

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

In this week's Thursday Update

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Important Child Nutrition Update

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Scanned Documents

Child Nutrition Training

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Local Foods Training with Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

2025 Maine Wasted Food Solutions Summit

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

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

Important Child Nutrition Update

On Wednesday, April 2, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) became aware of [a letter from Secretary Brooke Rollins of the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA), indicating that non-specific federal funds that the Maine DOE receives “for certain administrative and technological functions in schools” would be frozen.

Over the past week, the Maine DOE has been assessing potential impacts. The Maine DOE can confirm that, at this time, funding to cover the cost of food itself for school nutrition programs remains accessible. It was discovered last week, however, that USDA funding that supports Maine DOE administrative staff who operate school nutrition programs is not accessible. The Maine DOE has also learned that USDA funding for certain other grant programs has been frozen, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Farm to School State Formula Grant, Equipment Assistance Grant, and Technology funds (nTIG). The Maine DOE is actively working to determine the extent of that impact and communicate accordingly with those affected.

On Monday, April 7, Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey [filed a complaint in federal court pertaining to the freezing of these USDA funds](#). This lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order (TRO), which would prevent the USDA from withholding funds until a court is able to hear the case. The Maine DOE is awaiting an update from the Attorney General’s office regarding when that TRO may take effect.

The Maine DOE continues to evaluate options in light of these actions and remains committed to sharing updates and guidance, as frequently and regularly as this dynamic situation allows. In the meantime, child nutrition directors are encouraged to continue with operations, based on current rules and regulations, to the best of their abilities.

Those with specific questions may contact Jane McLucas, Maine DOE Director of Child Nutrition, at jane.mclucas@maine.gov.

Thank you, as always, for your leadership.

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

Last USDA Monthly Order for SY25

- The last USDA Monthly Order for SY25 is April 1st-15th.
- Bonus items will be offered.
- **Items not taken throughout the school year will be shipped in May.**
- **Orders cannot be refused or sent back to PFG once shipped.**

How to Place Your Final SY25 USDA Order

- CNPweb - FDP - Program Year 2025
- Locate Sponsor name by clicking the 1st letter of your sponsor name/district
- Sponsor Number

This takes you to the Sponsor Summary page

- Select: Orders tab
- New Order button - Underneath orders and invoicing tab
 - Location
 - Delivery Period
 - Next
- **Sponsor Order form - The Order Qty box MUST have the exact same number entered in each box that is showing in the Available Qty column.**
 - Next Page
 - Submit

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

SY 2026 FFVP Applications are Open!

The applications are submitted electronically in CNP web. To access the applications, log into CNP web, click “SNP” then Program Year 2026. 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 25th. Mark your calendars! A complete application means the signature page is uploaded and the application is in “pending approval” status.

New Process for Reallocating Funds for FFVP Schools

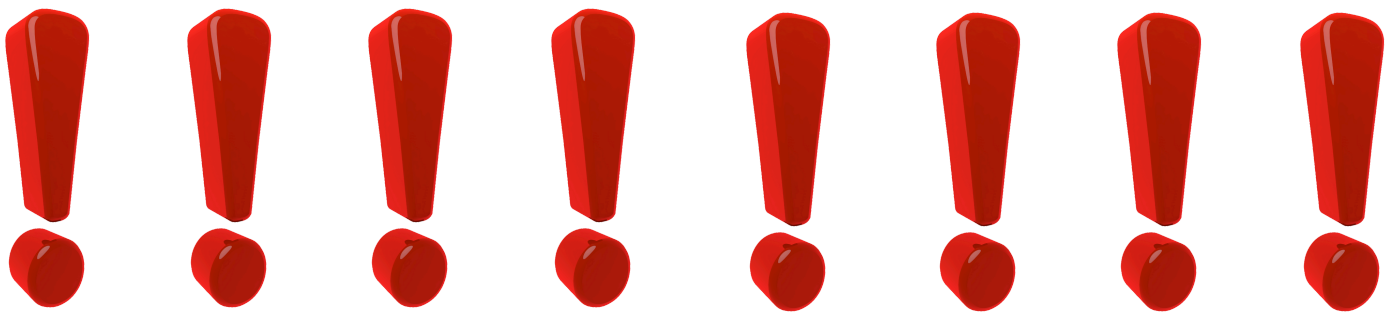
As a result of a recent state audit, our funds reallocation process has changed. Each school's allocation must be within \$50-75/student multiplied by enrollment per federal regulations, even with reallocations (fund transfer from one school to another).

