

AUGUST 20, 2026

Child Nutrition

Thursday Update

SUN Bucks Free & Reduced Meal Application

SY2027 Applications that Need Attention

NOI Distributors - Not Selected

Annual Financial Report - Deadline Change

Attention Provision II Schools!

Need to Know Your Operation Status?

School Nutrition Programs Annual Training

Pledge to Maine Harvest of the Month for SY27

Maine Harvest Lunch Week

Apple Crunch Day

Maine Farm to School Network SEEDS Program

Child Nutrition Training Reminders

Webinars

Review Training

Verification Training

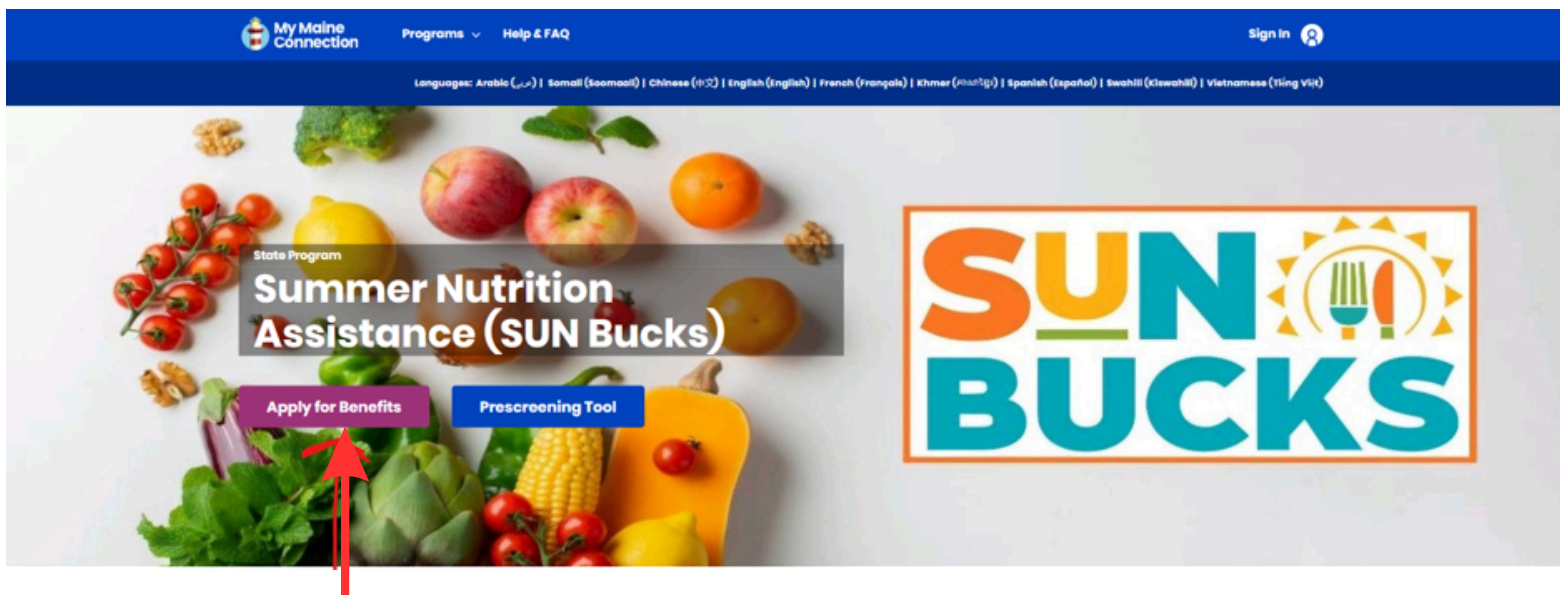
Other Available Trainings



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.

Families should go to **"My Maine Connection"** and click the **"Apply for Benefits"** button.



They will then need to create an account. Once they have created their account they will be able to fill out the SUN Bucks application, **being sure to fill out the section for Free & Reduced Meals.**

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 Applications that Need Attention!!

