

AUGUST 27, 2026

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

School Nutrition Programs Annual Training (Formerly Fall Info Meeting)

Registration Deadline Approaching

Direct Certification & SUN Bucks Free & Reduced Meal Application

Financial News and Reminders

NOI Distributors - Not Selected

USDA Foods - Monthly Order

USDA Foods Delivery Dates to the Warehouse

Cases of Pancakes Damaged

Back to School Resources

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Updates

Filling Out CNPweb User Access Forms

USDA Memos and Updates

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

School Nutrition Programs

Annual Training

Registration Deadline is September 2, 2026

September 16, 2026

9:00-3:00

Augusta Civic Center

Registration - \$50

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
- Meal Counting and Claiming, Off-site meal requirements and best practices.
- Roundtable discussions on Buy American, Farm and Sea to School, Navigating our website and EnGiNE, NOI and 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.

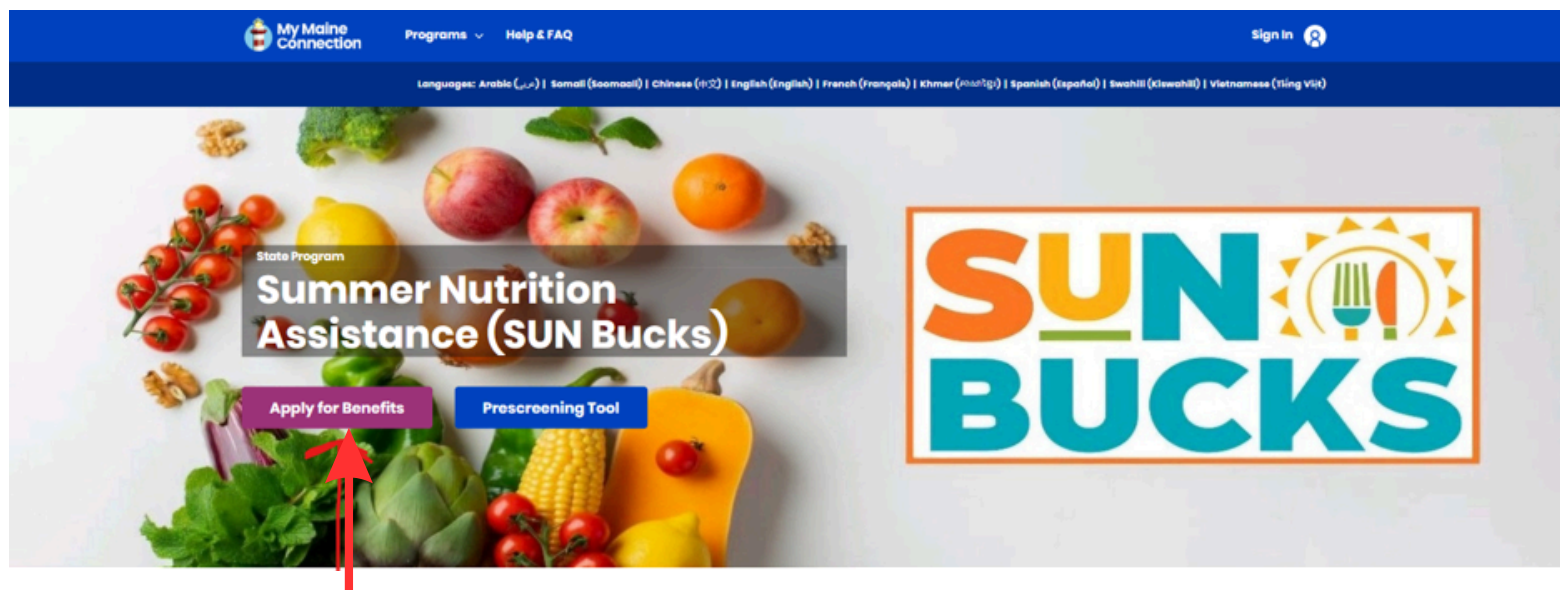
Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge, share experiences, and strengthen your school nutrition program.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

Thank you to Erica Reilly the RSU 5 Food Service Director for sharing an application quick guide she created for My Maine Connection, DHHS's application platform! You can find this resource on the [Student Eligibility & Applications](#) page of our website, under the Resources dropdown.

