

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

The next Thursday Update will be on January 8, 2026

Wishing everyone an amazing, restful winter break.

Farm to School Cook-off

Registration Deadline Approaching!

USDA Foods - Sliced Turkey

DoD/FFAVORS

Claims

District Audit Questions

New Food Service Director/Single Unit Kitchen Managers

Financial Open Office Hours

Child Nutrition Training

Webinars

Local Foods Training-The Good Crust

ServSafe Exam

Maine Agricultural Trade Show

USDA Foods & NOI Training

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Training Opportunity

Shout Outs!!

Happy Holidays!

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

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

Farm to School Cook-Off

DEADLINE

December 31, 2025!!



**The first 12 teams to register
will receive a Mercer Culinary
Millennia 13-piece knife set!**

(Knife sets will be given at the Regional Competitions)

***Register for the 2026
Farm to School Cook Off***

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 - stephanie.stambach@maine.gov

Michele - michele.bisbee@maine.gov

Katie - katie.knowles@maine.gov



USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

!!Deli Sliced Turkey Breast!!

We have been informed by USDA that deli sliced turkey breast that was scheduled for January delivery has now been cancelled because of vendor constraints. All PAL Entitlements have been refunded. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause in your meal planning and appreciate your understanding.

FDP Reports are listed in the FDP Program Section. Once logged in, select the "Entitlement" tab. Any questions regarding FDP, contact terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov.

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.

Claims

Please remember, monthly claims must be in **“Approved”** status **by 4pm the 8th of each month** for payment to process that month.

Approved Claims submitted **after 4pm the 8th of the month** will **NOT** be paid until the following month

Claim Status definitions to keep in mind:

“Pending Submission” - Claim certification has NOT been completed by the Filer or Approver.

“Pending Approval” - State Child Nutrition Staff need to Approve claim submission. In most cases, due to a LFS submission.

Please Note

State of Maine offices will be closed on **Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26**, in observance of Christmas Day. Offices will reopen on **Monday, December 29**.

In addition, State of Maine offices will be closed on **Wednesday, January 1**, in observance of New Year's Day.

We would also like to remind Sponsors and Providers that the **final deadline to submit October 2025 claims for reimbursement is December 30, 2025**. We strongly encourage you to submit claims as early as possible and not wait until the last minute. Planning ahead allows time to address any questions or issues that may arise, especially considering the two-step claim approval process and upcoming office closures.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and attention to these important deadlines. We appreciate your commitment to timely and accurate claim submissions.

District Audit Questions

The following link is to the Maine Statute for No Charge Meals.
Please pass this on to your Business Manager or equivalent.

[Title 20-A, §6602: School food service programs.](#)

The 293A (Reimbursement Earned)report Auditors ask for can
be accessed from CNPWeb under the Accounting Reports.

Child Nutrition Data Reports can be found on our website:
[Child Nutrition Data Reports | Department of Education](#)

New Foodservice Director/Single Unit Kitchen Managers

Please [contact our office](#) when there are vacancies and newly hired Foodservice Directors/Single Unit Managers.

New Director Bootcamp - February 2026 Save the Date!

Foodservice Directors and Single Unit Kitchen Managers are invited to attend New Director Bootcamp on February 19 & 20, 2026.

This training is open to new foodservice directors hired in school year 2025 & 2026.

Invitation to register will be sent separately.

Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi

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.

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

Crediting Meal Components in the NSLP & SBP

January 26, 2026

1:30

“Crediting” is the process used to determine how specific foods count towards meal pattern requirements. This is important for menu planning and preparing for an upcoming administrative review. Along with program updates and reminders, the January webinar will cover how to credit meal components in the NSLP and SBP, walk through specific scenarios, resources to use, and highlight common crediting pitfalls to avoid.

Presented by Stephanie Stambach.



Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP)

February 23, 2026

1:30

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.



Did you miss a webinar?

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



Local Foods Training

The Good Crust

January 21, 2026
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 Exam

2:00pm

January 27, 2026

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 - January 9, 2026



MATCHMAKING EVENT




Institutional Buyers, Local Producers & Distributors

Get inspired by Maine farmers, food producers, aggregators, and buyers on how they have incorporated farm to institution work into their business. Spend most of the session making connections to buy and sell more local food. Come with your business cards and promotional materials.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER
a.peterson@hccame.org

JANUARY 15, 2026

Maine Agricultural Trades Show
Augusta Civic Center, Capital Room
10am - 1pm



Institutional Buyers, Local Producers & Distributors Matchmaking Event

Get inspired by Maine farmers, food producers, aggregators, and buyers on how they have incorporated farm to institution (FTI) work into their business. Spend most of the session making connections to buy and sell more local food. Come with your business cards and promotional materials.

When: January 15, 2026. 10:00am-1:00pm

Where: Maine Agricultural Trade Show. Augusta Civic Center.
Capital Room.

[REGISTER](#)

On behalf of MSNA and the DOE we are excited to announce our second, biennial USDA & NOI food show and learning collaboration.