Pending Submission

Bar Harbor Public Schools

Fryeburg Academy

George Stevens Academy

Greenbush Public Schools

Jefferson Public Schools

Kids Peace-New England

Maine Central Institute

MapleStone School

ME School of Science & Mathematics

Nobleboro Public Schools

RSU 08/MSAD 08

RSU 23

RSU 49/MSAD 49

RSU 60/MSAD 60

Sedgwick Public Schools

Errors

Bristol Public Schools

Ecology Learning Center

Gorham Public Schools

Islesboro Public Schools

South Bristol Public Schools

Errors with Checklist Documents Please go to the Checklist Tab

Andover Public Schools

Harmony Public Schools

RSU 55/MSAD 55

RSU 70/MSAD 70

RSU 72/MSAD 72

RSU 86/MSAD 20

Surry Public Schools

NOI Distributor

The following School Districts do not have a distributor selected for NOI allocations

ProcessorLink	
Augusta Public Schools	Yangs 5th Taste
Brooksville Public Schools	Rich Chicks, LLC
Brooksville Public Schools	Rich Products Corporation
Brooksville Public Schools	Yangs 5th Taste
Brunswick Public Schools	Schwan's Sales Co., Inc.
Cape Elizabeth Public Schools	Schwan's Sales Co., Inc.
Cape Elizabeth Public Schools	Land O'Lakes
Cape Elizabeth Public Schools	Pilgrim's Pride
Ellsworth Public Schools	National Food Group
Erskine Academy	Schwan's Sales Co., Inc.
Glenburn Public Schools	Rich Chicks, LLC
Mount Desert Public Schools	Pilgrim's Pride
RSU 08	Land O'Lakes
RSU 08	National Food Group
RSU 08	Rich Products Corporation
RSU 08	Tasty CMD
St. George Public Schools	Schwan's Sales Co., Inc.
K12 Foodservice	
Glenburn Public Schools	TYSON FOODS, INC.

Please go into www.k12foodservice.com and www.processorlink.com to ensure that you have the correct distributor selected for all manufacturers. If this is not correct you will not receive your NOI discount when ordering.

For questions please contact Michele Bisbee michele.bisbee@maine.gov

Annual Financial Report

If you have completed and submitted your Annual Financial Report, **THANK YOU!!** We appreciate your prompt attention to this.

Our office has made the decision to extend the deadline to September 30th.

- The Annual Financial Report is found in CNPweb, under the forms tab in **Program 2026**.
- The **Guide** to complete the report is in the **Help** tab.
- **Report must be submitted by September 30, 2026.**
- Make sure all Revenue and Expenses have been reported for SY2026 before completing the Annual Financial Report.
- Verify that the beginning and ending balances in your AFR are the same as the Business Office.
- Ending balance for the 2026 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.*

Attention Provision II Schools!

Start of School Details for schools that are base year (year 1)

- All students must have access to the F2027 Free and Reduced School Meal Benefit Application.
- Prior to the 1st day of school, run the DC list and update their student eligibility status.
- Students NOT on the DC list, are set to paid until their F2027 meal application is submitted and processed to the updated eligibility status. Notification letter to be sent to families.
- For your September Claim only, use last year's Free and Reduced percentages as student eligibility status is carried over **30 SCHOOL DAYS** from the 1st day of school. Last year's percentages are listed on your F2026 school claim under Eligibility Information.
- You must complete Verification in your base year.

Reminder - During your base year, you cannot use a tic sheet. You must claim a student meal by eligibility status for the entire school year.

Need to Know Your Operation Status?

Do you operate under CEP, Special Provision II (SPII) or Traditional?

Check out the document on our [website](#).

School Nutrition Programs

Annual Training

(Formerly the Fall Info Meeting)

September 16, 2026

9:00-3:00

Augusta Civic Center

Registration - \$50

Payable by credit card

at time of registration

Registration Deadline is September 2, 2026

Stay informed, connected, and inspired at this comprehensive training designed specifically for school nutrition professionals. This day of training will provide the latest updates, practical strategies, and opportunities to collaborate with peers from across the state.

Training topics include:

- Department of Education Child Nutrition updates
- Changes to the Dietary Guidelines and reduced sugar limits
- Smart swaps for healthier school meals
- Off-site Pre-K meal requirements and best practices
- Roundtable discussions on current challenges, innovative ideas, and solutions
- And much more!

