

JUNE 25, 2026

# Child Nutrition Thursday Update

## In this week's Thursday Update

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**!!CEP Last Call!!**

**2027 Application**

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**MSNA Summer Conference**

**Full Plates Full Potential Mini Grant**

**Shout Out!**

**Happy Birthday America!**



## **Are you planning to renew CEP for your School Nutrition Program?**

This is a reminder that the data used must be uploaded  
into CNPweb by **June 30, 2026**.

**Any uploads after this date cannot be used.**

If you have any questions, contact Jodi,  
[jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.truman@maine.gov) or 624-6877

# SY2027 Applications

Checklist Documents **MUST** be signed by the  
**Superintendent/Legal Agent**

**Deadline** for SY2027 Applications is **August 15, 2027**

The **Application User Guide** is located in the **CNPweb Help Tab**

Questions contact: [jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.truman@maine.gov)

# Direct Certification & SUN Bucks Approval List

Starting July 1, 2026, under an MOU between DHHS and DOE, the SUN Bucks application will be available for SAU's to use as an online platform for a Free and Reduced Meals Application. DHHS will receive, process and send notices of decision to families. Students who qualify for the free or reduced benefit will be sent to SAU's via the Direct Certification List. To support this update, two new codes have been added to the Direct Certification & SUN Bucks list:

→ B = SUN Bucks Free

→ K = SUN Bucks Reduced

LEA's/SAU's should notify and work with their point of sales (POS) software companies regarding these changes and the new categories.

For the complete document explaining Direct Certification & SUN Bucks Approval List, visit the [Student Eligibility & Applications](#) page of our website. The document is under Resources

# SY2027 Calendar

paula.nadeau@maine.gov

We are taking orders for the School Year 2027 calendar. Once again, we are offering one per school plus one extra, if you would like that many. Please use this [link](#) to place your order by June 25th.

*If you are not a Food Service Director, please discuss ordering with your Director. All calendars ordered for a district will be sent to the Food Service Director.*



The image displays a grid of six monthly calendars for the School Year 2027, spanning from August 2026 to January 2027. Each calendar is color-coded: August (orange), September (purple), October (blue), November (pink), December (green), and January (blue). The calendars include various dates and events, such as 'Annual Financial Report Due', 'Monthly Claim Due', 'USDA Food Deadline', 'Maine Harvest Lunch Week', 'National School Lunch Week', 'October Survey Due', 'Webinar', and 'Thanksgiving'. The grid is set against a background of overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue, purple, and pink. At the bottom of the grid, there are two sections: 'Child Nutrition Data Reports' and 'Webinars and Training', both with links to the Maine Department of Education website. The 'Child Nutrition Data Reports' section includes links for 'Annual Participation Summary', 'October Survey (ED534)', 'School Free and Reduced Participation - Breakfast', and 'School Free and Reduced Participation - Lunch Student Price'. The 'Webinars and Training' section includes a link for 'Culinary Training'.

**School Year 2027**

**August 2026**

**September 2026**

**October 2026**

**November 2026**

**December 2026**

**January 2027**

**Child Nutrition Data Reports**  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>  
Annual Participation Summary  
October Survey (ED534)  
School Free and Reduced Participation - Breakfast  
School Free and Reduced Participation - Lunch Student Price

**Webinars and Training**  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/training>  
**Culinary Training**  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/program/culinary/recipesandphotos>



## **Financial Specialist**

Posting Closes July 1, 2026

Are you a detail-oriented financial and program management professional who enjoys working at the intersection of public service, data analysis, compliance, and technology? The Maine Department of Education is seeking a Management Analyst II to support the Child Nutrition Program. In this role, you will help manage millions of dollars in federal nutrition funding, provide technical guidance to school and community partners, analyze financial and program data, and contribute to the development and implementation of statewide program systems and initiatives. This position offers an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on programs that support children and families across Maine

For more information or questions specific to the position, please contact [recruiting.ggsc@maine.gov](mailto:recruiting.ggsc@maine.gov)

# Data & Technology Systems Coordinator

Posting Closes July 2, 2026

This professional services position provides management and oversight of Child Nutrition data systems ( CNPWeb ) while also providing training for state agency staff and School Administrative Unit (SAU) child nutrition staff across the state.

This position facilitates and ensures a smooth implementation, applicable functionality and the continued effectiveness of Child Nutrition data systems. This role receives, manages and compiles all Child Nutrition data reporting for internal and external partners and collaborators.

The technology and data coordinator serves as a liaison between the Department's Child Nutrition and Data teams in addition to other Department wide teams.

# MSNA Annual Summer Conference

August 11 & 12, 2026

Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport

- Field Trip descriptions, learning session descriptions and "schedule at a glance" are all available on the [website](#).
- August 11th will have Field Trips from 9-11:45. You will sign up for the field trip you want during the registration process. You drive yourself to and from the field trip. We will not have buses this year.
- After your field trip we will have registration and Boxed Lunches at the hotel, with the food show taking place from 1-4pm
- You do not need to register at the hotel before going to your field trip.
- August 12th we will have our Keynote Speaker session and learning sessions.
- [Here is the link](#) for discounted hotel rooms. You have until July 25th to book your room at the discounted rate.

Please reach out to Whitney Thornton with any questions

[wthornton@yorkschoools.org](mailto:wthornton@yorkschoools.org)

## Mini Grant: Summer Spike Event

### Grant Description

Maine summer meal programs can use this mini-grant to host a community event to boost awareness of and participation in summer meals. A summer spike event is a great way to build connections with kids and families and remind folks about how and when they can access meals when school is not in session. This mini-grant can be used for the planning and/or implementation of the event. Any Maine summer meal program is eligible to apply, with priority going to approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors.

### Allowable costs include:

- Additional snacks, adult meals, or other food costs outside of reimbursable summer meals
- Staff time to plan and participate in the event
- Marketing and outreach materials (fliers, stickers, etc)
- Incentive items to give away
- Games or activities for during the event
- Supplies for serving additional food

Grant funds may NOT be used to purchase food that is served in reimbursable meals. Staffing costs must be related to the planning and/or implementation of the event.

Programs can apply for up to \$500.

### Eligibility Information

- Grants available to Maine summer meal programs
- Priority goes to approved Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors, but will fund other programs if funds allow
- Only one application per organization

### Timeline

- Application open through the month of July
- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis

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To learn more about the grant or to apply, visit this [website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [Finn Madden](#) at Full Plates Full Potential.

# Summer Lunch in Kittery!!



Thank you for sharing, Wendy!!



*Happy  
Birthday  
America*

**Wishing everyone a happy and safe July 4th!**

(No Thursday Update next week)