

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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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.

Direct Certification Codes

david.hartley@maine.gov

Not all codes are able to be used for family members living in the same household address.

Below is a list of the codes, definitions and whether or not they can be use for other household members.

Hierarchy for Direct Certification

Direct Certification Hierarchy			Use for ISP for CEP	Use for SPII	Can extend sibling benefits
1	SNAP	S	✓	✓	✓
2	TANF	T	✓	✓	✓
3	Foster Care	F	✓	✓	
4	Migrant	M	✓	✓	
5	Homeless	H	✓	✓	
6	Maine Care Free	A	✓	✓	✓
7	SUN Bucks Free	B		✓	
8	Maine Care Reduced	Z		✓	✓
9	SUN Bucks Reduced	K		✓	

- Only lines 1-6 are Directly Certified and can be used for your ISP for CEP
- Lines 1-6 & Lines 8 & 9 can be used for SPII

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
-	-
Ellsworth Public Schools	National Food Group
-	-
RSU 08	Land O'Lakes
RSU 08	National Food Group
-	-
St. George Public Schools	Schwan's Sales Co., 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.

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](#)

COMING SOON

2026 USDA Equipment Assistance Grant!!

Applications for the 2026 Equipment Assistance Grant will be available
October 1, 2026.

Keep watching the Thursday Update for
more information!!

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		SNP School Nutrition Program	FDP Food Distribution Program	SFSP Summer Food Service Program	CACFP At Risk After School Program
Sponsor Admin Annual Application Packet; Monthly Claim for Reimbursement; SNP October Survey; SNP Verification; SNP Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Application (if applicable)		☐	☐	☐	☐
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.

Recognize Your Outstanding School Staff: RISE Award Now Accepting Nominations



The Maine Department of Education (DOE) invites students, friends, families, community members, educational organizations or associations, co-workers, and supervisors to nominate school employees for the RISE Award.

Anyone can nominate!

In collaboration with Maine Governor Janet T. Mills and the U.S. Department of Education, Maine DOE is now accepting nominations for the prestigious [Recognizing Inspirational School Employees \(RISE\) Award](#). This federal award, passed by Congress and overseen by the U.S. Department of Education, is intended to honor and promote classified school employees who provide exemplary service.

Through the RISE Award, we honor the often-unsung heroes whose work behind the scenes is essential to ensuring safe, supportive, and effective learning environments. Publicly recognizing their service strengthens morale, boosts motivation, and reaffirms our commitment to valuing all roles within the education workforce.



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

- All 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

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.

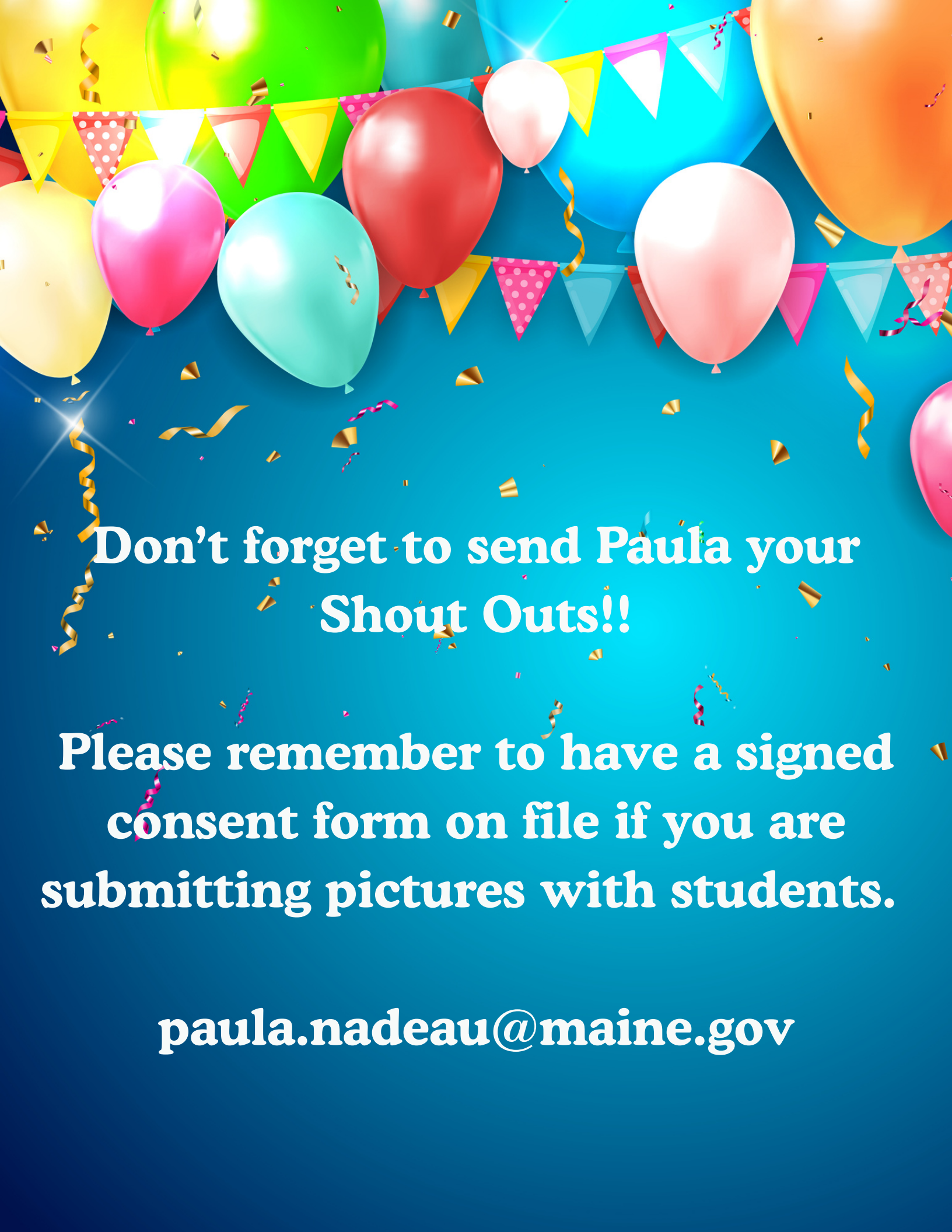
- *When the process should be started
- *How to complete the process more easily
- *The timeline for completion
- *Uploading to CNPweb

September 30, 2026

1:00-3:30

Registration begins at 12:30

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



**Don't forget to send Paula your
Shout Outs!!**

**Please remember to have a signed
consent form on file if you are
submitting pictures with students.**

paula.nadeau@maine.gov