

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

School Nutrition Programs Thursday Update

Buy American Reporting Form

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Shout Out!!

Buy American Reporting Form

We are requesting input from districts to gather feedback for USDA on Buy American tracking. The intention is to share common challenges with non-domestic products.

Please respond to this brief [survey](#) by September 30, 2026. If you have already completed the survey, please disregard! Only one response is needed. We appreciate everyone's feedback!

Open Office Hours

Special Provision II Base Year

Are you a Special Provision II base year district collecting meal benefit apps? Maine DOE Child Nutrition's Adriane Ackroyd will be holding optional Open Office Hours to answer questions regarding free/reduced application approvals.

Tuesday, September 22 from 1:00 – 2:00pm

Please email Adriane, adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov, if you would like to attend. If you have questions or topics other than the application approval process that you would like to discuss, please let Adriane know.

SY2027 Unanticipated School Closure

We are pleased to announce that USDA has approved Maine's request for the Unanticipated School Closures with Remote Learning Waiver. This waiver provides 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](#).

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 that Maine students have access to nutritious meals, no matter the circumstances

A La Carte/Catering

Are you Serving A La Carte or Catering?

If so, when figuring your cost, you need to allocate for labor.

Charges for food cost need to be triple of what it cost you.

Example

Your cost = \$.40

Charge cost = \$1.20

You **CANNOT** lose money in A La Carte or catering.

This is an **unallowable** cost.

Check out the NSLP page of our website for the “*A La Carte Weekly Records Sheet*” which can be found under the Daily Operations form dropdown.

Have Questions

Adriane Ackroyd

adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov

207-620-6017

Program Reviews

Civil Rights

Summer Food Service Program

Kate Fayle

kaitlin.fayle@maine.gov

207-592-4198

Program Reviews

School Breakfast Program

Summer Food Service Program

Stephanie Stambach

stephanie.stambach@maine.gov

207-215-9437

Program Reviews

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

Farm to School

Jodi Truman

jodi.truman@maine.gov

207-215-9676

207-624-6877

Annual Paperwork

Claim Filing

Paula Nadeau

paula.nadeau@maine.gov

207-624-6842

Michele Bisbee

michele.bisbee@maine.gov

207-592-6076

Program Reviews

Culinary Specialist

Food Safety & Sanitation

Equipment Assistance

Sarah Platt

sarah.d.platt@maine.gov

207-592-2410

Program Reviews

Meal Pattern

Dietary Accommodations

Procurement

Kobi Chase

kobi.l.chase@maine.gov

207-816-0324

Program Reviews

At Risk Afterschool Meals

Terri Fitzgerald

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

207-592-4892

USDA Foods & DOD Fresh

Katie Knowles

katie.knowles@maine.gov

207-215-6716

Farm & Sea to School

Harvest of the Month



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.

Child Nutrition Training

- *The links to register are in the training titles - unless otherwise noted.*
- *Pay attention to registration deadline dates. Deadlines must be adhered to.*
- 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.
- 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.
- All of any kind will be removed from the virtual training



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.

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



Save the Date

BUILDING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER

A day of

**LEVERAGING RESOURCES.
CONNECTING PARTNERS.
GAINING NEW INSIGHT.**

*geared towards school nutrition
and public health professionals*



OCTOBER 23, 2026
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM



MaineHealth
110 Free St, Portland

[Register Here](#)

► Questions?

email Ashley Edmondson:
ashley.edmondson@mainehealth.org

Training Objectives

Alignment ◀

Identify shared priorities for Public Health Staff and School Nutrition Directors to jointly support healthy schools through both policy and practice

Capability ◀

Build advocacy & community engagement skills

Action ◀

Leave with a goal to implement in a collaborative manner



LET'S GO!



SHOUT OUT!!



New recipe in York: Jamaican Jerk Chicken Bowl and Maine Corn on the Cob

And roasted Maine Tomatoes and Onions,
which was turned into tomato soup district wide!

Thanks for sharing, Whitney!!!