



Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Shout Outs!!!

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

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

SY2026 Annual Application to Participate in the School Nutrition Program



jodi.truman@maine.gov

The annual application to participate in the School Nutrition Programs, including National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program is now available In CNPWeb.

Program applications must be submitted and approved by State Agency prior to operating. Instructions are available under the “Help” tab once you are logged into CNPWeb.

As a reminder, on the “Checklist” tab, there are required documents that need to be uploaded by the Superintendent/Legal Agent to complete your application process. The required documents will be checked once you have opened your Sponsor and Site Information Sheets.

Deadline to submit your application is *August 15, 2025*

USDA Memo

Updated USDA Guidance on School Meal Payment Options

The USDA has released updated guidance ([SP18-2025s](#)) to support School Food Authorities (SFAs) in managing electronic payment systems for school meal accounts. SFAs may charge fees for electronic payments but must also offer a free, accessible payment option, like cash or checks, to ensure all families can participate without barriers. To promote transparency, SFAs should clearly communicate payment options and any fees through school policies, websites, emails, menus, and low-balance notices, including a contact number for questions.

For questions, contact Maine Department of Education.

Changes to State Local Foods Fund (LFF) Coming Soon!!

Starting in September, the State Local Foods Fund will have some changes!

- Recent legislation has increased the reimbursement rate from 1/3 to 1/2!
 - Districts will now receive \$1 for every \$2 spent on eligible local foods!
- The maximum reimbursement amount has increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000!
 - Districts will also receive an extra \$1,000 for attending a local foods training!
- State Local Foods Fund Claims will be filed in CNP Web again with your monthly claim!
 - There will be a new claim form starting in September!

Due to these changes, there will be mandatory training video to watch before filing your September claim in October. This will be available starting in August.

These changes are effective starting for SEPTEMBER claims in October. Until then, please continue to email your Local Foods Fund claims as usual to katie.knowles@maine.gov.

If you have any questions please reach out to Katie Knowles, Farm & Sea to School Coordinator, at katie.knowles@maine.gov.

Farm & Sea to School Office Hours

As mentioned in last week's Thursday Update, virtual farm & sea to school office hours will be offered in anticipation of changes to the state Local Foods Fund (LFF) in September. These office hours are an open space to ask questions and support farm & sea to school efforts. If you'd like to join, click the date to register below!

July Office Hours

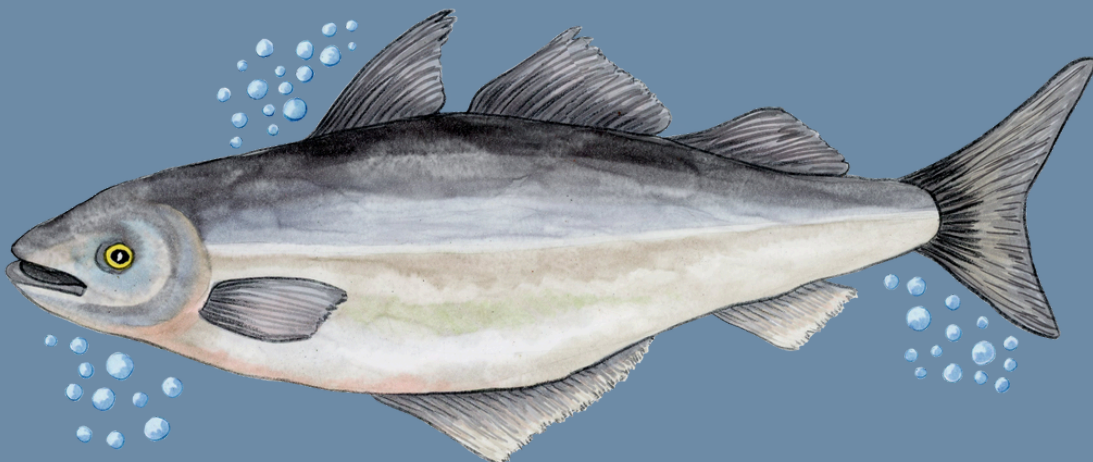
[Wednesday July 30th, 1PM-2:30PM](#)

August Office Hours

[Wednesday, August 6, 1PM-2:30PM](#)

[Wednesday, August 20, 1PM-2:30PM](#)

If these dates don't work for you but you would like direct assistance, please reach out to katie.knowles@maine.gov to schedule a one-on-one call or meeting!





SAVE THE DATE!

2025

Maine

Apple Crunch Day

October 15th, 2025



What is Maine Apple Crunch Day?

October 15, 2025, marks Maine's first **Apple Crunch Day**! This fun event promotes fresh, local food in school cafeterias and teaches students where food comes from---and the immense benefits that coincide with sourcing our food locally.

This event is a great way for schools and communities to kick off their fall by celebrating and supporting Maine producers!

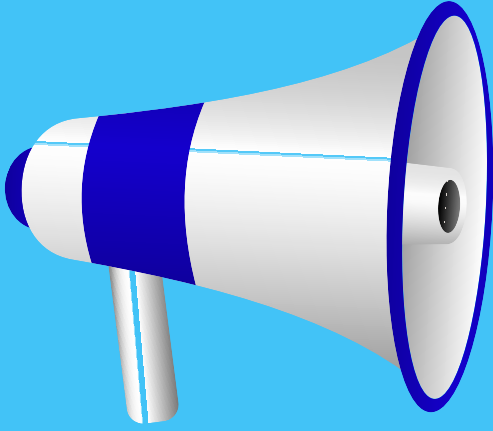
How do I participate in the Apple Crunch?

Participating can be as simple or complex as you want to make it! At noon on Wednesday, October 15th, schools and communities across the state will crunch into a local apple at the same time, creating a resounding collective CRUNCH!

Why Apples?

Apples are the top purchased local item by schools in Maine! Our state has a wonderful bounty and variety of apples to purchase.

**Registration and resources coming soon! For any questions
email Katie.Knowles@maine.gov**



SHOUT OUTS!!

Kids in the RSU 79/MSAD 1 District were treated to local strawberries from J & K Farms in Fort Fairfield. Their gratitude was shared on the District's Facebook page.

MSAD #1 SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM
Fresh Local Strawberries

SUN MEALS

SUN MEALS

Special THANK YOU to
J & K Farms - Fort Fairfield

FARMDROP
SUPPORTING LOCAL FARMERS

Lunch Time

Laura, thank you for sharing!!