

March 19, 2026

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.

SUN Meals (SFSP) Training

Community Eligibility Provision & Special Provision II

Salad Bars to Schools Grant Opportunity

SY 2027 FFVP Applications are Open!

USDA Foods Inventory

Farm & Sea to School Office Hours

Child Nutrition Training

Webinars

ServSafe Class & Exam

Culinary Skills for School Meals Training

Shout Outs!!



Training Opportunities

March 26, 2026

9:00-12:00 *6 Spots Left*

Child Nutrition Office

90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

April 9, 2026

9:00-12:00 *9 Spots Left*

Dennis Paper

101 Mecaw Road, Hampden

This training is for Summer Food Service Program Sponsors who have recently operated the program. It is mandatory that Summer Food Service Program Sponsors receive training in order to qualify to operate the program. The training will include an overview of program regulations and highlight areas where additional training is needed and tips for program promotion.

April 30, 2026

9:00-12:00

Child Nutrition Office

90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

11 Spots Left

This training is for new Summer Food Service Program Sponsors who would like to operate the program. It is mandatory that all Summer Food Service Program Sponsors receive training in order to qualify to operate the program. The training will include a detailed overview of program regulations, tips for successful operations, and ample opportunity for questions. Experienced sponsors are also welcome to register for this training if they would like to have a more detailed training.

!!REMINDER!!

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) & Special Provision II

For CEP:

- If you qualify, but are not participating in CEP, this is the time to take a look at those numbers, and crunch some data to find all your students that qualify
- If you already participate in CEP, please review your numbers too! How do they look? Are they better than what you currently have? Would it make sense to create a new 4-year cycle? To increase your percentage to extend your cycle? To extend your cycle for another year?

DON'T miss this last opportunity to hold onto these percentages!

For SPII:

- Review your numbers, and make a plan with Admin, for collection of Applications in the fall. SPII will not make sense if you do not have a good collection.

Please contact [David Hartley](#) with questions about either program.

Webinars for approving Meal Benefit applications and the Verification Process will be scheduled at a later date.

Salad Bars to Schools Grant Opportunity

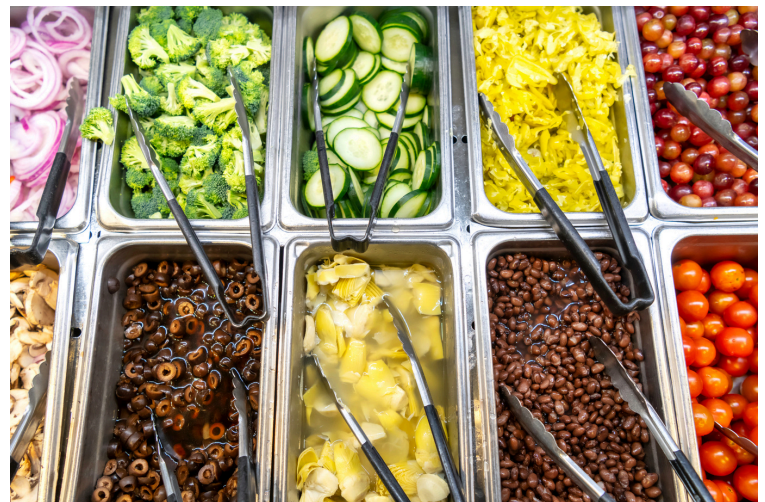
Apply by March 31, 2026

Salad Bars to Schools (SB2S) is a grant program that provides schools and districts with everything needed to implement salad bars effectively as a part of a reimbursable meal, while supporting a journey to more scratch cooking and values-aligned procurement. Our **Salad Bars to Schools** program grants K–12 schools everything needed to install a salad bar — including salad bar equipment and all accessories, marketing materials, and comprehensive online training courses through the School Food Institute.

Open to: K-12 school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program with an enrollment of at least 100 students per school site.

The program is currently a partnership of the [Chef Ann Foundation](#) and [Whole Kids Foundation](#).

[CLICK HERE to Register and Apply](#)





SY 2027 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Applications are Open!

FFVP applications are submitted electronically in CNP web. To access the applications, log into CNP web, click “SNP” then Program Year 2027. The apps are found under the “Forms” tab, and an application will show up for each eligible school. Here are some important notes:

- Schools with a combination of grades Pre-K through 8 are eligible to apply; however, priority is given to schools with the highest free/reduced percentage.
- This program is different than the DoD Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program that is part of the USDA foods program and is a separate funding source.

Complete, FFVP applications are due Friday, April 24th. Mark your calendars! A complete application means the signature page is uploaded and the application is in “pending approval” status.

Any questions can be directed to Stephanie at stephanie.stambach@maine.gov.

USDA Foods



- Review your USDA inventory in CNPWeb, as April will be the final monthly order.
- Please ensure sufficient storage space is available for all USDA items that will be delivered in May.
- **USDA items cannot be returned or refused upon delivery.**

Farm & Sea to School Office Hours

Thursday, March 27th

12:30-2:00PM

[Register Here!](#)

These virtual office hours are unstructured time to hop on and discuss all things farm & sea to school!

Ask questions, seek technical assistance, brainstorm ideas. As always, if these hours don't work for you, please email Katie Knowles to set up a time to chat!

Katie.Knowles@Maine.gov

Child Nutrition Training

- All 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 State offices are closed webinars/trainings will be rescheduled. Anyone who has already registered will be notified of the new date and time.

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

Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP)

Registration link is in the date and time.

March 27, 2026

10:00am

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.



Meal Counting in Alternative Serving Locations: Requirements & Best Practices

March 30, 2026

1:30pm

This must-watch webinar is designed for schools that operate alternative serving locations- where meals are served outside of the traditional cafeteria. These locations may include classrooms, hallways, and other areas. We will review how to accurately count meals at the point of service, or when a student receives a reimbursable meal. We will also discuss common review findings related to Breakfast in the Classroom and Pre-K meals served in the classroom, along with best practices to support compliance.



Did you miss a webinar?

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

ServSafe Class & Exam

April 21 & 22, 2026

Gorham High School

41 Morrill Avenue, Gorham

The class is for School Food Service and CACFP only

Books are ordered and mailed once registration has ended

Please note start times for each day

April 21st 9:00am - 3:00pm

April 22nd 8:00am - Approximately Noon for Exam

Bring photo id, pen or pencils with erasers

You must provide an email address as notification of results
are sent via email

Lunch is NOT provided. Bring your lunch, snacks, drinks

Charge for the class is \$102

Payable by credit card, at the time of registration

Registration deadline – Thursday, April 2, 2026



LET'S GO!

The Culinary Skills for School Meals training is a 5-day hands-on intensive culinary training for school nutrition professionals focusing on foundations for food service, including knife skills, cooking techniques, and kitchen efficiencies, to improve the culinary skills of school nutrition professionals.

2026 Training Details

- August 3-7 | Noble High School, North Berwick
- August 10-14 | Edward Little High School, Auburn
- August 17-21 | Hampden Academy, Hampden
- September 21-25 | Presque Isle High School, Presque Isle



[Click here to apply to attend!](#)

Learn more about the Culinary Skills for Schools Meals training, see the list of past participating school nutrition programs, and photos at LetsGo.org/CulinarySkills or scan the QR code with a smartphone.



This training is made possible with funding from Full Plates Full Potential in collaboration with MaineHealth.

Shout Outs!!

School Breakfast Week in Cherryfield!

Jousting Sausage Pancake Sticks, Dragon Eggs, Crowns & Queen Rings

were some of the options the student in Cherryfield enjoyed during School Breakfast Week



Thank you Christen Beal for sharing!!!