

AUGUST 6, 2026

# Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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# SY2027 Applications

# DEADLINE

## APPROACHING!!

**August 15<sup>th</sup> is 9 DAYS away!!**

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

Please refer to the **Application User Guide**  
located in the **CNPweb Help Tab**

# Annual Financial Report

- 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 1, 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.**

Open office hours will be held during the times below to answer any Provision II questions:

**Thursday, August 6th at 1pm**

**Thursday, August 13th at 9am**

Please email [jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.truman@maine.gov) for the link to attend the open office hour of your choice.

# **SY2027 Unanticipated School Closure with Remote Learning Waiver Request**

We are pleased to announce that USDA has approved Maine's request for the Unanticipated School Closures with Remote Learning Waiver. This waiver provides additional flexibility to support continued access to meals for students in the event of unexpected school closures paired with remote learning.

To request use of this waiver, please complete the Microsoft Form.

 <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/ufbT8ixK7d>

Please ensure that your request is submitted as soon as possible when an unanticipated closure occurs so our team can review and respond promptly. Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring Maine students have access to nutritious meals, no matter the circumstances.

# NOI - Missing Distributor

The following School Districts do not have a Distributor selected for their NOI Allocations

Augusta Public Schools  
Brooksville Public Schools  
Cape Elizabeth Public Schools  
Easton Public Schools  
Ellsworth Public Schools  
Eustis Public Schools  
Georgetown Public Schools  
Glenburn Public Schools  
Gorham Public Schools  
Lisbon Public Schools  
Medway Public Schools  
Mount Desert Public Schools  
RSU 08  
RSU 35

Please go into [www.k12foodservice.com](http://www.k12foodservice.com) and [www.processorlink.com](http://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](mailto:michele.bisbee@maine.gov).

# You Asked, We Answered

## Can we share student eligibility information with someone who asks?

**No.** Individual student free and reduced-price meal eligibility is confidential and may only be disclosed to individuals or agencies specifically authorized under federal law ([Eligibility Manual](#)). However, if the parent/legal guardian provides written consent authorizing the release of their child's eligibility information to a specific person or organization, then the information may be shared as authorized.

# 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.

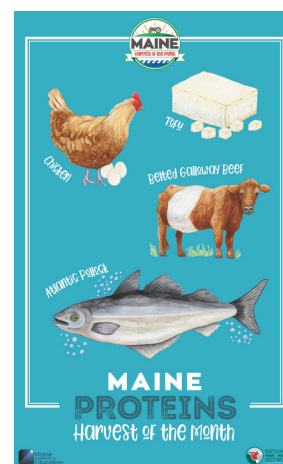
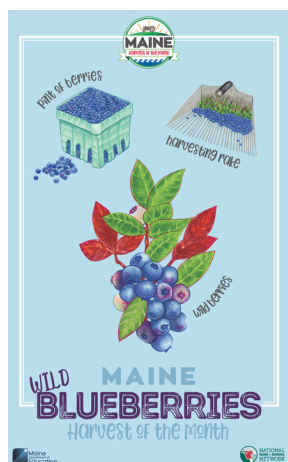
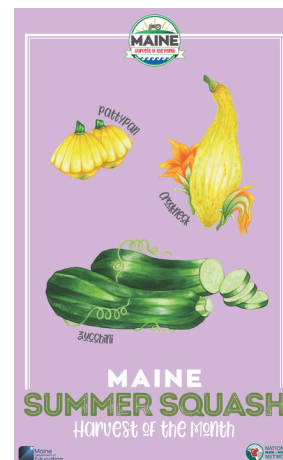
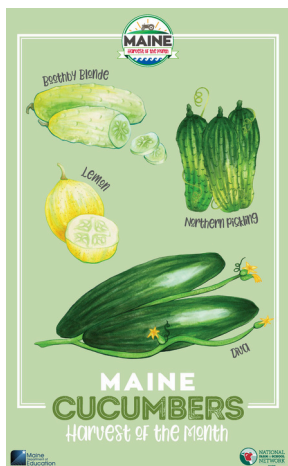
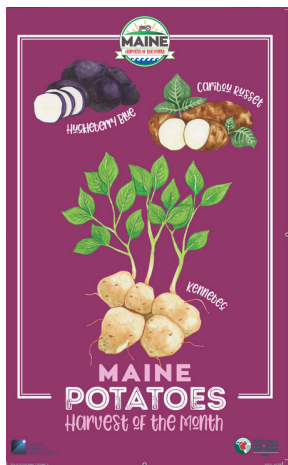
The annual mailing will also include exciting new resources:

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov).

# 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](mailto: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.

# **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

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!

