

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

PRIORITY NOTICE: Maine DOE Child Nutrition Programs Unaffected by Anticipated Changes to SNAP

This information is being sent to Superintendents, Principals and Guidance Counselors

In anticipation of questions from the field, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) would like to assure school administrators that its **Child Nutrition Programs will continue to operate as usual**, despite an anticipated reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits nationwide beginning November 1, 2025. These programs are not connected.

In addition, the **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Program** will continue for those Maine schools currently enrolled. Existing program rules remain in effect; meals must be consumed on-site and in a congregate setting to ensure that students receive the full benefit of these services.

The Maine DOE has advised local Child Nutrition Directors to anticipate a potential increase in participation in school breakfast and lunch and the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program following the expected changes to SNAP benefits. School administrators may utilize this Community (Food) Resources template, found on the Child Nutrition Home page, when responding to families who may be experiencing gaps in nutrition assistance, due to ongoing federal uncertainty.


For families seeking additional food support, please consider sharing [The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Map](#), organized by county, from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry.

With questions, please contact Jane McLucas, Maine DOE Director of Child Nutrition, at jane.mclucas@maine.gov.


Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that all Maine students have access to nutritious meals every school day.

Annual Financial Report

Districts that **do NOT** have an approved 2025 Annual Financial Report by **October 31, 2025**, **will not be able to receive a claim payment** until the report is approved.




The Districts below have not submitted their
2025 Annual Financial Report




Lincolnton Public Schools

Opportunity Training Center



RSU 63/MSAD 63



USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

November Monthly Order

The 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 Deliveries

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

Local Foods Fund Reminders!

- As a reminder, you can claim multiple months at a time for the Local Foods Fund (LFF) with your monthly claim!
- LFF's fiscal year runs July 1st-June 30th, which means you can claim local food purchased at any time during the FY (for example, you can claim August, September, October with your November claim)
- Please **NEVER** revise your claim to include LFF. You can always submit your claim the following month!

Claims are coming up! Many districts had errors with their LFF claim. 😊 As a friendly reminder:

- Claims must include 2 files:
 - Our [NEW Summary Claim form](#) in EXCEL format.
 - Invoices should be attached as one PDF with claimed items highlighted.

Also: Have you completed the required training for submitting a LFF claim?

- [Have you viewed our training slides?](#) (pg. 1-15)
- Have you filled out our [attestation statement](#) stating you understand the new changes?

Please reach out to Katie with any questions!

katie.knowles@maine.gov

Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi

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.



At Risk Afterschool Program

The new, public, CEP data may mean your school can take advantage of the At Risk Afterschool Program. Please visit our [CEP webpage](#) for more information. For questions about CEP, please contact David Hartley at david.hartley@maine.gov. For questions about At Risk, please contact Kobi Chase at kobi.l.chase@maine.gov.

With many families experiencing greater food insecurity, we understand that some sites may wish to extend their At-Risk Program to better support children and youth in their communities. If your site plans to extend the At-Risk Afterschool Program to serve meals/snacks in the evenings, on the weekends, during school vacation weeks and/or on holidays, please submit a Site Sheet revision in CNPweb to document those requests.

As a reminder:

- An enrichment activity is required to be offered.
- Meals and snacks must be consumed on site.
- One component may be taken off site, provided it is a fruit, vegetable, or grain item.

If you don't yet provide the CACFP At Risk Afterschool Program and are interested in starting, please reach out with any questions or support requests to kobi.l.chase@maine.gov

Maine Regional Local Foods Project Survey

Our Maine Regional Local Foods Project is in full swing again! This year, every district will have access to a regional local foods coordinator. Whether you have a robust farm & sea to school program, or are just starting out, your Local Foods Coordinator is here to support you!

As part of this project, you are invited to participate in our local foods survey. Please note you must take this survey to receive assistance from your Regional Local Foods Coordinator.

Click [HERE](#) to access our local foods survey.

Coordinators can help you with:

- Participating in Farm & Sea to School programming
 - i.e. Maine Harvest of the Month, the State Local Foods Fund, Fishermen Feeding Mainers
- Expanding local purchasing
- Developing skills for scratch cooking and preparing local foods
- And more!

The deadline for completing the survey is **November 14th**.

Below is a list of each region's Regional Local Foods Coordinator with their contact information.

Aroostook: Roxanne Bruce, roxanne.bruce@maine.gov

Cumberland & York: Ali Mediate, ali.mediate@maine.gov

Mid-coast (Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc) & Western ME (Oxford, Androscoggin, Franklin): Catherine Brown, catherine.brown@maine.gov

Hancock: Sandy Fortin, sandy.fortin@maine.gov

Washington: Vanessa Young, vanessa.young@maine.gov

Penquis: Amanda Junkins, Amanda.junkins@maine.gov

Kennebec Valley (Waldo & Kennebec): Allie Moulton, Alessandra.Moulton@maine.gov

Fall Info Meeting Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended Fall Info Meeting and thank you to our presenters!

