for ISP for CEP	Use for SPII	Can extend sibling benefits
1	SNAP	S	✓	✓	✓
2	TANF	T	✓	✓	✓
3	Foster Care	F	✓	✓	
4	Migrant	M	✓	✓	
5	Homeless	H	✓	✓	
6	Maine Care Free	A	✓	✓	✓
7	SUN Bucks Free	B		✓	
8	Maine Care Reduced	Z		✓	✓
9	SUN Bucks Reduced	K		✓	

SY26 Unanticipated School Closure with Remote Learning Waiver



Maine DOE has been approved to offer statewide waivers to allow local Program operators to serve meals in a non-congregate setting when congregate meal service operations in schools are **limited due to natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes**, or, when approved by the State agency for a similar unanticipated cause. This waiver allowance is allowed up to a 10-day approval, after such, an approval from the USDA FNS Regional Office is required.

Important Waiver information:

Request form to use the waiver is located on our website and must be filled out in a timely manner (within 48 hours), each time the waiver is requested.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) - School buildings are closed with virtual learning

Non-Congregate Meal Service
Meal Service Times
Parent Guardian Meal Pick Up
Offer vs Serve

Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Only (CACFP)

School buildings are closed with virtual learning
Non-Congregate Meal Service
Meal Service Times
Parent Guardian Meal Pick Up
Enrichment Activity

PreK Off-site Meals

Federal Guidance does not allow for meals to be reimbursed if they are served off site.

If your PreK programs are being housed outside of your school buildings, then they cannot be reimbursed.



Maine has created a new law that will
Allow for state reimbursement of meals
Served off site to PreK and 3 & 4 YO (NAPE)
Special Ed students.

Think about what this means to you!

- This program will start in SY 28.
- **It will be awarded by application**
- The funds will be part of the Early Learning Program. (This new program is being developed this year)
- If this is an issue at your school, be sure to be in touch with the early learning team as you should be included in the application process (Spring)

Harvest of the Month

Be sure to pledge to get this year's new posters and stickers

Regional Coordinators Project



Kendall Grant

We got so much great feedback about the project, but we received some outside funding to cover us for a smaller version of the grant for the next two years.

- Catherine will be staying on as both manager/coordinator.
- Jamie will be joining her new this year.

I know that they will do a great job, and hopefully we will get some more federal funds to continue this program into the future



FS2S Cook Off



Its that time! Consider joining us for our FS2S Cook Off this year.



Being held in the spring (March/April)



👤 Showcase a breakfast and lunch recipe (and get extra points for taste testing in your school first)