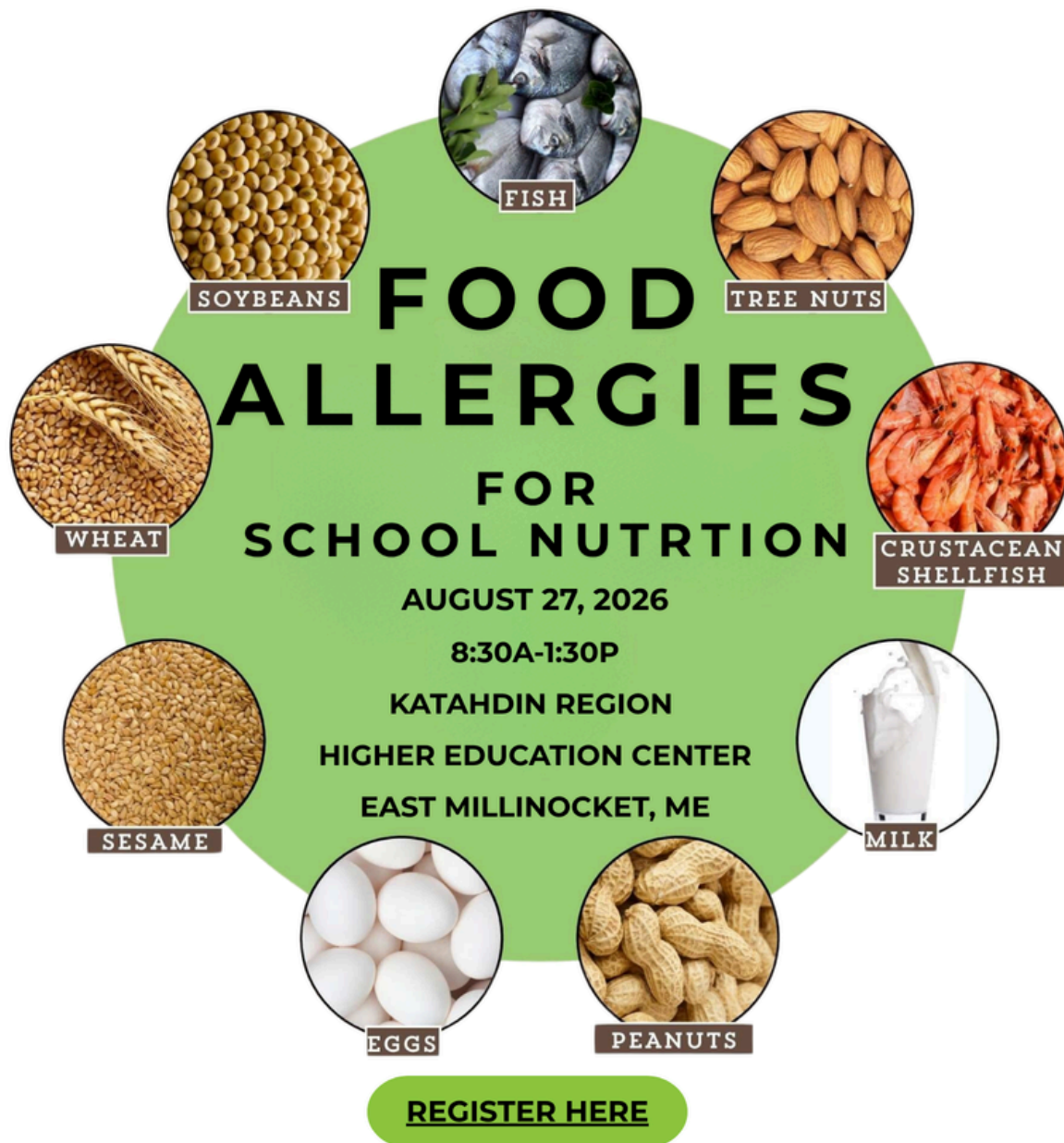
Whether you're looking to stay current on regulations, discover new ideas, or network with fellow professionals, this training offers valuable information you can take back to your program.

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

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



**Other Available  
Trainings You May  
Find Interesting**



School nutrition professionals who take this course will learn about food allergies, food intolerance, reading food labels, avoiding cross contact, accommodating students with food allergies, laws regarding food allergies, and educating the school community about food allergies.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Email [mcharette@millinocketschools.org](mailto:mcharette@millinocketschools.org) for more information.



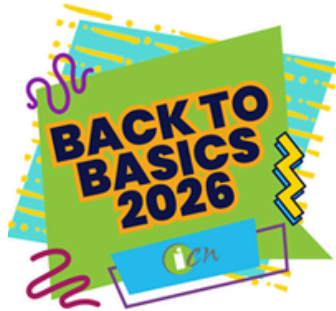
**FACE-TO FACE TRAINING FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS**

Use the link below to register

<https://forms.gle/19Hps6nd9krSmW3B7>

If you have questions regarding this training, please contact Mia Charette,  
[mcharette@millinocketschools.org](mailto:mcharette@millinocketschools.org)

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**