Financial News and Reminders

jodi.truman@maine.gov

SY2027 MEFS Codes, CFDA/FAIN numbers, and the Financial Report for Monthly, Yearly Excel worksheet have been updated. All are posted on the [Financial page](#) of our website.

Important Reminder for Provision II Base Year (Year 1) Schools

1st year of Provision II Schools must collect household applications for free/reduced price eligibility.

During base year, meals are counts and claimed by individual eligibility and then this data is used to determine the next 3 year's claiming percentages.

Important Reminder for CEP Schools

DO NOT COLLECT household applications for free/reduced price eligibility.

Agreement letter indicates approved claiming percentages for free and paid meals.

Monthly claims are reflected in your site application. Please be sure this is accurate before you submit your first claim.

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
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

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

September Monthly Order

The first monthly order of School Year 2027 is available from September 1st-15th.

Items ordered in September will be delivered in October.

Step by step instructions on how to complete your order can be found on the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.

Please review both your district's Sponsor and Delivery Sheets to ensure all information is accurate and up to date.

Follow the steps below:

1. Go to [CNPWeb](#)
2. Enter your **ID and password**.
3. Select **FDP (Food Distribution Program)**.
4. Select **Program Year 2027**.
5. Locate your **Sponsor Name** by selecting the first letter of your sponsor's name or by entering your **Sponsor Number**.
6. Select your district to open the **Sponsor Summary** page.
7. From the **Sponsor Summary** page, select **Applications-View or Revise** to review and update your **Sponsor Application Sheet and Delivery Location Information Sheets** as needed.
8. Once changes are submitted, the status will change to "Pending Approval."
9. DOE will review and approve the updated sheets.

USDA Foods Delivery Dates to the Warehouse

Delivery dates are current and are subject to change

USDA Foods Item	Requested Delivery Date
APPLE JUICE SINGLE FRZ CUP-96/4 OZ	8/31/2026
APPLE SLICES CAN-6/10	1/15/2027
APPLESAUCE CUP-96/4.5	8/15/2026
APPLESAUCE CUP-96/4.5	11/15/2026
APPLESAUCE UNSWEETENED CAN-6/10	9/15/2026
APPLESAUCE UNSWEETENED CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
BEANS BLACK TURTLE CAN-6/10	8/15/2026
BEANS GARBANZO CAN-6/10	8/15/2026
BEANS GREEN CAN-6/10	11/15/2026
BEEF 100% PTY 90/10 FRZ 2.0MMA CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
BEEF CRUMBLES W/SPP PKG-4/10 LB	9/15/2026
BEEF CRUMBLES W/SPP PKG-4/10 LB	11/15/2026
BEEF FINE GROUND FRZ CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
BEEF FINE GROUND FRZ CTN-40 LB	1/31/2027
BLK BEAN BGR PTY IQF 2.0 MMA CTN-30 LB	9/30/2026
BLUEBERRY WILD FRZ CTN-8/3 LB	10/15/2026
BROCCOLI FRZ CTN-30 LB	CANCELED
CARROTS DICED FRZ CTN-12/2 LB	11/15/2026
CHEESE CHED WHT SHRED BAG-6/5 LB	11/15/2026
CHEESE CHED WHT SHRED BAG-6/5 LB	1/15/2027

CHEESE MOZ LM PART SKM SHRD FRZ BOX-30LB	11/15/2026
CHEESE MOZ LM PART SKM SHRD FRZ BOX-30LB	12/15/2026
CHEESE PROCESS WHT SLC LVS-6/5 LB	9/15/2026
CHEESE PROCESS WHT SLC LVS-6/5 LB	11/15/2026
CHICKEN DICED CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
CHICKEN FILLETS UNBRD FRZ CTN-30 LB	8/31/2026
CHICKEN OVEN ROASTED FRZ 8 PC CTN-30 LB	9/15/2026
CHICKEN PULLED CKD FRZ CTN-30 LB	8/15/2026
CHICKEN STRIPS FRZ CTN-30 LB	8/15/2026
CHICKEN STRIPS FRZ CTN-30 LB	1/15/2027
CORN FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB	10/15/2026
CORN FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB	11/15/2026
CRANBERRIES DRIED PKG-300/1.16 OZ	9/15/2026
FISH AK POLLOCK STICKS BRD FRZ CTN-40 LB	9/15/2026
MIXED BERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.OZ	10/15/2026
MIXED FRUIT EX LT CAN-6/10	10/31/2026
MIXED FRUIT EX LT CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
PANCAKES WHOLE WHEAT FZN-144 COUNT	8/31/2026
PEACHES CLING DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	10/15/2026
PEACHES CLING DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
PEARS DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	10/15/2026