Whether you're looking to stay current on regulations, discover new ideas, or network with fellow professionals, this training offers valuable information you can take back to your program.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge, share experiences, and strengthen your school nutrition program.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Pledge to Maine Harvest of the Month for SY 27!

Now is the time to pledge to participate in Maine's Harvest of the Month during the 2026–27 school year!

This year, participating schools will receive **one annual mailing** containing posters and toolkits for every Harvest of the Month. Having all materials at once will make it easier to plan menus ahead, mix and match featured months, and celebrate local foods throughout the school year.

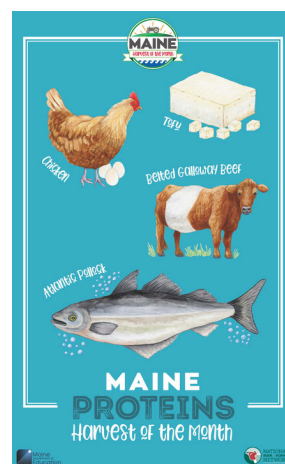
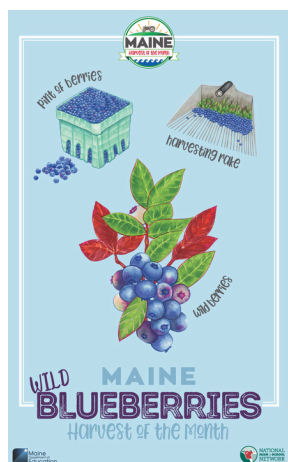
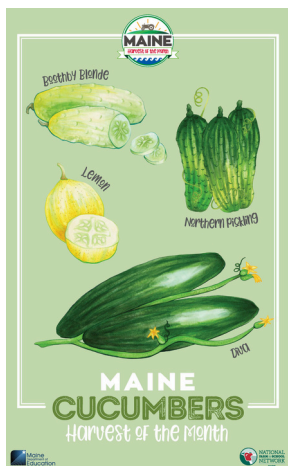
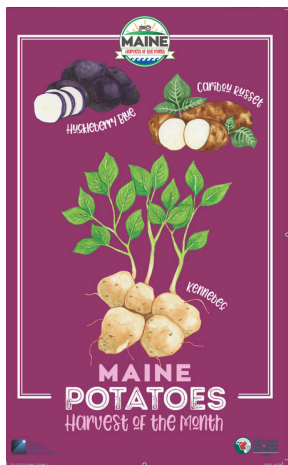
The annual mailing will also include exciting new resources:

- NEW all-season Harvest of the Month stickers that can be used interchangeably throughout the year, helping reduce waste.
- NEW Harvest of the Month recipe book with recipes for every featured product, including our new bonus Seafood Month.
- NEW Bonus Seafood Month materials, including posters, source cards, recipes, and other resources that can be used during any month or alongside Protein Month.

Already have the posters you need? Please pledge anyway! You can indicate on the pledge form whether you'd like to receive a mailing or not. Your pledge helps us document participation and demonstrate the continued value of the program.

[\[Pledge today!\]](#)

Questions? Contact Katie Knowles at Katie.Knowles@maine.gov.





Save the Date

Maine Harvest Lunch Week

Maine Harvest Lunch Week will be celebrated **September 21–25, 2026!** For more than 20 years, Maine schools have marked this annual celebration by featuring Maine-grown and Maine-harvested foods, supporting local producers, and helping students learn where their food comes from. Schools are encouraged to celebrate throughout the week with local menu items, taste tests, classroom activities, visits from farmers and fishermen, and other creative connections to Maine’s food system. More information and resources will be shared soon!

Save the Date

Maine Apple Crunch Day!

Join the **2nd Annual Maine Apple Crunch** on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**, to celebrate Maine farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities!

Participating is simple: purchase, serve, and **CRUNCH** into locally grown Maine apples.

Register your Crunch today to:

- Add your participants to the statewide Crunch count
- Request FREE Apple Crunch Day posters & stickers for your event!
- Get information about purchasing and serving local apples
- Receive updates, activities, and resources leading up to the event

The official Maine Apple Crunch will take place at noon on **Wednesday, October 14**, but you are welcome to hold your Crunch at any time throughout October. No event is too small to register!

