

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.

Recent Directives at the Federal Level

USDA Foods Annual Order

Farm to School Cook-off

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program

Farm & Sea to School Open Office Hours

State Local Foods Fund (LFF) NEW Eligible Products

Child Nutrition Training

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

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

Recent Directives at the Federal Level

We are in the process of clarifying the executive orders and will provide information and guidance once we have a clear understanding of the situation. In times of uncertainty, misinformation, disinformation, and confusion tend to give way to fear and despair. We will share accurate information as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and for all you do to nourish our students!

USDA Annual Order

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

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





FARM TO SCHOOL

DEADLINE

EXTENDED

COOK-OFF

Register your team by

February 7, 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.

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program

The “Act To Increase Access to Nutritious Foods in Schools by Implementing an After-school Food Program for At-risk Students” is a law that requires any district with a school with 50% or more Free/Reduced Eligible students to participate in CACFP At Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper Program. The program requires an education/enrichment activity that is available to all students after school. An example could be a homework help group. If the school does not want to participate or does not have qualifying enrichment, the district must opt out after public hearing and school board vote.

The opt out form can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/g/iyM5ATBzbd>

More information regarding the CACFP At Risk Program can be found here: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/cacfp/atrisk>

The LD577 Report by District: The following districts Child Nutrition - CACFP At Risk After School ED534 - 1.29.2025.pdf to participate in CACFP At Risk or opt out using the guidance from the law:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.do/files/inline-files/LD%20577.pdf>

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](#)

State Local Foods Fund

NEW Eligible Product!!

We have approved five new value-added/processed local products to qualify for the state Local Foods Fund (LFF)!

From Penobscot McCrum ([More information about McCrum](#)):

- McCrum Spud Barrels
- McCrum Straight Wedge
- McCrum Spud Patties
- McCrum Field Fry

From Maplewood BBQ ([More Information about Maplewood BBQ](#)):

- Maplewood Honey Peppercorn BBQ Sauce

The state Local Foods Fund reimburses school nutrition programs \$1 for every \$3 they spend on eligible local foods!

The full list of [eligible processed food products](#) and more information about LFF can be found on our [Farm & Sea to School webpage!](#)

As a reminder, minimally processed local food products including produce, proteins, grains, and value-added dairy already qualify for LFF without having to apply. See the list of [eligible products HERE](#).

If you are interested in having a local value-added or processed product qualify for LFF, please send information about the product and a point of contact for the business (if possible) to katie.knowles@maine.gov.

To qualify, the value-added/processed product must:

- contain 51% or more agricultural raw materials grown, harvested, or produced in Maine by weight or volume. (Water is excluded from this requirement)
- be processed or produced in the state of Maine

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

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.