📅 Sign Ups will be in the winter



🎯 Start testing those recipes



Annual Requirements for USDA School Nutrition Programs

Annual Requirements for USDA School Nutrition Programs



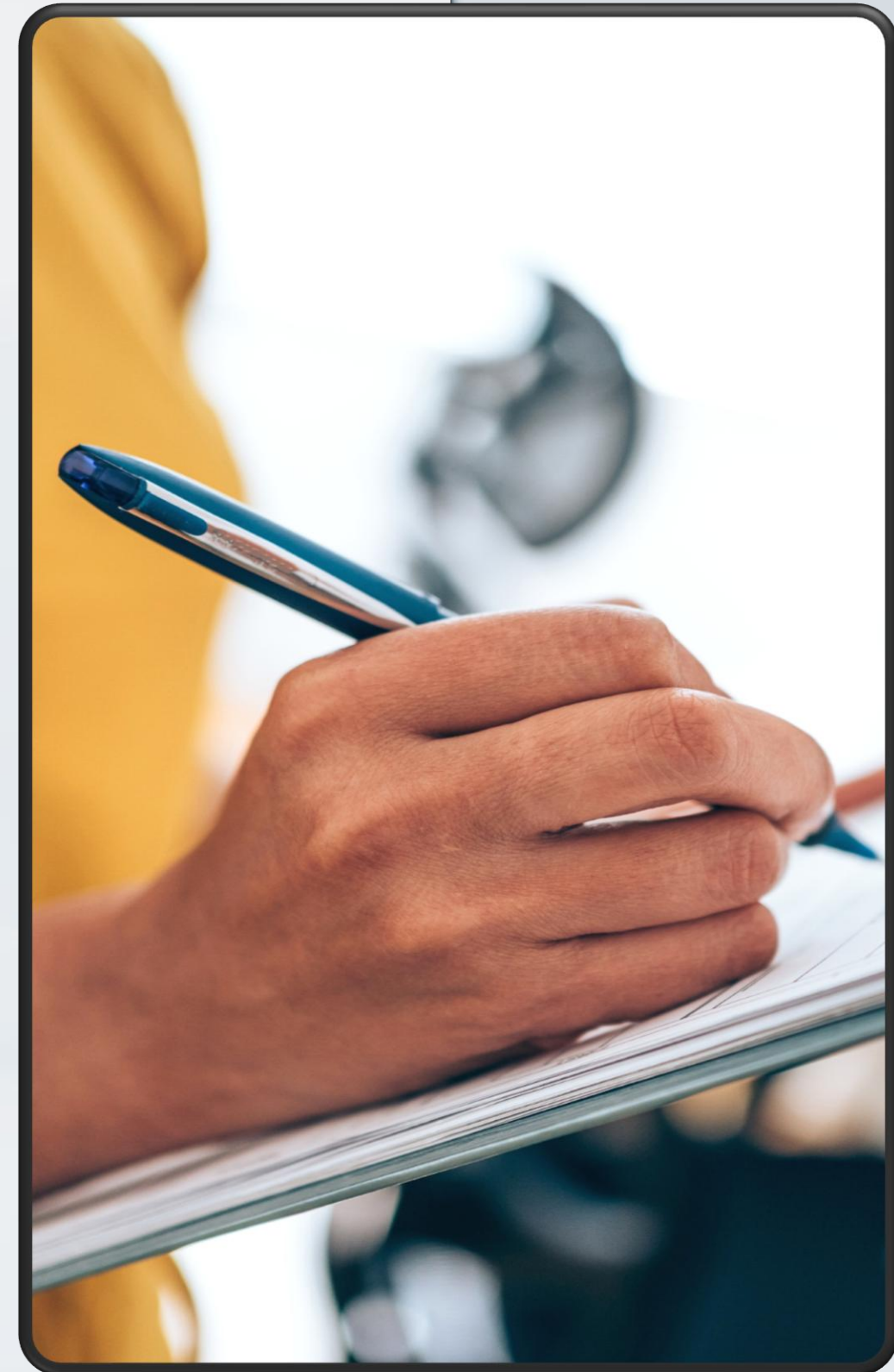
REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE
☐ Complete the annual SNP Application: Site Information Sheet & Sponsor Information Sheet - in CNPweb: https://me.cnpus.com/cnp/Login <i>*Step-by-step instructions are available under the 'Help' tab in CNPweb</i>	By August 15
** N/A for CEP & non-base year SP2 schools ** ☐ Distribute the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application to households, except those certified through Direct Certification. Returned applications must be processed within 10 operating days after the date of receipt. Send notification to households with students who are approved for meal benefits and those who did not qualify. Maintain documentation, including duplicate and ineligible applications, in a secure, confidential manner. Maine DOE provides a prototype application, parent notification letter, notice of direct certification letter and other related forms: https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/studenteligibility	After July 1
☐ Send NSLP Press Release to local media. Use the sample press release available on the Maine DOE Child Nutrition website. Make sure to include the full federal and state non-discrimination statements.	Prior to the start of school
☐ Complete the Annual Financial Report (AFR) for the prior school year in CNPweb: https://me.cnpus.com/cnp/Login Work with the district's business office to obtain financial information from the prior school year to complete the AFR. <i>*Step-by-step instructions are available under the 'Help' tab in CNPweb</i>	By September 1
☐ Set the adult meal price to be greater than the Per Meal Cost from the most recent Annual Financial Report (AFR).	Prior to the start of school
☐ Determine if the program is generating sufficient income from non-program foods by completing the non-program revenue ratio tool and adjust prices of non-program foods accordingly.	Prior to the start of school
☐ Download the direct certification (DC) list from NEO: https://neo.maine.gov/doe/neo/core/ Notify eligible households of DC eligibility. Sample eligibility letters are available on our website: https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/studenteligibility . The Direct Certification match must be done at least three times per school year per USDA SP 31-2011. It is highly recommended to run Direct Certification more frequently. <i>Keep copies of all original Direct Certification lists.</i> <i>*Food service directors may request access to NEO by contacting: medms.helpdesk@maine.gov</i>	Prior to the start of school and at least two other times
** N/A for CEP & non-base year SP2 schools ** ☐ Maintain a Benefit Issuance (Master) List of all enrolled students including name, F/R/P eligibility, date of qualification and eligibility type (i.e. DC, income application, homeless). Eligibility carries over from the prior school year for the first 30 <u>operating days</u> of school, or until new benefit documentation is received.	First day of school, update as needed

www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs

- ➔ Lunch program
- ➔ Program Planning, Ops, and Resources
- ➔ Annual Requirements

