

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

In this week's Thursday Update

You can scroll through or click on a title below and you will be taken to that page.

!!!Annual Order is OPEN!!!

Child Nutrition Budget Open Office Hours

Waiver - School Meals During Ramadan

Federal Local Foods Funding Update

Farm to School Open Office Hours

!!Farm to School Cook-off!!!

Child Nutrition Training

ServSafe Class/Exam

Shout Outs!!

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

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

USDA Annual Order

The SY2026 Annual Order is open.

The orders will be due on Friday
February 14th, no extensions!

Please visit the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website for helpful resources for completing your Annual Order



Child Nutrition Budget Open Office Hours

Jodi will be hosting Open Office Hours to answer budget questions.

January 24th
1:00pm-2:00pm

Email Jodi for the link to attend
jodi.truman@maine.gov

School Meals During Ramadan

Waiver Request Form Available for School Meals During Ramadan

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to offer a waiver permitting local program operators to serve meals in a non-congregate setting to participants attending a school or sponsoring agency who are fasting to observe Ramadan in 2025. Under the waiver approval, Maine DOE's local program operators may offer meals for participants to consume in a non-congregate setting; adjust the time of meal service; and serve meals in high schools without using offer versus serve during Ramadan 2025.

This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk After School Program. It is effective from February 24, 2025, through April 4, 2025.

The following waivers are available upon request:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Meal Service Times
- Offer Versus Serve at the Senior High School Level

To apply for the use of the Ramadan Waiver for NSLP, SBP, and CACFP At-Risk After School Program, a Program operator must submit [a waiver request form](#). This form ensures necessary information regarding usage of the waivers and subsequent requirements for use are met and documented.

Additional questions regarding the Ramadan waiver should be directed to Stephanie Stambach, Maine DOE Child Nutrition Supervisor, at Stephanie.Stambach@maine.gov.

Federal Local Foods Funding Update

In October 2024, USDA AMS announced additional funding for their **Local Food for Schools (LFS) program**. The program provides funding for schools and child care institutions participating in NSLP and CACFP to purchase local, unprocessed or minimally processed domestic foods from local producers, targeting historically underserved farmers/producers/fishers and small businesses including processors, aggregators, and distributors.

Since the funding includes CACFP for the first time, LFS has been changed to **Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC)** and will be referred to as LFSCC moving forward.

Maine was allocated the following for NSLP and CACFP:

School Food Purchasing: \$2,245,556

CACFP Purchasing: \$536,878

There will be an opt-in process for both funding streams, which will be announced in the Thursday Update in the coming months!

LFSCC funding will be available for three years.

Please reach out to Katie.Knowles@Maine.gov with any questions!

Farm & Sea to School Open Office Hours

Katie, our Farm & Sea to School Coordinator, will be hosting monthly Farm & Sea to School Open Office Hours.

Drop in to ask questions, seek guidance, discuss any challenges or successes regarding anything and everything Farm & Sea to School!

Topics could include (but are not limited to):

- How to file a Local Foods Claim (LFF/LFS)
- Harvest of the Month: how to pledge, where to source
- Fishermen Feeding Mainers: free Maine fish for Maine schools!
- General curiosity about our Farm & Sea to School programs!

Click the links below to register!

Thursday, [January 30th, 2025: 9:30-10:30 AM](#)

[Tuesday, February 4th: 1:30-2:30PM](#)

FARM TO SCHOOL

COOK-OFF

Register your team by

January 31, 2025!!

**This year, teams will be preparing
a breakfast dish using local eggs and
a lunch dish using local fish.**

There are three Regional Competitions!

March 18th at Kennebunk High School

March 20th at Presque Isle High School

March 25th at Oxford Hills High School

**The winning teams from each Regional Competition will
compete in the final Cook-off taking place in the
Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom on April 17th.**

More information regarding the cook-off can be found on our [website](#).

To register your team, please complete this [form](#).

**If you have questions about the Cook-off, contact
Stephanie, Katie or Michele.**

Child Nutrition Training

The links to register are in the training titles.

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.

Please mark your calendars once you have registered.

Webinars

Child Nutrition Updates & Reminders

January 27, 2025

1:30pm

We will review key updates and reminders and talk about the importance of inventory. There will be time at the end for Q and A.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

February 24, 2025

1:30pm

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.

ServSafe-Managers

Class and Exam

Bucksport High School Library

102 Broadway

Bucksport

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - 9:00am

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - 8:00am-approx. noon for the test

The class is for school food service and CACFP only

Books are ordered and mail once registration has ended

Please note start times for each day

Bring photo id, pen or pencils with erasers

You must provide an email address as certificates are sent via email.

Please note testing start time on the second day

Lunch is NOT provided. Please bring a lunch.

Charge for the class is \$102

Payable by credit card, at the time of registration.

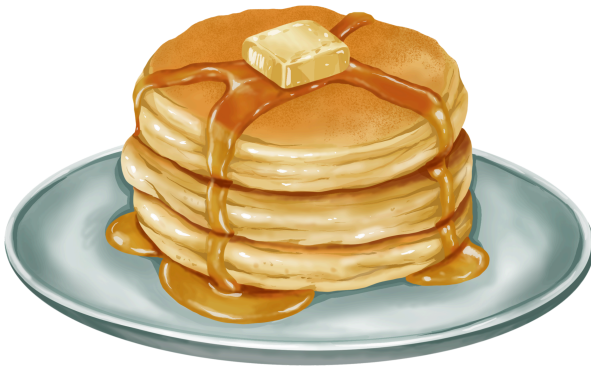
Registration deadline - January 24, 2025

Shout Outs!!



Shout out to the staff at RSU 56 celebrating Diversity Day. Nutrition staff whipped up a wide variety of meals from around the world, offering African Kale stew, Latin Glazed Chicken with Wheat berries and Spiced Fruit Relish, Chicken Caprese Sandwich, Banh Mi Flatbread Sandwich, Spiced beef and Spicy Thai beef, pickled Lentils, asian slaw, Jolloff rice, Molletes and Roasted Corn and Black Bean Salad.

Thank you Gena Cloutier for sharing!!



What better way to start your school day when the temperatures are below zero then with a hot breakfast.

Students at Bucksport Middle School were offered a full hot breakfast along with fresh fruit and build your own yogurt parfaits.

Kudos to the Nutrition team at Bucksport Middle School.

Shelley Bowden, thank you for sharing!!