

Questions & Answers: H.P. 421 - L.D. 577 (An Act To Increase Access to Nutritious Foods in Schools by Implementing an After-school Food Program for At-risk Students)

1. How do I know if my school district meets the 50% or more criteria?

DOE Report with all qualifying school districts:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sites/maine.gov.doe/files/inline-files/ED534byDistrict%20%283%29.pdf>

2. Where can I find LD 577?

<https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0421&item=3&snum=129>

3. If my district meets the requirements of the Law for CACFP At Risk Afterschool, but our district is already serving snacks through the Afterschool Snack Service Program, do we need to do anything?

Yes, the district needs to either participate in the CACFP At Risk Afterschool program or opt out using the guidance from LD 577.

4. Our district/school does not offer an afterschool enrichment activity, what are we required to do?

An Afterschool education/enrichment activity that is open to all, is a requirement to participate in CACFP At Risk Afterschool. If a district/school does not provide education/enrichment activities, the district/school does not qualify for CACFP At Risk and must opt out using the guidance from LD 577 or start an enrichment program.

5. What does “open to all” mean?

Education/enrichment activities that do not limit membership for reasons other than space or security, or where applicable, licensing requirements. [7 CFR 226.17a(b)]. See Memo CACFP 08-2012

6. Our district/school does not offer an afterschool enrichment activity that is “open to all” (Example: Competitive Sports Leagues with tryouts/cuts). What do we need to do?

Offer an Afterschool education/enrichment activity that is open to all to participate in CACFP At Risk Afterschool. If a district/school does not provide at least one “open to all” education/enrichment activity, the district/school does not qualify for CACFP At Risk and must opt out using the guidance from LD 577.

7. How does my district opt out?

By Law a school administrative unit that is required to operate a federal Child and Adult Care Food Program may choose not to operate such a program if it determines by a vote of the governing body of the school administrative unit after notice and a public hearing that operating such a program would be financially or logistically impracticable.

8. What is the difference between National School Lunch Afterschool Snack Program vs. Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Program?

[Understanding After-school Snacks and Meals Chart](#)

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9. After our district holds the public hearing, and the board votes, do I need to report the results to the Department of Education?

Only report to the MDOE Child Nutrition Team if the board votes to “Opt Out” of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program by emailing a short sentence stating your district is “opting out” to the Child Nutrition Team at child.nutrition@maine.gov.

10. Under LD 577, when do schools have to have their public hearing by? Is there a deadline/timeline?

LD 577 states beginning with the 2020 school year a school that qualifies shall participate in CACFP. The district may choose not to operate such a program if it determines by a vote of the governing body of the school administrative unit after notice and a public hearing. This process needs to be completed sometime within the 2020 school year.

11. Do school districts have to provide any information/meeting minutes from the hearing?

Only report to the MDOE Child Nutrition Team if the board votes to “Opt Out” of the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Program by emailing a short sentence stating your district is “opting out” to the Child Nutrition Team at child.nutrition@maine.gov.

12. What do we need to serve for CACFP At Risk Afterschool?

The typical meals are:

- **Snack**- 2 components
 - Same meal pattern and reimbursement rate (\$0.94) as National School Lunch After School Snack Program
- **Supper**- 5 components
 - Can be in unitized containers or thru a normal lunch line
 - Can be hot or cold (a great way to use unserved items from lunch)
 - Schools can use Offer vs. Serve (Offer five components, student must take at least 3 components)
 - \$3.64 for each Supper meal served!!! (\$3.41 + 23.75 cents Cash in Lieu of Commodities)

13. What time can we serve after school?

Snack or Supper can be served as soon as the school day ends. (example: ABC School dismissal bell rings at 2:30pm, ABC School can serve Supper at 2:30pm)

14. Can our District Serve Breakfast or Lunch?

Districts can serve Breakfast/Lunch with prior approval on snow days, school vacations, and weekends.

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15. Our district meets the qualifier, do we need to start this program tomorrow?

LD 577 states the 2020 school year. The qualifying district can start or opt out anytime during the 2020 school year.

16. What is the process for starting the program?

1. Reach out to Child Nutrition via email Child.Nutrition@maine.gov and let us know your district is interested in starting the program.
2. Watch CACFP At Risk 101 Webinar:
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/cacfp/atrisk>
*Webinar has been recorded and will be available on our webpage on or before (9/30)
3. Obtain User IDs and Passwords from CACFP Team
4. Complete CACFP Online Agreement thru CNPweb
5. Agreement Approved:
 - The district may claim meals from the beginning of the month in which the agreement is approved.

17. What time can we serve after school?

Snack or Supper can be served as soon as the school day ends. (example: ABC School dismissal bell rings at 2:30pm, ABC School can serve Supper at 2:30pm)

18. Can our District Serve Breakfast or Lunch?

Districts can serve Breakfast/Lunch with prior approval on snow days, school vacations, and weekends.

19. When can we serve CACFP At-Risk meals?

CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Snacks/Meals can be served anytime outside “normal” school hours. (i.e., after dismissal bell, snow days, school vacations, weekends, and holidays).

*CACFP At-Risk cannot be offered during summer months. School should transition to the Summer Food Service Program