PEARS DICED EX LT CAN-6/10	12/15/2026
PEAS GREEN FRZ CTN-12/2.5 LB	10/15/2026
PORK HAM WATERAD SLC FRZ PKG-8/5 LB	10/15/2026
PORK HAM WATERAD SLC FRZ PKG-8/5 LB	11/15/2026
PORK PULLED CKD PKG-8/5 LB	10/15/2026
POTATOES WEDGE FRZ PKG-6/5 LB	10/15/2026
RAISINS BOX-144/1.33 OZ	8/31/2026
RICE BRN US#1 LONG PARBOILED PKG-24/2 LB	9/15/2026
STRAWBERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.5 OZ	10/15/2026
STRAWBERRY FRZ CUP-96/4.5 OZ	11/15/2026
STRAWBERRY SLICES UNSWT IQF CTN-6/5 LB	12/15/2026
SUNFLOWER SEED BUTTER 6-5#S	10/15/2026
SWEET POTATOES CRINKLE FRZ PKG-6/5 LB	10/15/2026
TOMATO SALSA POUCH-6/106 OZ	9/15/2026
TORTILLA WHOLE WHEAT FZN 8" CTN-12/24	9/30/2026
TURKEY BREAST DELI SLICED FRZ PKG 8/5 LB	9/15/2026
TURKEY BREAST DELI SLICED FRZ PKG 8/5 LB	11/15/2026
TURKEY ROASTS FRZ CTN-32-48 LB	8/28/2026
WHOLE GRAIN BLEND MACARONI CTN-20 LB	9/15/2026

12 Cases of Pancakes Damaged

There were 12 cases of pancakes that arrived at the warehouse damaged.

Please check your Annual Survey to see if your requested quantity was adjusted. PAL Entitlement's will be adjusted.

Back to School Resources

Maine DOE Child Nutrition has an [annual checklist of requirements](#) for NSLP. As you prepare for the start of School Year 2027, take the time to review the back-to-school resources linked below.

Program Year 2027 Reimbursement Rates

The USDA released the Child Nutrition Program reimbursement rates effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. The rates for School Nutrition Programs can be found on the Maine DOE Child Nutrition [website](#).

- **Free & Reduced Applications & Parent Letter**

- Free & Reduced Meal Applications, Household Letters and Resources
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/studenteligibility>
- Training: Determining Student Eligibility
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/training> (Under the National School Lunch Program Heading)

SAUs that are operating under Community Eligibility Provision and Provision 2 Base Year may not distribute free and reduced meal applications. These SAUs may choose to collect an [Alternative Income Form](#) in place of the Free and Reduced Meal Application. Processing alternative income forms is not an allowable expense from the non-profit school food service account. The district must pay for the cost of processing forms or reimburse the non-profit school food service account for this cost.

- **NSLP News Release:** Send NSLP Press Release to local media. Use the sample press release available on the Maine DOE Child Nutrition website. Make sure to include the full federal and state non-discrimination statements.
 - Sample News Releases
 - [Sample NSLP News Release](#)
 - [Sample NSLP News Release for Private or Non-Public Schools](#)
 - [Sample NSLP News Release for Special Provision Schools](#)

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Updates

The FY 2027 FFVP allocations are available in the FFVP Usage Report in CNPweb.

How to Access Your FFVP Allocation Report:

- 1. Log into CNPweb.
- 2. Select **Reports**.
- 3. Choose **Accounting Reports**.
- 4. Select **FFVP Usage**.
- 5. Choose **SY 2027** and your district.

