



OCTOBER 1, 2026

School Nutrition Programs

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Verification of Meal Benefit Applications

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October 1, 2026 is the beginning of the Verification process for approved Meal Benefit Applications.

This process is only required for those collecting applications in the current school year & only pertains to applications processed by or on behalf of the school food authority (SFA). Schools do not have to verify students on the Direct Certification List .

The Verification process must be completed by
November 20, 2026.

In CNPweb under the Forms tab are two sections to complete. One tells you how many applications to verify, the next is the process to report the results.

More information can be found here: on the [Student Eligibility/Applications](#) page of our website under Verification

SY 2027 Unanticipated School Closure

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We are pleased to announce that USDA has approved Maine's request for the Unanticipated School Closures with Remote Learning Waiver. This waiver provides flexibility to support continued access to meals for students in the event of unexpected school closures paired with remote learning.

To request use of this waiver, please complete the [Microsoft form](#). Please ensure that your request is submitted as soon as possible when an unanticipated closure occurs so our team can review and respond promptly. Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring that Maine students have access to nutritious meals, no matter the circumstances



October Survey Coming Soon

jodi.truman@maine.gov

Plan on attending the [October Survey Webinar](#) on October 26th at 1:30pm to ensure that reporting is done correctly.

The October Survey is an additional edit check to monthly claims and FFVP eligibility; therefore, the accuracy of this report is extremely important. The report collects each school's student eligibility status by grade based on meal benefit applications and the Direct Certification and SUN Bucks list.

CEP and Provision II NON-BASE YEAR, meal benefit applications were not collected, therefore a calculation is used based on total enrollment times your base year eligibility status. Detailed instruction will be posted in the Help tab of CNPWeb. Please attend the webinar for instructions and a walk through of the process.

The Federal Equipment Assistance Grant is Back!!

Applications are now available for the Equipment Assistance Grant and can be found on our [website](#).

**Application are due no later than October 30, 2026.
Late/incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

Email applications to michele.bisbee@maine.gov

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Funds

stephanie.stambach@maine.gov

Schools can start using their FY 2027 FFVP allocations on October 1st! To access the funding amounts, go to the FFVP Usage report in CNP web. Be sure to check this report throughout the year to stay on track with spending.

How to Access Your FFVP Allocation Report:

1. Log into CNP web
2. Select Reports
3. Choose Accounting Reports
4. Select FFVP Usage
5. Choose SY 2027 and your district

FFVP Usage Report

Filter Criteria :

Fiscal Year	District	As Of
2027	Andover Public Schools	7/7/2026 9:18:35 AM

School	Amount		Balance		Usage	
	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept
District: Andover Public Schools (1734)						
Andover Elementary School (790)	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	0.00%	0.00%
District Total	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	0.00%	0.00%
Total	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	0.00%	0.00%

Funding Opportunity

School-based Nutrition Projects

The application is now available to apply for funding for the Defining Evidence for Programs to Ensure Nutrition for Development (DEPEND) school-based demonstration projects!

DEPEND is designed to generate credible, transferable evidence about how schools can improve meal quality in ways that can be sustained over time. DEPEND will fund projects that test strategies to provide healthier meals that students choose and consume.

- Eligible applicants include public schools, public charter schools, public school districts, and School Food Authorities.
- Applications are due October 13, 2026, and decisions are anticipated October 23, 2026.
- To learn more and submit an application, visit [DEPEND- Application](#)

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

October Monthly Order

The USDA Monthly Order is open from the 1st to the 15th

- If the 1st of the month is a *Saturday or Sunday*, the monthly order will open on *Monday* at 8:00am
- If it is not, the opening date is simply the 1st at 8:00am.
- If the 15th of the month is a *Saturday or Sunday*, the monthly order will close on *Friday* at 4:00pm.
- If it is not, the closing date is simply the 15th at 4:00pm.

Step by step directions on how to complete your order can be found on the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.



Deliveries

PFG Deliveries

The School Year 2027 PFG delivery schedule is on the FDP webpage of our website. Scroll down to the PFG dropdown to find the link.

Orders cannot be refused or sent back to PFG once shipped.



Mozzarella Cheese Delivery Update

- **November Delivery:** The Mozzarella Cheese delivery to PFG was originally scheduled for **November 15, 2026**. This delivery has been **rescheduled to January 15, 2027**.
- **December Delivery:** The December Mozzarella Cheese delivery **remains on schedule** and **has not been changed**.

