

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Child Nutrition Webinars

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



Deadline to submit your application is August 15, 2025

Contact jodi.truman@maine.gov for all questions

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.

Annual Financial Report

- The Annual Financial Report is found in CNPWeb under the Forms tab in program 2025
- The Guide to complete the report is in the Help Tab
- Report must be submitted by September 1, 2025
- Make sure all Revenue and Expenses have been reported for SY 2025 before completing the Annual Financial Report.
- Verify that the beginning and ending balance in your AFR are the same as the Business Office
- Ending balance for the 2025 school year must be a positive balance. If the balance is negative, the sponsor is required to cover the difference with a transfer of non-federal funds to the Child Nutrition accounts for a zero balance

Open Office Hours will be provided the following dates and times:

- Monday, August 4th @ 1pm
- Tuesday, August 12th @ 10am
- Wednesday, August 20th @ 8am
- Thursday, August 28th @ 12:30pm

Please email jodi.truman@maine.gov for meeting link with the date you are requesting.

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 $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$!
 - 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 and Sea to School Office Hours

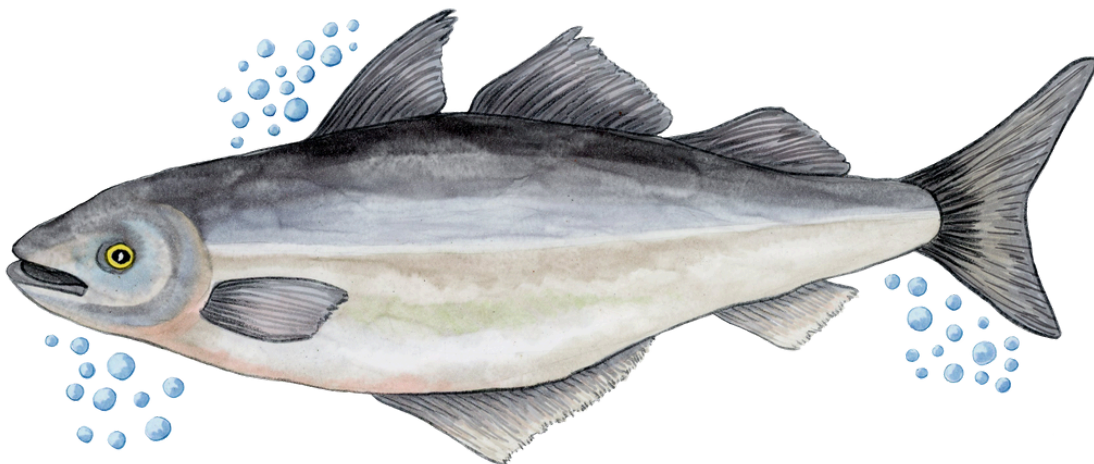
Virtual farm & sea to school office hours will be offered in anticipation of changes to the state Local Foods Fund (LFF) in September. These office hours are an open space to ask questions and support farm & sea to school efforts. If you'd like to join, click the date to register below!

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!



USDA Rate Changes for SY2025/26

National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs National Average Payments (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

Under the leadership of Secretary Brooke Rollins, USDA is committed to providing clear administrative requirements for nutrition programs. This notice announces the required annual adjustments to the national average payments that the Federal government provides for lunches, afterschool snacks, and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, as well as the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to children in a school or institution that participates in the Special Milk Program for Children.

Link to the Federal Register notice may be found at [CLICK HERE](#)

Link to the USDA FNS Website notice may be found at [CLICK HERE](#)

National Average Payment Rates, Food Service Payment Rates, and Administrative Reimbursement Rates for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

Under the leadership of Secretary Brooke Rollins, USDA is committed to providing clear administrative requirements for the nutrition programs. This notice announces the required annual adjustments to the Child and Adult Care Food Program national average payment rates that the Federal government provides for meals and snacks served in child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers; the food service payment rates for meals and snacks served in day care homes; and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes.

Link to the Federal Register notice may be found at [CLICK HERE](#)

Link to the USDA FNS Website notice may be found at [CLICK HERE](#)



Regional Local Foods Coordinators

Maine Department of Education's Child Nutrition Office is hiring three regional local foods coordinators to support the department's efforts to promote locally sourced school meals in Maine's K-12 schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. These temporary, part-time positions run throughout the school year, from mid-September 2025 until June 30th, 2026.

These positions will support Child Nutrition's Maine Regional Local Foods Project. The objective of this project is to expand and deepen the impact of Farm & Sea to School programming in schools, including local procurement for school meals and activities that promote locally grown and caught food in the cafeteria.

For School Year 2025-2026, we have 3 coordinator positions available for the following regions:

- Penquis (Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset Counties)
- Washington County
- Kennebec Valley (Waldo & Kennebec Counties)

Applications are due by end of day August 6th. The anticipated position start date is September 15th, 2025.

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

- Katie Knowles, Farm & Sea to School Coordinator, katie.knowles@maine.gov
- Martha Poliquin, Local Foods Project Manager, martha.poliquin@maine.gov

See full job description by following [this link](#).

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**

Maine School Nutrition Association Conference

August 12 & 13, 2025

Double Tree in South Portland

[Register for the conference here](#)

Deadline to register is August 1, 2025

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

The food show will be on Tuesday.

Contact Allison Leavitt with questions, aleavitt@lisbonschoolsme.org

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.**



Local Foods Updates

August 25, 2025

1:30pm

Join us for a webinar covering important local foods updates, including changes to the State Local Foods Fund, new Harvest of the Month materials, and details on upcoming farm and sea to school events for the school year. Highlights include Maine Harvest Lunch Week in September and our first-ever Maine Apple Crunch event in October!

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program

September 9, 2025

1:30pm

This webinar is intended for schools participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in SY 2026. Please note, this is different than the DOD fresh program! Come learn all about the FFVP, including allowable costs, tracking your spending and best practices. We will also discuss any new changes to the program for SY 2026.