School Status	When Funds Are Available
Returning to FFVP	Use rollover funds from last school year in September only. FY 2027 allocation begins October 1.
New to FFVP	No funding in September. FY 2027 allocation begins October 1.

Understanding the FFVP Usage Report (see screenshot below):

- **Amount: PY Rollover** – This is the balance of FFVP funds carried over from the previous school year. These funds may be spent during September only.
- **Amount: Oct–Sept** – This is your FY 2027 FFVP allocation, which is available to spend beginning October 1 and continues through the remainder of the school year, including September 2027.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at stephanie.stambach@maine.gov

FFVP Usage Report

Filter Criteria :

Fiscal Year	District	As Of
2027	Andover Public Schools	7/7/2026 9:18:35 AM

School	Amount		Balance		Usage	
	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept	PY Rollover	Oct - Sept
District: Andover Public Schools (1734)						
Andover Elementary School (790)	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	0.00%	0.00%
District Total	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	0.00%	0.00%
Total	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	\$423.87	\$1,408.00	0.00%	0.00%

Filling out the CNPweb User Access Form

Please read ALL directions before completing the form.

Please be sure you are using the form pictured below.

All of these boxes need to be completed. Please do not use your AOS or School Union number. Use the district name as it appears in CNPweb, minus the assigned CNPweb number

Individuals can belong to ONE User Group, be sure to read the definitions of each before selecting the one you want.

Select ONLY the programs your district participates in.

The form must be signed by the Legal Agent. With School Districts, that is typically the Superintendent.



CNPweb User Access Form



Complete this form to add, modify, delete or reactivate a user in CNPweb. Submit this form as often as changes occur to reflect only those currently approved to enter data and/or approve claims. This form **must** be signed by the Sponsors Legal Agent. This is the person with the legal authority to sign documents on behalf of the Sponsor. Email the completed form to child.nutrition@maine.gov.

The Sponsor Application in CNPweb **must** be updated accordingly, please update the Sponsor Information Sheet.

Sponsor/LEA Name as it appears in CNPweb:					
Name:	New User	Modify User	Inactivate User	Reactivate User	
Title:	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Email:	Phone:				
COMPLETE THIS SECTION TO ADD/MODIFY/INACTIVATE/REACTIVATE A USER					
User Group Column		Select the box for which access is requested			
Read each description and Select ONE from this column		Scroll across to select programs the district participates in			
Sponsor Admin Annual Application Packet; Monthly Claim for Reimbursement; SNP October Survey; SNP Verification; SNP Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Application (if applicable)		SNP School Nutrition Program	FDP Food Distribution Program	SFSP Summer Food Service Program	CACFP At Risk After School Program
USDA Foods Application & Orders		N/A	☐	N/A	N/A
Claim Approver Approves the Monthly Claim for Reimbursement. Cannot enter or edit information		☐	N/A	☐	☐
Verification Only Only has access to the SNP Verification module to enter & edit verification information.		☐	N/A	N/A	N/A
View Only Can view information but not edit or delete		☐	☐	☐	☐
As the Legal Agent for the above named organization, I am requesting the changes listed on this form.					
Signature of Legal Agent (Superintendent/Head of School):					
Print Name of Legal Agent (Superintendent/Head of School):					
Title:		Date:			
The Sponsor Application in CNPweb must be updated accordingly, please update the Sponsor Information Sheet					

State Use Only: Date Received from Sponsor: _____ Date State Completed: _____ Initials: _____

State Signature (If needed): _____ Date: _____ 8/11/26

Forms that are not completed properly will be returned for corrections. Submitting forms directly from your scanner puts them at risk at being deleted as spam.

USDA Memos and Updates

The Real Food Guides to School Breakfast and Lunch for Families

Help students make healthy choices in School Year 2026-2027 with The Real Food Guides to School Breakfast and School Lunch for Families. These fact sheets were updated to showcase real, nutrient-dense foods that contribute to a balanced school breakfast and lunch, and align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025–2030.