[Register Here!](#)

PLEASE JOIN **MSNA** AND THE **DOE** FOR A ONE DAY TRAINING ALL ABOUT

USDA Foods & NOI

When: JANUARY 28TH, 2026, 8:30 AM-2PM
Where:

THE HAMMOND LUMBER AUDITORIUM (AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER)

- Food Show emphasizing USDA options
- The big picture for USDA Foods
- What is PAL and how does it work?
- How to calculate NOI allocations
- Panel discussions with directors
- Best practices for managing USDA & NOI

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST 8:30-9 AM

MSNA MEMBERS \$75

NON-MEMBERS \$100

THIS TRAINING IS GEARED TOWARDS
PROFESSIONALS WHO MAKE PURCHASING
DECISIONS. WE WILL HAVE A LITTLE BIT
FOR EVERYONE, FROM NEW DIRECTORS TO
SEASONED DIRECTORS!



Think outside the brown box.....

Registration will close at the end of December, please don't wait!!

Any questions, please reach out to Allison Leavitt,

aleavitt@lisbonschoolsme.org

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Training Opportunity

[Register](#)

Navigating Afterschool Snack and Supper Service

Event times listed are Eastern. Please adjust accordingly for your time zone.



Thursday, February 5, 2026 (2:00 PM - 2:30 PM) (EST)



Description

Register FREE | Earn 0.5 CEU, Specialty 2

Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, the National School Lunch Program's snack service will follow the same meal pattern requirements as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). With operators now utilizing the CACFP snack meal pattern, it's a good time to consider CACFP supper service as well. Join us for a fun, practical session that breaks down what's required and how to make it work for your program. Learn the key differences between snack and supper services, discover creative ways to meet meal pattern requirements, and get inspired with kid-approved menu ideas. Whether you're a school, sponsor, or afterschool site, you'll leave ready to serve nutritious meals that kids enjoy while keeping your program compliant.

1. Understand the key differences between NSLP and CACFP snack and supper meal pattern requirements, eligibility, and operations.
2. Leave with the Program Comparison Resource produced in partnership by the National CACFP Association and the School Nutrition Association, and ideas to serve snacks and/or suppers that kids will love.

Presented By:
Alexia Thex, MEd
Vice President of Policy, Partnerships, and Events
National CACFP Association

Isabel Ramos-Lebron, MS, RDN, LD
Senior Nutrition Education Specialist
National CACFP Association

- ③ **Pricing**
FREE
- 📍 **Zoom**
- 👤 **Event Contact**
National CACFP Sponsors Association
(512) 850-8278
[Send Email](#)
- 🕒 **Thursday, February 5, 2026 (2:00 PM - 2:30 PM) (EST)**

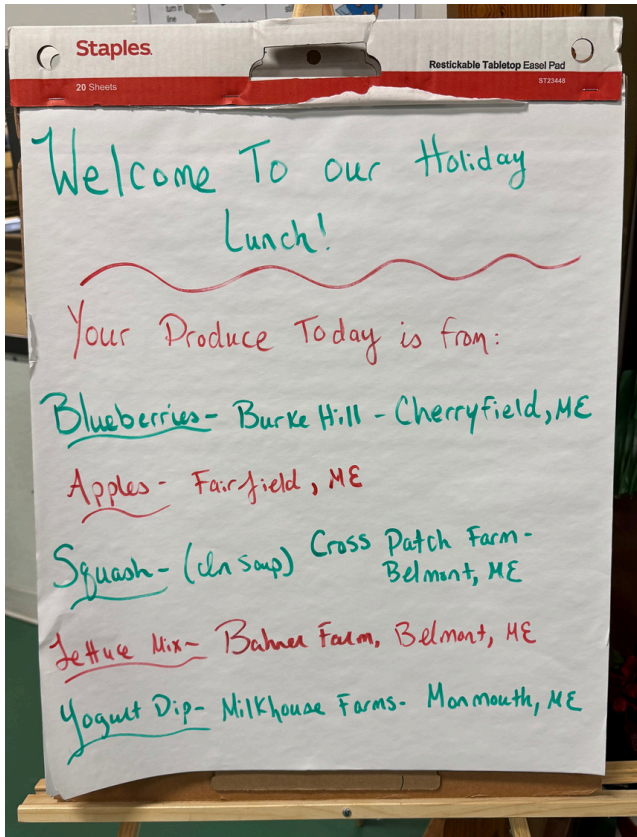
This webinar offers real-time, live captions that are available in Spanish and 34 other languages.

Shout Outs!!

From RSU 75

The Nutrition team at Williams Cone Elementary hosted their holiday meal featuring Maine ingredients. Students invited family members to join them for homemade turkey noodle soup, homemade squash soup, rolls, homemade gingerbread, and a salad bar of all local Maine products, each listed for families to see.

They served 400 people!!



Thank you, Amanda Johnson
for sharing!!



Merry
Christmas



HAPPY

KWANZAA



Happy
New Year