

# 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](mailto:child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org)

# Community Eligibility Provision

## Don't miss this opportunity to participate in CEP to the MAX!

With cuts potentially coming to SNAP and Medicare, your DC list will most likely not be as robust as it was on April 1, 2025.

Be sure to take the time to double-check your matches before submitting. Have you checked for:

- Addresses (different names, same household)
- Nonmatching names (Mohammed, Mohammad, Muhammad)
- Missing suffix (Jr/Sr) or hyphens Jones-Smith
- Birthdates that are transposed (05/12/2019 or 05/21/2019)
- Requested and received your Head Start and Homeless lists from those program liaisons

Every single addition to the list will make a big difference and meeting that 50% threshold has multiple benefits.

Let's round the difference between paid and free meals to \$4.00

Out of 175 days the student eats at school 160 day

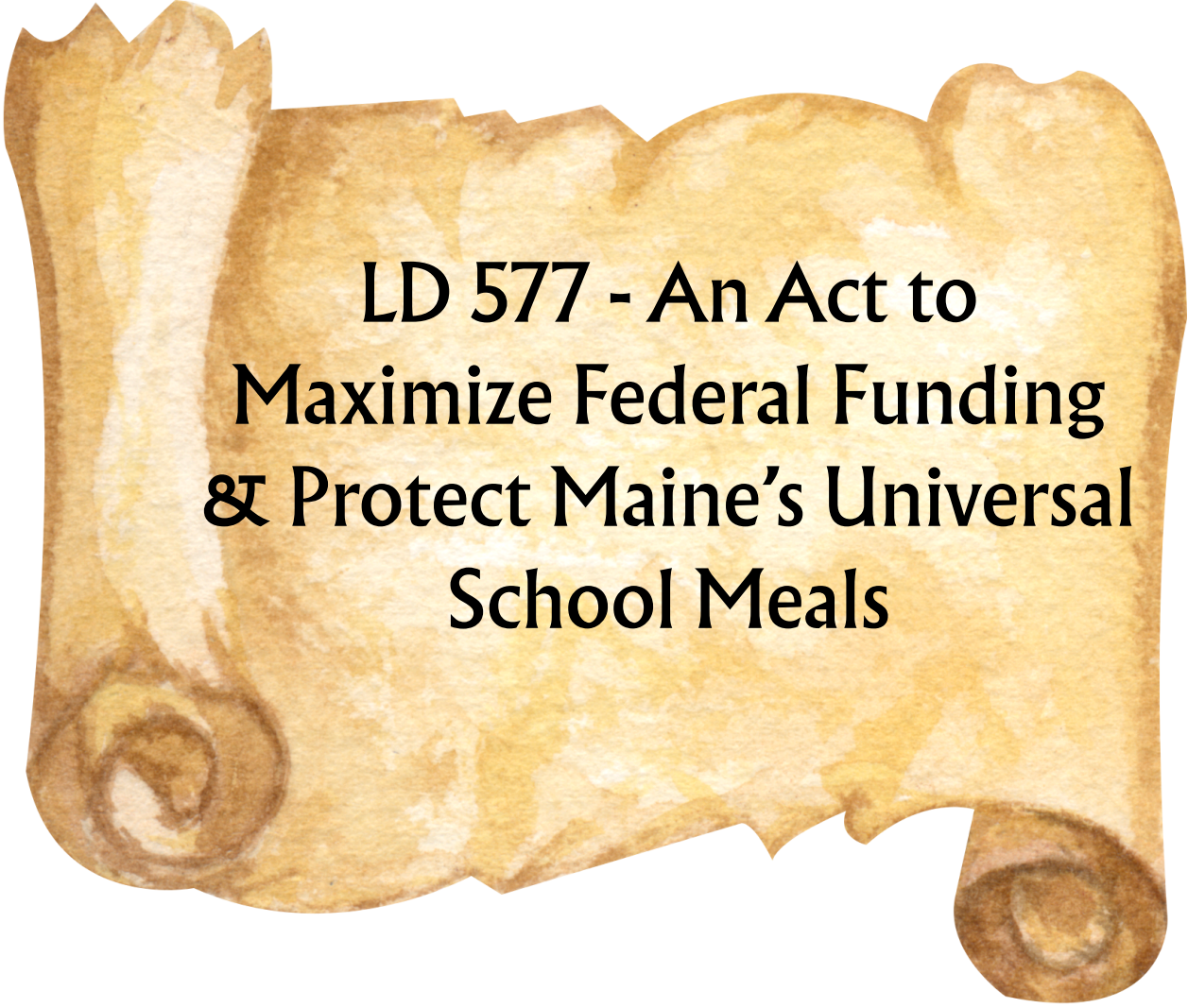
160 days x \$4/day is \$640 that we could be reimbursed with federal funds if the student is matched on the DC list. Think of what a difference you could make by finding matches for 5 students, and then your colleagues in 20 other districts did the same? \$64,000/year and..this data is good for 4 years and there are 214 sponsors in the state...