It was nice to see people from all corners of the State!

The presentations and a la carte guidance from the meeting are available on the [Webinars and Training](#) page of our website.

Off-site meals guidance can be found Child Nutrition Resources on the [main page](#) of our website. We are working on a Buy American Quick Guide and FAQ document.

Farm to School Cook-Off

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!

[Register for the 2026 Farm to School Cook Off](#)

Registration will be open until **December 31, 2025**

This year's challenge ingredients are

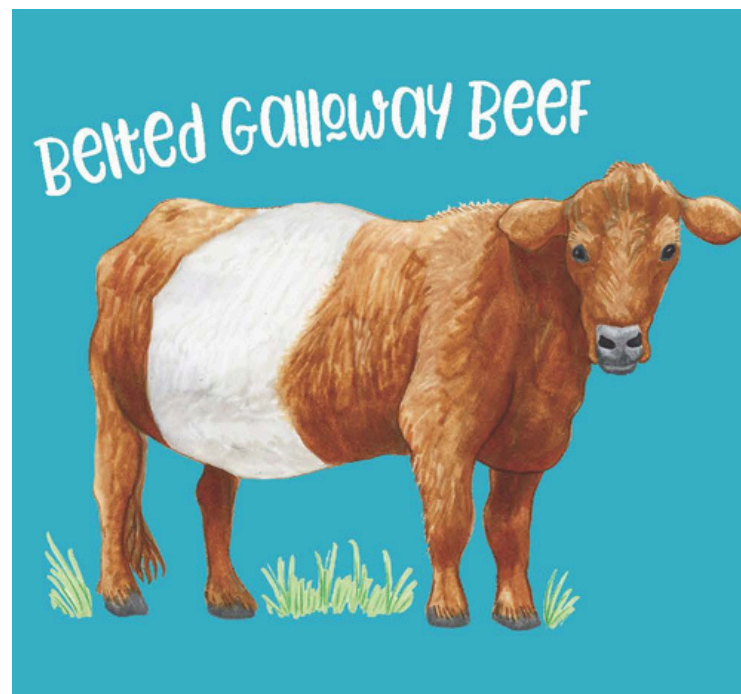
Breakfast - **Wild Blueberries**

Lunch - **Ground Beef**

Rules and Guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/localfoods>

If you have any questions please contact Stephanie, Michele or Katie



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.
- 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

Train the Trainer

November 24, 2025

1:30pm

In addition to revisiting USDA/FNS professional standards, we will also explore strategies for equipping staff with the skills to train others effectively. Participants will leave with an understanding of the regulatory language, as well as tools for creating engaging, repeatable training sessions that strengthen program operations.

Did you miss last month's webinar?

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



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

Local Foods Training

The Good Crust

November 13, 2025

10:00am-12:00pm

Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom

90 Blossom Lane

Augusta

Join Katie, our Farm & Sea to School Coordinator for a local foods training with The Good Crust! This training will highlight some of The Good Crust's BRAND-NEW products, including a new handheld breakfast item, Sicilian style pizza crust, and more! During this training, we will demonstrate different ways to prepare and utilize these new products. This training is eligible for districts operating NSLP to receive an extra \$1000 in state Local Foods Fund reimbursements (which can be used to purchase The Good Crust dough!)

Please reach out to Katie with any questions at katie.knowles@maine.gov

ServSafe Class/Exam

November 24th & 25th

Child Nutrition Office

Room 101

90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

November 24th - 8:00am-3:00pm

November 25th - 8:00am-approximately noon for exam

Please bring your lunch

You must provide an email address

Bring photo ID, pen, pencils and erasers

Testing will begin around noon on the 25th

Charge for the class is \$102 payable by
credit card at the time of registration

Registration Deadline is October 31st



Local Foods Training

Maine Sea to School Culinary Training

December 16, 2025

10:00am-1:00pm

Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom

90 Blossom Lane

Augusta

Join Maine DOE Child Nutrition, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, and Gulf of Maine Research Institute for a hands-on culinary training! This training will highlight Maine caught fish; expect to learn different ways to prepare fish, safe handling, as well as methods to engage students with local seafood.



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OCTOBER STAR WEBINAR

Best Practices for Crafting
Cycle Menus

Oct 30, 2025

03:00 PM ET



Cycle menus provide structure and consistency while supporting variety, compliance, and efficiency in school meals programs. In this webinar, school nutrition leaders will share best practices for developing cycle menus that are both nutritious and appealing to students. Participants will explore strategies for menu planning, cost control, labor management, and incorporating diverse and innovative menu ideas that keep school meals engaging.

[Register Now](#)