Reminder For School Lunch About Nondairy Beverage (Fluid Milk Substitute) Requirements

If a school food authority (SFA) chooses to offer nondairy beverages, such as fortified, plant-based milks – for example, soy milk – to all students at lunch, those milk substitutes must include, at a minimum, the nutrients listed in the table at [7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(2\)\(ii\)](#). Fluid milk substitutes must be fortified in accordance with fortification guidelines issued by the Food and Drug Administration.

Offering nondairy beverages to all students to meet the fluid milk requirement at lunch is an option, not a requirement. If an SFA chooses to offer nondairy beverages to all students, the SFA is no longer required to notify the state agency that it is serving nondairy beverages and students who request a fluid milk substitute for a non-disability reason are no longer required to submit a written statement requesting a nutritionally equivalent fluid milk substitute. If an SFA chooses not to offer nondairy beverages to all students, the process for requesting a fluid milk substitute for a non-disability reason and reporting to the state agency is unchanged and can be found at [7 CFR 210.10\(d\)\(2\)](#).



continued...

Memos and Updates,

For additional information, please refer to the memo titled “[SP 01-2026: Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 – Implementation Requirements for the National School Lunch Program.](#)”

Resources for Procuring Local Foods in School Year 2026-2027

USDA Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA) is pleased to announce the release of [TA 01-2026 Resources for Procuring Local Foods in School Year 2026-2027](#). This memo reminds schools, sponsors, and institutions participating in any USDA Child Nutrition Program (CNP) of the various resources available to help CNP operators procure local foods. This memo is part of a new Harvest to Hallways campaign and supports Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' commitment to supporting local food procurement and efforts to Make America Healthy Again.

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.

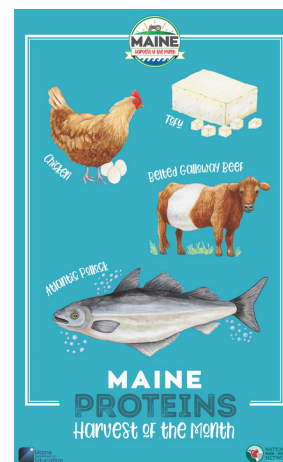
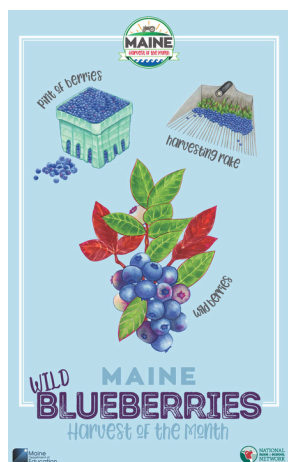
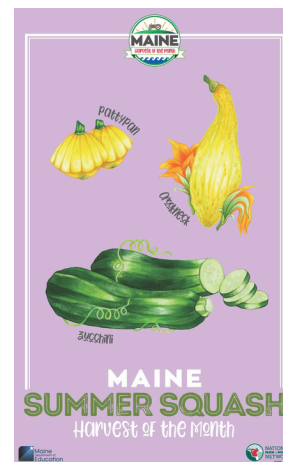
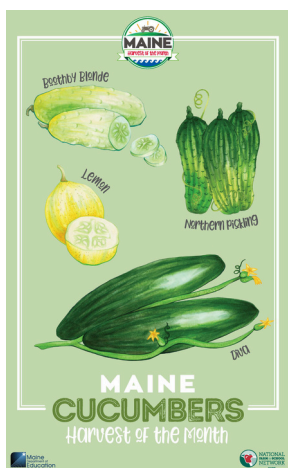
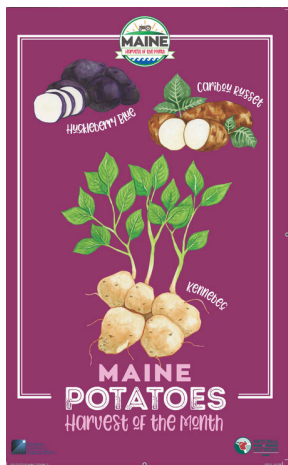
The annual mailing will also include exciting new resources:

- 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.



paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

September 28, 2026

1:30pm

This webinar is intended for schools participating in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) in SY 2027. 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.

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