Let's help our schools, our communities and help secure Healthy School Meals for All!

Reminders:

- **Superintendents MUST email David at [david.hartley@maine.gov](mailto:david.hartley@maine.gov) on plan to participate in CEP.**
- The deadline to submit documentation is **June 30, 2025**
- Master Complete Enrollment List & DC list **must be submitted in EXCEL**
- Documents must be **uploaded into CNP Web**
- David Hartley **must** be notified once documents have been uploaded.
- Superintendents' signature is now needed only at the end of the process

Any questions, contact David at [david.hartley@maine.gov](mailto:david.hartley@maine.gov) or 624-6878



## **LD 577 - An Act to Maximize Federal Funding & Protect Maine's Universal School Meals**

This bill passed through the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee this week and will move onto the full legislature. If passed, the bill would then go to the Governor's Desk for signature and would go into effect 90 days after her signature. This means that there is a chance for it to go into effect for the upcoming SY26 School Year.

This bill requires schools to participate in a Special Provision Program if they qualify. This will maximize the federal funds that we can leverage in the program and minimize the cost to the state. At the discretion of the Department of Education, if a school is not participating in a special provision program, they will not receive the Maine Funds that supplement the meal program but will be required to feed all students at no charge.

*Please be sure to submit your CEP paperwork to [david.hartley@maine.gov](mailto:david.hartley@maine.gov) by June 30th.*

# Bulk Milk Offering and Point of Service

[sarah.d.platt@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.d.platt@maine.gov)

All meal components must be offered before the point of service. This includes milk whether offering it in a bulk milk dispenser or in individual cartons. If you currently have a bulk milk dispenser in your school or are considering bulk milk, please keep this in mind to ensure federal regulations are being followed.

# Harvest of the Month

[katie.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov)

**It's time to pledge for Harvest of the Month  
for Summer & next School Year!**

- Pledge for this Summer! (July & August 2025)
  - Receive an additional mailing for Maine Cucumbers & Summer Squash!
- Pledge for next school year (September 2025-June 2026)
  - Expedited re-pledge option for those who have pledged before

Link to pledge: <https://forms.office.com/g/HEVs6RiT9y>



# FFVP Reminders

[stephanie.stambach@maine.gov](mailto:stephanie.stambach@maine.gov)

As we get closer to the end of the school year, I wanted to remind everyone of how to access the FFVP Usage Report, which shows the current balance for each participating school. Here are the steps to access the report:

- Log into CNP web and click on the “Reports” tab. Then select “Accounting Reports”. You will see the FFVP Usage Report listed.
- Select School Year 2025 and your school district then Generate Report
- Refer to the “**Balance- Oct-Sept**” column. This is the current balance for each school, based on claims paid to date.

Please note there is a new process for reallocating funds between schools (moving funds from one school to another). Each school’s allocation must stay within \$50-75/student multiplied by enrollment per federal regulations. This could affect the amount of funds we can transfer between schools. If requesting a transfer, please keep this in mind.

# Changes to Buy American Requirements for SY2026

[sarah.d.platt@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.d.platt@maine.gov)

The Buy American provision requires school food authorities to purchase, to the maximum extent practicable, domestic commodities or products. Exceptions have been made for items that are significantly less expensive than the domestic version and items not grown and produced domestically in significant quantity.

Starting in SY26, there will be a cap for SFAs that use these exceptions which will be phased in over seven school years as follows:

- Beginning in SY 2025-2026, the nondomestic food purchases cap will be 10%.
- Beginning in SY 2028-2029, the nondomestic food purchases cap will be 8%.
- Beginning in SY 2031-2032, the nondomestic food purchases cap will be 5%.

Items listed on the [Federal Acquisitions Regulations Nonavailable articles](#) list are counted toward the cap on non-domestic purchases.

A temporary accommodation for the SY 2026 thresholds may be available if the SFA provides documentation that they are not able to meet the 10% cap. More information will be provided soon.

## Questions from the 5/20/25 webinar:

**Does this apply to tuna, bananas, pineapple, mandarin oranges and juice?** This applies to any food component that is not Buy American compliant.

**What about items purchased for the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program?** No, items purchased for FFVP do not count toward the cap on non-domestic purchases.



