

May 7, 2026

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Reviewing Product-Based Limits for Breakfast Cereals, Flavored Milk, and Yogurt



USDA has released [guidance](#) on reviewing product-based limits for breakfast cereals, flavored milk, and yogurt. Effective July 1, 2025 (school year 2025-26), those nutrition standards include a limit on the amount of added sugars allowed in breakfast cereals, flavored milk, and yogurt served in the NSLP and SBP, and for flavored milk sold as Smart Snacks. These product-based limits support efforts to reduce added sugars in school meals.

Schools must meet the following requirements for product-based added sugars limits:

1. Breakfast cereals may have no more than 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce.
2. Flavored milk may have no more than 10 grams of added sugars per 8 fluid ounces, or 15 grams of added sugars per 12 fluid ounces for flavored milk sold as a competitive beverage for middle and high schools.
3. Yogurt may have no more than 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams per ounce).

Our website has been updated to include helpful resources for reviewing product-based sugar limits. Please visit the Menu Planning Tools section under the [Lunch](#) Program page where you can find a product-based limit table that can be used for monitoring sugar limits in required products. USDA Memo SP 07-2026 School Meal Programs: Reviewing Product-Based Added Sugars Limits for Breakfast Cereals, Flavored Milk, and Yogurt can be found with the [USDA Policy Memos](#) under the Legal References page.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update



We are awaiting our FY 2027 state FFVP allocation. Applications have been tentatively awarded in CNPweb and will be finalized once USDA funding is confirmed. We will announce final awards in the Thursday update, with the goal of completing this before the school year ends.



Buy American Reporting



To gather feedback for USDA on Buy American tracking and the non-domestic cap, we will be asking districts to report their cap and common challenges with non-domestic products. The intention of this request is to share what is working/not working with USDA and for the Child Nutrition office to provide improved technical assistance. We anticipate the survey will be released in June and due at the start of next school year.

As a reminder, the Buy American quick guide on our website can assist with tracking, and additional resources are available on the Child Nutrition [website](#).

UEI Numbers



Things to remember about UEI Numbers

Every District / Sponsor has a UEI number, usually managed by the Business Office.

UEI numbers expire every year, therefore they must be reactivated each year.

All districts must have an “Active” UEI number.

All UEI numbers are reviewed prior to application approval in NSLP, SFSP and CACFP.

Please contact your business office to confirm that your UEI number is Active

If, after speaking to your Business Office, you still have questions, please contact jodi.truman@maine.gov.



Education Specialist II

National School Lunch Program Child Nutrition Consultant

Working as part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) team members within Child Nutrition, this position provides technical assistance, support, and compliance to school administrative unit (SAU) and child nutrition staff, educators, and community partners regarding program implementation. This position conducts federally mandated Administrative Reviews (ARs) inclusive of required preparation, implementation, evaluation, reporting, and programmatic recommendations. This position provides professional learning related to the NSLP and regulatory changes, when applicable.

Questions about this position must be directed to
recruiting.ggsc@maine.gov

The full direct hire posting with application is available at
<https://www.maine.gov/bhr/state-jobs>

Deadline to apply is May 7, 2026

National School Lunch Program Information Portal

National School Lunch Program Sponsors

Follow the [TWO](#) steps below to join

Our office is now using EnGiNE, Maine DOE's open-source learning portal. You **must sign up using this [link](#).

Please be sure to use your school email address.

No matter how many schools in your District, please only register one time.

*****Once you have access to EnGiNE or you already have access to EnGiNE, you MUST enroll in the National School Lunch Program Information Portal using this [link](#).***

Not a National School Lunch Program Sponsor?

If you would like access to the NSLP Portal, please contact Paula, paula.nadeau@maine.gov **prior** to signing up, using the links above, as your access will need to be approved.

Instructions on how to send a message using the Portal can be found on our [website](#).

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

Farm & Sea to School

May 18, 2026

1:30pm

Join us on May 18th for a Farm & Sea to School webinar featuring the latest local foods updates, upcoming events, and a look ahead to fall. We'll highlight opportunities to participate in Maine Harvest Lunch Week this September and Maine Apple Crunch Day in October, along with updates on Harvest of the Month. Tune in to stay connected and start planning for the seasons ahead.

Show Me the Numbers!

Completing Your Annual Financial Report and Mastering the Nonprogram Revenue Ratio

May 19, 2026

1:30pm

Join us for a practical webinar where we'll walk through completing the Annual Financial Report (AFR) in CNPweb – step by step. We will also highlight the nonprogram revenue ratio—what it is, why it matters, and how to get it right. (Spoiler: it's all about making sure your nonprogram food revenue keeps up with your costs .)

Did you miss a webinar?

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

Are you renewing SPlI?

Need more information about the Direct Certification (DC) List, Applications and Verification?

Many schools must renew the Provision II Base Year. Several new Food Service Directors have never done this before and other LEA's have not completed this in three years.

This webinar will focus on the processes that need to be completed in the collection of meal benefit applications, approving them, completing the verification process and using the Direct Certification (DC) list.

May 12, 2026

1:00pm - 3:30pm

Use this [link](#) to register

**Other Available
Training You May
Find Interesting**



Hands-on Foundational Fish Skills Training

Join the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and Healthy Acadia on Friday, May 29th, from 2 pm-5 pm at the Hancock County Technical Center in Ellsworth for a hands-on Foundational Fish Skills Training. Participants will build basic skills around working with raw fish filets in the kitchen, learn about the wide diversity of local seafood available to K-12 schools, and strengthen sea-to-school knowledge and expertise. Participants will walk away with resources and tools to implement sea-to-school programs at their schools. This training provides 2.5 CEU hours. It's free to attend, but please register here to save your spot. [RSVP today!](#)

What: Local fish training for K-12 food service professionals

Date: Friday, May 29

Time: 2 pm-5 pm

Location: Hancock County Technical Center

112 Boggy Brook Rd., Ellsworth, ME

RSVP here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqxnYAU12mBEey628yxsg7zJXOTtrG50WSE7JrHYIVuse0Ag/viewform?usp=header>

Please reach out to Sophie Scott with questions

sscott@gmri.org

Shout Outs!!

In the fall of 2025 RSU 22 launched a district-wide composting initiative involving all six of their schools. Each day, kitchen scraps and leftover food are collected and sent to 1 Earth Composting.

This spring their project has come full circle with the delivery of nutrient-rich compost that will be used in school gardening projects.



Thank
you for
sharing,
Pete!

Pete Merritt, School Nutrition Director
Brittany Russell, Wellness Coordinator

SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY



Kittery Public Schools



Wendy Collins, thank you for sharing!!