Register your Crunch: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/ENBJY3Hj2Y>

Questions? Contact Katie Knowles, Farm & Sea to School Coordinator, at katie.knowles@maine.gov.

Applications now open for the Maine Farm to School Network SEEDS Program

SEEDS is an introductory program for individuals that would like to build an integrated and thriving farm & sea to school program in their school or district community.

Every thriving farm & sea to school program starts with a team. SEEDS helps schools and early childhood programs identify champions across their community to support goals of local food sourcing, agriculture and food systems education, and hands-on garden learning.

Participants will finish the program well positioned to attend the

Maine Farm & Sea to School Institute.

Core components of the program are:

- Four virtual meetings as a cohort with the Maine Farm & Sea to School Network
- Access to curated resources to support your goals
- Opportunity and invitations for professional learning throughout the year
- Guest speakers on building a farm & sea to school team
- Individualized coaching for your ME Farm & Sea to School Institute application
- Supportive cohort for peer learning and sharing

The 2026-2027 SEEDS cohort will meet virtually from 4:00-5:00pm on the following dates:

- October 5, 2026
- November 9, 2026
- January 25, 2027
- February 8, 2027

Visit www.mainefarmtoschool.org/seeds to learn more and sign up today

Child Nutrition Training

- AI 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.

Webinars

paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Local Foods Updates

August 24, 2026

1:30pm

Join us for a webinar covering important local foods updates, the State Local Foods Fund, Harvest of the Month, and details on upcoming Farm and Sea to School events for the coming year. Highlights include Maine Harvest Lunch Week in September and the second annual Maine Apple Crunch event in October.

SY2027 Review Training

Is your district up for an Administrative & Procurement Review this year? Come learn what the review process involves, and how to successfully prepare for your review.

September 10, 2026

9:00-12:30

Registration begins at 8:30

Child Nutrition Office
Deering Building, Room 101
90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

Verification Training

Are you a new Food Service Director or has it been a while since you've had to do Verification? This training will cover what to expect with the Verification process.

- *When the process should be started
- *How to complete the process more easily
- *The timeline for completion
- *Uploading to CNPweb

September 30, 2026

1:00-3:30

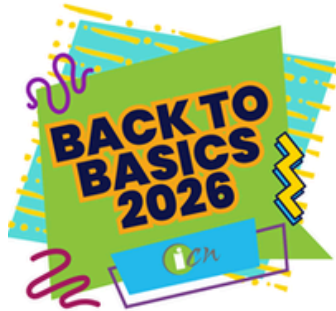
Registration begins at 12:30

Child Nutrition Office
Deering Building, Room 101
90 Blossom Lane, Augusta



**Other Available
Trainings You May
Find Interesting**

The countdown to a new school year is on, and ICN is here to help you start strong!



Take it Back To Basics with our trusted resources that school nutrition professionals across the country rely on year after year. Whether you're refreshing your knowledge, onboarding new staff, or preparing your program for a successful school year, you'll find practical tools, training, and guidance all in one place.



Explore online courses and resources on topics including:

- Food Safety
- Meal Pattern Requirements
- Food Production
- Procurement
- Standardized Recipes
- and More!

Don't miss the extensive list of self-paced, **NO-COST** online courses on the iLearn Back-to-School page.



Complete the courses to earn your B2S Ready Badge and celebrate your accomplishment.

Share your badge on LinkedIn and Facebook to let your colleagues know you are #B2SReady!

Click Here to Get Back to Basics!

Looking for even more opportunities to prepare?

ICN ACCELERATOR

Back-to-School Edition

The start of a new school year is one of the most demanding moments in school nutrition — and one of the most important times to invest in your professional development. ICN Accelerator: Back-to-School Edition is a free, full-day virtual summit designed to meet school nutrition professionals exactly where they are: in the critical window before and after the return to school, when practical knowledge has the most direct impact on operations.



-  FREE VIRTUAL SUMMIT
-  1 FULL DAY
-  LUNCH & LEARN
-  EXPERT-LED SESSIONS
-  LIVE Q&A
-  PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fast-track learning for the field!

Choose Your Date



July 23, 2026
8:00am–3:00pm ET



August 25, 2026
8:00am–3:00pm PT

**REGISTER
TODAY**