# Maine Harvest Lunch Week

September 15-19, 2025

## Mark your Calendars for Maine Harvest Lunch Week!

Maine's annual Harvest Lunch Week promotes fresh, local food in school cafeterias and teaches our children and youth where food comes from – including local farms, gardens and greenhouses. Maine schools have found creative ways to celebrate in the past, including decorating lunchrooms to showcase local food and inviting area farmers into the classroom to speak with students.

Maine Harvest Lunch Week is also a great opportunity to use state local foods funds! We'd love this year to be a coordinated effort; If you have any questions or any exciting ideas you'd like to share, please email

[katie.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov)





**SUN Bucks letters for families that are automatically enrolled will be going out next week. Please be sure to share this with school staff, as questions may be coming in. Thank you!**

SUN Bucks provide a \$120 EBT benefit for each child who qualifies to spend on groceries while school is out. Most eligible kids will be automatically enrolled in the program and don't have to apply. Families should keep an eye out for a letter in the mail with notice of automatic enrollment.

If families have questions, please ask them to visit  
Maine's [SUN Bucks page](#)



### Learn How SUN Bucks Can Help Feed Kids Over the Summer!

SUN Bucks is a grocery benefit program to help families buy food during the summer when schools are closed. Each eligible school-age child receives a one-time payment of \$120. Children who get these benefits can also participate in other summer meal programs.

#### How does SUN Bucks work?

SUN Bucks benefits are loaded onto an EBT card and can be used to buy food like fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other places that accept EBT benefits.

#### How do I get SUN Bucks?

##### Automatic Enrollment

Your child will be **automatically enrolled** for SUN Bucks and does not need to apply if:

- They completed an application for school meal benefit and were found eligible or
- Age 6-16 and part of a household that already participates in SNAP, FDIPIR, TANF, MaineCare at 185% FPL or identified as foster, homeless, or migrant by OFI or OCFS.

**Keep an eye out!** Automatically enrolled households will receive benefits starting in June on an existing Pine Tree card or on a new EBT card in the mail.

##### Manual Application

**Most families will be automatically enrolled. If you haven't received a letter in the mail by June, consider applying for SUN Bucks before August 15 if:**

- Your child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Program, *and*
- Your household meets the requirements for free or reduced-price school meal benefit.

##### Do you have a new address?

Make sure your address is up to date with your school and with the Office for Family Independence so your **SUN Bucks** benefits are sent to the right place!

Update your information by calling OFI at (855) 797-4357



##### Don't wait to use your benefits!

SUN Bucks expire after 122 days.

**For more information:** [Maine.gov/dhhs/ofi](http://Maine.gov/dhhs/ofi)

**To apply:** Go to [MyMaineConnection.gov](http://MyMaineConnection.gov) or fill out a paper application at [Maine.gov](http://Maine.gov)

**Questions?** Call OFI at (855) 797-4357 option 5



Maine.gov/dhhs/ofi







## 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.



## End of Year Updates & Reminders

**June 10, 2025**

**1:30pm**

# Maine School Nutrition Association Conference

## Registration **Now OPEN!**

August 12 & 13, 2025

Double Tree in South Portland

[Register for the conference here](#)

Discounted rooms can be [booked here](#)

Keynote speaker, Kim Hodous! She will inspire, revive and remind us why we do what we do.

[Check out this short video](#) to see her in action.

### **New this year- Field Trips on August 12!**

3 options at no additional cost. Field trips are limited to 20 people each. If you sign up and change your mind, please contact a MSNA Board Member. A bus will leave the conference location at 9:30 after the Keynote session and will return at 12 for lunch.

The choices are:

1. Oakhurst Dairy- learn about the process of how your milk is made and the journey it takes to come to your school!
2. Fork Food Lab- Maine Marinara is one of many local food producers that calls Fork Food Lab home. Take a tour of the facility and learn more about the process!
3. Maine Fish Exchange- Learn more about projects such as Mainers Feeding Mainers and see the process of fish coming off the boat and heading out to market.

The full agenda is still being worked on. The food show will be on Tuesday.

Contact Allison Leavitt with questions, [aleavitt@lisbonschoolsme.org](mailto:aleavitt@lisbonschoolsme.org)

# Shout Outs!!

York celebrated their colorful week, where all the schools loaded their salad bars with the same colors each day.

**Monday - Red**

**Tuesday - Orange & Yellow**

**Wednesday - Green**

**Thursday - Blue & Purple**

**Friday - Rainbow**



A new favorite at all the schools with students and teachers...Chia Seed Yogurt Parfait and Avocado Toast Day

Thank you for sharing Whitney!!!





Students in the Valley Unified system were treated to fiddleheads for lunch this week. Five hundred pounds were purchased and divided among the three districts.

Thank you for sharing Melanie!!





Wishing everyone a happy and safe  
Memorial Day