What does this mean?

- If a school needs more funds, we cannot reallocate an amount that exceeds the \$75/student allocation. For example, School A has 150 students x \$75/student = \$11,250. This school cannot receive more than \$11,250 in FFVP funding.
- If a school has an abundance of funds, they must still have a minimum of \$50/student allocation. For example, School B has 100 students x \$50/student = \$5,000. This school's allocation cannot be less than \$5,000 in FFVP funding.

This new process also means that reallocations might take longer to complete than in the past- thank you for your patience! It will also be discussed in the April 1st FFVP webinar, among other changes.

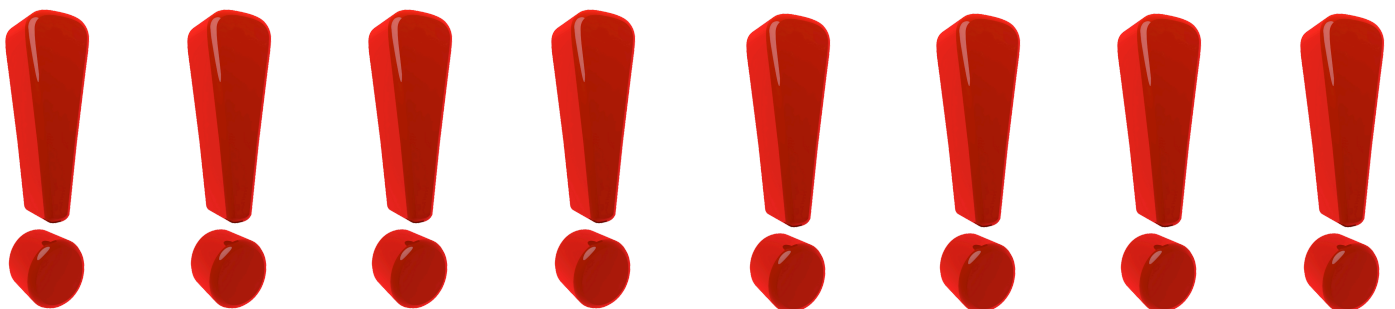
For questions, please contact Stephanie Stambach at: stephanie.stambach@maine.gov.



Attention all CNPWeb Users

Please check your email address in CNPWeb listed under the Sponsor Information Sheet and the User Tab for accuracy. If the email address is not correct on either one of these places, please contract miles.l.laidlaw@maine.gov.

Please do not send us documents directly from your scanner. Our IT Department, has strict rules about opening documents from unknown sources. By sending documentation through your scanner, you risk the email being deleted as spam, please send them from your email.



Child Nutrition Virtual Training

**AI of any kind will be removed
from the 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.

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

Webinars

Child Nutrition Updates & Reminders

April 28, 2025

1:30pm

We will review key updates and reminders, and discuss changes that go into effect for SY 2026. There will be time at the end for Q and A



Annual Financial Report

May 22, 2025

1:30pm

This webinar will include updates on the Annual Financial Report that must be completed by September 1, 2025. Please send any questions you have regarding the Annual Financial Report to jodi.truman@maine.gov by May 15th. All questions submitted will be addressed in the webinar.

Local Foods Training with **Maine Coast Fishermen's Association**

Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom

Wednesday, May 7th

10:00am-2:00pm

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.



2025 Maine Wasted Food Solutions Summit

The Maine Wasted Food Solutions Summit is Maine's statewide event focused on ending wasted food and food loss in our state through solutions that benefit everyone. The Summit brings together our state's key food system participants: farms, businesses, feeding partners, community leaders, and nonprofit organizations – to discuss best and highest uses for our valuable Maine food resources at every stage... “Maine Food: Too Good To Waste.”

This year, we will specifically highlight the bottom-line economic benefits that Maine municipalities, schools, businesses, and households are achieving by simply remembering that food is always a valuable resource packed with energy and nutrients. It is never waste!

Participants are encouraged to bring questions and ideas to the summit. Q&A time will follow each presentation allowing attendees to gain further insights. The online group chat will also be open to encourage additional sharing and networking between participants.

Form more information or to register, please visit the [2025 Maine Wasted Food Solutions Summit web page.](#)

