

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

Community Eligibility Provision CEP

REMINDERS

Deadline to submit documentation for CEP beginning with SY2025-2026 is **June 30, 2025**.

Master List and DC List **MUST** be in Excel.

Documents **MUST** be uploaded into CNPweb.

Notify David Hartley after you uploaded the documents in CNPweb.

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

!!Closings, Mergers and Name Changes!!

If you have any schools closing, merging of schools, or school name changes for School Year 2026, please email child.Nutrition@maine.gov to let us know asap. Application will be opening soon and we want to make sure the changes are ready for the application process.

Summer Meal Promotion

All schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must promote the availability of free summer meals for children. Sponsors that do not participate in summer meals must notify families of meals available in the community by providing the following information:

- [USDA Site Finder Map](#)
- Hunger Hotline

Families seeking food assistance for their children can contact the USDA National Hunger Hotline, operated by Hunger Free America. The hotline can be reached Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET





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.

For more information: Maine.gov/dhhs/ofc

To apply: Go to MyMaineConnection.gov or fill out a paper application at Maine.gov

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



Maine.gov/dhhs/ofc





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.

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.**



Child Nutrition Updates, Changes for SY26 & Buy American

May 20, 2025

1:30pm

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.

Shout Outs!!

Students at Bucksport High School enjoyed a Baked Potato Bar



Shelley Bowden, thank you for sharing!!