

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

Dear Champions of Education,

During the current government shutdown, the Federal Grant Management System (G5) remains operational and available for Maine DOE program and fiscal staff to access Grant Award Notifications (GAN) and request reimbursements.

The U.S. Department of Education's contingency plan states that federal funding for programs such as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), and other forward-funded programs will remain available.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has guaranteed funding availability for the Child Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and Summer EBT until October 31, 2025.

While funding remains available, in many cases, all federal staff members have been furloughed. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.

Your Maine Department of Education offices remain open and ready to support and assist you. As more information becomes available, we will share that with you.

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

October Monthly Order

The October Monthly Order runs from the 1st-15th. Step by step directions on how to complete your order can be found on the the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.

PFG Delivery Schedule

The School Year 2026 PFG delivery schedule is now on the FDP webpage of our website. Scroll to the PFG dropdown to find the link.

PFG Deliveries

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

DoD/FFAVORS

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

If you are participating in the DoD/FFAVORS program, you **MUST** approve the receipt in FFAVORS within **2 business days**.

if you have not done this, you will see this message when you log into FFAVORS

Orders

[Past Due Receipts](#) ** You have receipts that are past due.

October Survey Coming Soon!!!

There are changes to the October Survey so be sure to attend the webinar on **October 7, 2025 at 1:30pm** to ensure that reporting is done accurately.

FYI - The October Survey is an additional edit check to monthly claims, therefore, the accuracy of this report is extremely important.

Once it is open, **EVERY SPONSOR MUST** complete the October Survey.

Use this [link](#) to register for the October Survey webinar.

Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi

Topic: Monthly Financial Reporting
October 16th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: Time Study / Labor Hours
November 13th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: Breakfast Meal Cost Breakdown
January 15th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: TBA
February 12th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: TBA
March 19th, 1:30-2:30pm

Topic: Annual Financial Report
May 19th, 1:30-2:30pm

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

Team Nutrition

Sponsoring organizations that participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs can request free print copies of Team Nutrition materials, while supplies last.

Visit the [online order form](#) for resources.



2025 Maine Farm to Institution Summit

Registration Now Open!!

This year's event, hosted by the Maine Farm & Sea to Institution Network and the Maine Farm to School Network, builds on the legacy of the Maine Farm to School Conference and expands its scope to engage other institutional settings from K–12 schools, Early Childhood Education centers, colleges, hospitals, correctional facilities, and more.

Join institutional food leaders, producers, distributors, and advocates from across Maine to:

- Share resources and best practices in local and regional procurement
- Explore models for institutional kitchens, cafeterias, and meal programs
- Connect food service, educators, and policy makers for collective impact
- Discuss policy shaping farm to institution efforts in Maine

Save the date: October 14, 2025 · Location: Colby College, Waterville, ME

Register now: <https://www.mainefarmtoinstitution.org/mef2isummit25>

[Sign up for MEFTI's newsletter to stay up to date with event and program details](#)



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 nearly \$11 million in SUN Bucks to 91,227 kids. 29,000 kids still have SUN Bucks left to spend. The benefit will go away in early 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 \(PNG\)](#)

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

Find the flyer online at: www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/programs-services/food-supplement/sun_bucks/outreach

Other questions about SUN Bucks?

Go to 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

October 15th, 2025

Get Ready to CRUNCH!

Celebrate Maine farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities by joining the 1st Annual Maine Apple Crunch this October! At noon on Wednesday, October 15th, schools and communities across the state will bite into crisp, local apples together in a statewide CRUNCH. This fun, educational event highlights the importance of fresh, local food in school cafeterias and teaches students where their food comes from. Participating is easy: buy, serve, and CRUNCH into a Maine-grown apple!

Click [HERE to Register](#)

Click [HERE to view our Apple Crunch Toolkit!](#)

Email **Katie Knowles with any questions** Katie.Knowles@maine.gov

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION



Governor Janet T. Mills has officially proclaimed **October as Maine Farm & Sea to School Month.**

This proclamation recognizes the vital role Farm & Sea to School programs play in connecting students with fresh, local food, supporting Maine's farmers and fishermen, and building a healthier future for our communities. Schools, food producers, and community partners across the state are encouraged to celebrate and strengthen these connections throughout the month.



MAINE
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION **FARM & SEA
TO SCHOOL**

Child Nutrition Training

**AI 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.

If there is a registration fee - **Per Maine DOE
policy, payment is due by credit card at the time
of registration.**

Please be sure to register to ensure that we have
enough space for everyone.

**Please mark your calendars once
you have registered.**

Webinars

USDA Foods in Your Menus and Planning for Next Year

October 27, 2025

1:30pm

Come learn ways to incorporate USDA foods in your menus and planning ahead for next year. We will also discuss important reminders and timelines to set schools up for success.

Civil Rights Training

The Civil Rights training can be found on the [Civil Rights](#) page of our website. Scroll past the Non-discrimination statements to the Civil Rights Training dropdown.

ServSafe Exam

2:00pm

October 20, 2025

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.**

Registration Deadline - October 3, 2025



Local Foods Training

Taste Tests with Local Foods

October 21, 2025

10:00am-1:00pm

Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta

Join us for our first in-person local foods training of the school year!

This training will highlight keys to leading a successful taste test using local foods! We will highlight recipes using HOM ingredients and put on our own taste test! Districts that attend a monthly local foods training will be eligible for an additional \$1,000 in reimbursement for the Local Foods Fund!

Fall Info Meeting

October 23, 2025

9:00am - 3:00pm

Registration begins at 8:30am

University of Maine, Orono - Wells Conference Center

- Hear the latest DOE Updates to keep us aligned with state and federal priorities
- Learn more about what we have going on in Child Nutrition
- Regional Local Foods Project
- Bulk Milk Service
- Buy American Tracking
- CACFP At Risk
- Financial Basics
- And Off-site Meals Guidance

Registration deadline - **October 15, 2025**

Use this [link](#) to register

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

Maine Green Schools Symposium

November 7, 2025

8:30am- 3:00pm

Thomas College

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) is thrilled to announce Maine's first-ever Green Schools Symposium—a groundbreaking event celebrating climate education and sustainability leadership across Maine's schools.

This unique, statewide gathering will bring together school leaders, educators, and community stakeholders for a full day of networking, resource sharing, and cross-sector collaboration. [Please register here](#) and attend to hear inspiring stories of school-led sustainability efforts and explore practical tools for improving energy efficiency, cutting facilities costs, and creating healthier learning environments.

The Symposium will offer four workshop tracks: *Leadership, Facilities, Curriculum, Career Pathways*

Limited funds are available to subsidize the cost of substitute teachers and transportation for schools to reduce financial barriers to attending the symposium. Please reach out to Lucy Van Hook at Lucy.van-hook@maine.gov if financial assistance is needed to attend the symposium. Contact Hours of Maine educators are also available.

Shout Outs!!

World School Milk Day

From Katie Hoffman
Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council

World School Milk Day Celebration at Spruce Mountain Primary School in Livermore on September 24th. Our tremendous thanks to Laura Merrill and her staff who served a delicious lunch with plenty of ice-cold milk and even had a strawberry milk taste test for the students to try a new milk flavor!