Update to USDA Food Delivery Dates to the Warehouse

USDA Foods Item	Requested Delivery Date
APPLE JUICE SINGLE FRZ CUP-96/4 OZ	8/31/2026
APPLE SLICES CAN-6/10	1/15/2027
APPLESAUCE CUP-96/4.5	8/15/2026
APPLESAUCE CUP-96/4.5	11/15/2026
APPLESAUCE UNSWEETENED CAN-6/10	9/15/2026
APPLESAUCE UNSWEETENED CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
BEANS BLACK TURTLE CAN-6/10	8/15/2026
BEANS GARBANZO CAN-6/10	8/15/2026
BEANS GREEN CAN-6/10	11/15/2026
BEEF 100% PTY 90/10 FRZ 2.0MMA CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
BEEF CRUMBLES W/SPP PKG-4/10 LB	9/15/2026
BEEF CRUMBLES W/SPP PKG-4/10 LB	11/15/2026
BEEF FINE GROUND FRZ CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
BEEF FINE GROUND FRZ CTN-40 LB	1/31/2027
BLK BEAN BGR PTY IQF 2.0 MMA CTN-30 LB	9/30/2026
BLUEBERRY WILD FRZ CTN-8/3 LB	10/15/2026
BROCCOLI FRZ CTN-30 LB	CANCELED
CARROTS DICED FRZ CTN-12/2 LB	11/15/2026
CHEESE CHED WHT SHRED BAG-6/5 LB	11/15/2026
CHEESE CHED WHT SHRED BAG-6/5 LB	1/15/2027
CHEESE MOZ LM PART SKM SHRD FRZ BOX-30LB	1/15/2027
CHEESE MOZ LM PART SKM SHRD FRZ BOX-30LB	12/15/2026
CHEESE PROCESS WHT SLC LVS-6/5 LB	9/15/2026
CHEESE PROCESS WHT SLC LVS-6/5 LB	11/15/2026
CHICKEN DICED CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
CHICKEN FILLETS UNBRD FRZ CTN-30 LB	8/31/2026
CHICKEN OVEN ROASTED FRZ 8 PC CTN-30 LB	9/15/2026
CHICKEN PULLED CKD FRZ CTN-30 LB	8/15/2026
CHICKEN STRIPS FRZ CTN-30 LB	8/15/2026
CHICKEN STRIPS FRZ CTN-30 LB	1/15/2027
CORN FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB	10/15/2026
CORN FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB	11/15/2026
CRANBERRIES DRIED PKG-300/1.16 OZ	9/15/2026
FISH AK POLLOCK STICKS BRD FRZ CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
MIXED BERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.OZ	10/15/2026
MIXED FRUIT EX LT CAN-6/10	10/31/2026
MIXED FRUIT EX LT CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
PANCAKES WHOLE WHEAT FZN-144 COUNT	8/31/2026
PEACHES CLING DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	10/15/2026
PEACHES CLING DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
PEARS DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	10/15/2026
PEARS DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
PEAS GREEN FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB	10/15/2026
PORK HAM WATERAD SLC FRZ PKG-8/5 LB	10/15/2026
PORK HAM WATERAD SLC FRZ PKG-8/5 LB	11/15/2026
PORK PULLED CKD PKG-8/5 LB	10/15/2026
POTATOES WEDGE FRZ PKG-6/5 LB	10/15/2026
RAISINS BOX-144/1.33 OZ	8/31/2026
RICE BRN US#1 LONG PARBOILED PKG-24/2 LB	9/15/2026
STRAWBERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.5 OZ	CANCELED
STRAWBERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.5 OZ	CANCELED
STRAWBERRY SLICES UNSWT IQF CTN-6/5 LB	CANCELED
SUNFLOWER SEED BUTTER 6-5#S	10/15/2026
SWEET POTATOES CRINKLE FRZ PKG-6/5 LB	CANCELED
TOMATO SALSA POUCH-6/106 OZ	9/15/2026
TORTILLA WHOLE WHEAT FZN 8" CTN-12/24	9/30/2026
TURKEY BREAST DELI SLICED FRZ PKG 8/5 LB	9/15/2026
TURKEY BREAST DELI SLICED FRZ PKG 8/5 LB	11/15/2026
TURKEY ROASTS FRZ CTN-32-48 LB	8/28/2026
WHOLE GRAIN BLEND MACARONI CTN-20 LB	9/15/2026

USDA SUN Bucks

Please Share!

A message from the Office for Family Independence (OFI)
about SUN Bucks

Last Call – Spend your SUN Bucks before they go away!

SUN Bucks expire 122 days after they are issued.

This year Maine issued over \$10 million in SUN Bucks to 84,972 kids. 32% of households whose kids have received SUN Bucks have not used the benefit. The benefit will go away in October for most kids so now is the time to spend your SUN Bucks if you have them.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Where are my kids' SUN Bucks?

- If your household receives SNAP, or if your child received P-EBT or SUN Bucks in the past, SUN Bucks was loaded onto the existing EBT card.
- If your child hasn't participated in any of those programs, a new card in the child's name was mailed to the best-known address.

I can't find my card; how do I get a new one?

Call 1-800-477-7428 or go to ebtedge.com to get a replacement card. Some people may need to call OFI at 855-797-4357 if their card has been deactivated.

How do I use my SUN Bucks?

[How to use your SUN Bucks Half Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[العربية](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#) | [Português](#) | [Lingala](#) | [Soomaali](#) | [Русский](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [Kiswahili](#) | [ᐃᓴᓴᓴ](#) | [Kinyarwanda](#)

Other questions about SUN Bucks?