Upcoming deadlines

- **Annual Financial Reports** were due by September 1st
- **NSLP Afterschool Snack Program** 1st review is due within the first 4 weeks of snack service
- **Verification** is started on or after October 1st, and completed by November 15th. Report is due in CNPWeb by November 20th
- **October Survey** is completed as part of your October Claim. You must complete the survey before you are able to submit your claim.
- Reminder about **On-Site Monitoring Forms and FFVP Monitoring Forms** must be completed before February 1. *Tip- put a clipboard of blank reports in your car and bring them in each time you are onsite.



Buy American



Beginning School Year (SY) 2025-26, there are new thresholds on non-domestic foods (including items on the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR) 25.104 Non-available articles list)

- 10% by SY 2025-26
- 8% by SY 2028-29
- 5% by SY 2031-32

SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) must follow the Buy American Provision found in program regulations 7 CFR 210.21(d) and 7 CFR 220.16(d), respectively. A domestic commodity or product means: An agricultural commodity that is produced in the United States; and a food product that is processed in the United States substantially using agricultural commodities that are produced in the United States. Substantially using agriculture commodities that are produced in the United States means over 51 percent of a food product must consist of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically. **A School Food Authority (SFA) must purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products.**

There are two limited circumstances, or “exceptions”, when SFAs may purchase non-domestic foods. SFAs must make a case-by-case determination to purchase a non-domestic product and are responsible for defining key terms related to the below Buy American exceptions, such as “significantly higher” cost.

Exception 1 -The product is listed on the Federal Acquisitions Regulations (FAR) 25.104 non-available articles list found at 48 CFR 25.104 and/or is not produced or manufactured in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities of a satisfactory quality.

Exception 2 - Competitive bids reveal the costs of a U.S. product are significantly higher than the non-domestic product.

GreenTrails Solutions



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Our solution reads every line, price, and country-of-origin on every invoice.

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Automated math and built-in Duplicate Shields eliminate human error and catch mistakes before they reach your report.

✓ ONE-CLICK COMPLIANCE

Generate your professional Master Report instantly. No manual calculations. No formatting. Just download and submit.



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Jake Radic

jake@greentrailsolutions.com

717-903-4544



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Point your phone camera at the code

Upcoming Events

September 21-25



National School Lunch Week



Scan the QR code or visit schoolnutrition.org/nslw to download your FREE National School Lunch Week resources, provided by School Nutrition Association.



Apple Crunch Day October 15



We had so much fun with all that participated last year! It was really fun! This year to submit photos, we will have the hashtag **#MaineAppleCrunch**

This will be easy for our communications department to pick up the photos for publication. Please make sure that all pictures sent have photo releases.

And don't forget National School Breakfast Week March 1-5



Ready and Waiting for...



2026 Equipment Grants

Maine has been awarded \$77,531.00 and are awaiting the funds.

Applications for the 2026 Equipment Assistance Grant will be available October 1, 2026.



Expand Local Procurement

- Direct Final Rule – Will become effective on 11/9/2026
- Geographic Preferences
- Defined scoring advantage
- Outreach, branding & webinars

Invest in School Kitchens

- Additional Round of Equipment Assistance Grant
- New \$50M investment in school cafeteria infrastructure
- If there is something that you want, start working on the bids

Bringing more local foods to schools

- Additional \$25K in new, additional Patrick Leahy F2S Grants

Accelerating healthier meals

- The Pledge to accelerate the upcoming meal pattern changes, to align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030

Investing in school meal nutrition research

- HHS will invest \$30M in research to identify practical, cost-effective ways to improve the nutritional quality of school meals

Through one-time investments, Defining Evidence for Programs to Ensure Nutrition for Development (DEPEND), will support School Food Authorities, school districts, and individual schools pursuing innovative approaches in four key areas:

- Food Purchasing & Supply
- Workforce & Food Production
- Student Demand & Meal Economics
- Transforming Operations & Infrastructure

Awards will range from \$75,000 to \$2.5 million, depending on the scope of the proposal.

Schools can learn more about DEPEND at [Real Food in Schools](#)
This grant is coming out of HHS, and expected in October

Upcoming Proposed Rule

??????????

Eat Real Food



All the information comes to you, each week in the....

Thursday Update

Thank You!



@MaineDepartmentofEducation1



Maine Department of Education



@mainedepted



@MaineDOEComm



www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition

