

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Child Nutrition Website - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org



The List Serve has Changed!!

The Maine Office of Information Technology has made the decision to forego using List Serves. Therefore, we are shifting the way we get messages to you and how you will share information and ask questions.

Our office is now be using EnGiNE, Maine DOE's open-source learning portal. Our list serve email list cannot be transferred to EnGiNE, you **MUST** sign up using this [link](#).

If you are with a **School District**, please be sure to use your school email address, access to EnGiNE will be faster. *No matter how many schools there are in your District, register just one time.*

If you are with a **Partner Agency**, you must also sign up but your access will have to be approved by the EnGiNE Team, which could take 24 to 48 hours.

Once your EnGiNE access is approved or you already have access to EnGiNE, you can enroll in the National School Lunch Program Information Portal using this [link](#).

Email Paula with questions, paula.nadeau@maine.gov

The Thursday Update will still be accessible on our website.

PAL Entitlement Amounts

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

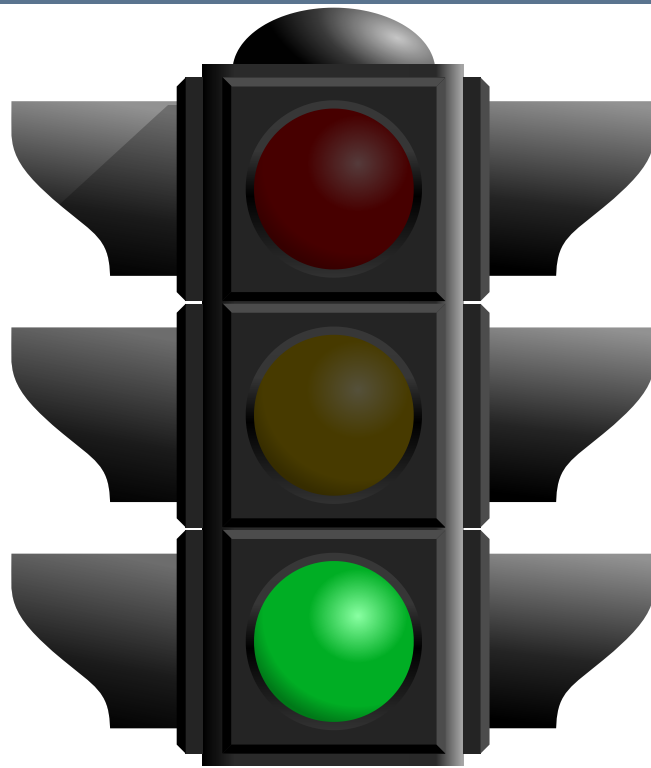
The total PAL Entitlement amount is calculated by each of the individual school districts and their total meal counts.

The numbers currently used are estimates based on SY24. Once FNS has updated the data, we will be able to update CNPWeb. This is a national delay, and we are hoping for updated information within the next two weeks.

Please do not place your orders at this time.

More information will be available at the USDA Foods and NOI Show on Wednesday, January 28, or in next weeks Thursday Update.

USDA Annual Order



The SY2027 Annual Order is now open!

You will have until 4:00pm on **February 13, 2026** to complete your Annual Order.

There will be no extensions!

To see a list of what will be offered on the Annual Order, visit the [Food Distribution](#) page of our website. Scroll until you see the link to “USDA Food Price Per Case

****If there is not a high demand to purchase full truckloads or we cannot split trucks with other states, then certain items **will not** be purchased. ****



Coming to the Annual Order Again This Year

Black Bean Burgers

This item is a fully cooked black bean burger patty with a mild southwest flavor. This product is individually quick frozen and delivered in a 30-pound case. One case of black bean burger patties Fully cooked black bean burgers can be heated and served on a bun with a variety of toppings such as lettuce, tomato, avocado, onions, or mushrooms. Provides approximately 137 3.5-ounce portions.

Southwest Black Bean Burger- a flavorful plant-based patty made from black beans and spices, grilled and served on a whole grain bun with crisp lettuce and zesty salsa. A delicious, protein-packed alternative to a traditional burger.