Go to https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/food-supplement/sun_bucks or call OFI at 1-855-797-4357 Monday – Friday from 7am – 4pm.



Maine Apple Crunch Day!

Join the **2nd Annual Maine Apple Crunch** on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**, to celebrate Maine farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities!

Participating is simple: purchase, serve, and **CRUNCH** into locally grown Maine apples.

Register your Crunch today to:

- Add your participants to the statewide Crunch count
- Request FREE Apple Crunch Day posters & stickers for your event!
- Get information about purchasing and serving local apples
- Receive updates, activities, and resources leading up to the event

The official Maine Apple Crunch will take place at noon on **Wednesday, October 14**, but you are welcome to hold your Crunch at any time throughout October. No event is too small to register!

Register your Crunch: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/ENBJY3Hj2Y>

Questions? Contact Katie Knowles, Farm & Sea to School Coordinator, at katie.knowles@maine.gov.

Child Nutrition Training

- *The links to register are in the training titles - unless otherwise noted.*
- *Pay attention to registration deadline dates. Deadlines must be adhered to.*
- 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.
- 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 State offices are closed, webinars/trainings will be rescheduled. Anyone who has already registered will be notified of the new date and time.
- All of any kind will be removed from the virtual training



October Survey

October 26, 2026

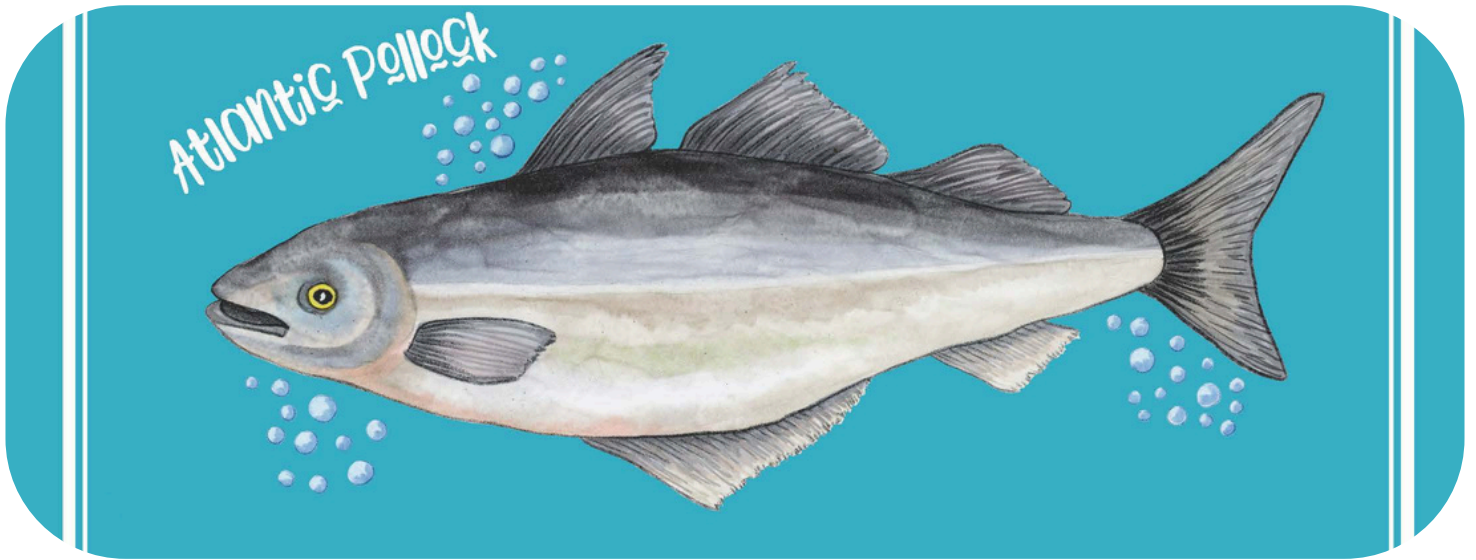
1:30pm

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This webinar will provide instructions and a walk through of the process.

Other Available Trainings



Join the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute on Friday, October 9th, from 12 pm to 3 pm at the Yarmouth High School ([286 W Elm St, Yarmouth, ME](#)) for a hands-on Foundational Fish Skills Training. Participants will build basic skills around working with raw fish fillets in the kitchen, learn about the wide diversity of local seafood available to K-12 schools, and strengthen sea-to-school knowledge and expertise. Participants will walk away with resources and tools to implement sea-to-school programs at their schools. This training provides 2.5 CEU hours, and **participants will receive a \$150 stipend**. Space is limited, so please register here to save your spot. [RSVP today!](#)

- Date: Friday, October 9
- Time: 12 pm- 3 pm
- Location: Yarmouth High School, [286 W Elm St., Yarmouth, ME](#)
- Who should attend: School nutrition professionals interested in learning how to incorporate local seafood into school meals.

[RSVP today!](#)