Fiesta Wrap - crumble the patty into a tortilla with lettuce, corn, and cheese

Ranch Black Bean Burger – add BBQ sauce and a little ranch drizzle.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Fund Usage

What is the status of your FFVP spending? FFVP funds are monitored by the Child Nutrition office to ensure funds are used timely and reallocated to schools as needed. As a reminder, FFVP funds must be monitored internally and the FFVP Usage report in CNP web can be used as a tool to compare spending and remaining balances. To access the report:

1. Go to the **Reports** tab in CNP web and select Accounting Reports.
2. Click on **FFVP Usage report**, then select **School Year 2026** and **District Name**
3. Refer to the **Balance** column, and **Oct-Sept**, which shows the remaining funds available for each school.

Please review your balances to ensure funds are being fully utilized. Any questions can be directed to: stephanie.stambach@maine.gov.

USDA Memo

On January 14, 2026, President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025.

This law amends Section 9(a)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)(A)) revising requirements for milk provided through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This memorandum provides guidance on implementation of the updated fluid milk requirements for school lunch as required by the new law. This amendment to the statute applies only to the NSLP and is effective immediately.

The memo can be accessed by going

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

Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi

Topic: Review of Monthly Financial Reporting
February 12th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Please email jodi.truman@maine.gov for the link to attend.



!Save the Date!

May 19, 2026 Webinar

Annual Financial Report with a focus on the revenue and expenses of non-program foods.

A non-program food is any food or beverage purchased using school nutrition funds and sold to students or adults that is not claimed as a reimbursable meal (all components) offered to students. Examples of a non-program food: second meal to students, adult meals, milk, juice, entrée, snacks, catering, vending and foods sold outside school hours.

The link to register for the webinar will be available beginning in April.

Child Nutrition Training

- All of any kind will be removed from the virtual training.
- The links to register are in the training titles - unless otherwise noted.
- We are unable to hold virtual and in person training simultaneously.
- All of our webinars are recorded and put on our website within a week of the training.
- Pay attention to registration deadline dates. Deadlines must be adhered to.
- Be sure to register to ensure that we have enough space for everyone.
- If there is a registration fee - Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by credit card at the time of registration.
- Mark your calendars once you have registered.

If you have any questions about any of the Child Nutrition Training, please contact Paula at paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Webinars

paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Crediting Meal Components in the NSLP & SBP

January 26, 2026

1:30

“Crediting” is the process used to determine how specific foods count towards meal pattern requirements. This is important for menu planning and preparing for an upcoming administrative review. Along with program updates and reminders, the January webinar will cover how to credit meal components in the NSLP and SBP, walk through specific scenarios, resources to use, and highlight common crediting pitfalls to avoid.

Presented by Stephanie Stambach.

Three Opportunities to Learn about **Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP)**

Registration link is in the date and time.

[February 23, 2026](#)

[1:30pm](#)

[March 5, 2026](#)

[10:00am](#)

[March 27, 2026](#)

[10:00am](#)

This program allows districts/schools/group of schools to claim free meals based on the number of enrolled students that qualify based on the Direct Certification List (DC). This webinar will help explain the process and time line for applying for CEP.

Did you miss a webinar?

You can view it by going to the [Webinars and Training](#) page of our website.

Production Records and Cycle Menu Workshop

Improve efficiency. Reduce waste. Stay compliant.

Join our interactive workshop on Production Records and Cycle Menus and learn how to plan, document, and manage meals with confidence. Perfect for school nutrition professionals looking to strengthen operations and meet program requirements.

Workshop Objectives:

- ✓ Understand the purpose of production records
- ✓ Completing production records correctly
- ✓ Using cycle menus for streamlined planning, consistency, and cost control
- ✓ Best practices for planning and documentation
- ✓ Improve efficiency, consistency, and compliance

Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills
and improve your program!

This workshop is open to School Nutrition Directors and Kitchen Managers and will be capped at two people per district.

Bring your planned lunch menu for March and a laptop.

February 18, 2026 | 8:30am-12:30pm

Child Nutrition Office - Room 101 | 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

ServSafe Exam

Registration Deadline - March 9, 2026

This is the last exam we will be offering this school year!

2:00pm

March 26, 2026

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

Augusta

Arrive early, testing begins promptly at 2:00. Bring photo ID (you will not be able to take the exam if you do not have your ID), pens or pencils, erasers. Once test has begun no late arrivals will be allowed to take the exam.

Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by credit card at the time of registration.

Shout Outs!!



Walking Taco Day at Skowhegan Area High School!

Jana Wacome, Food Service Director says the Nutrition Staff goes above and beyond everyday.



Thank you for sharing, Jana!!

