

MAINE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

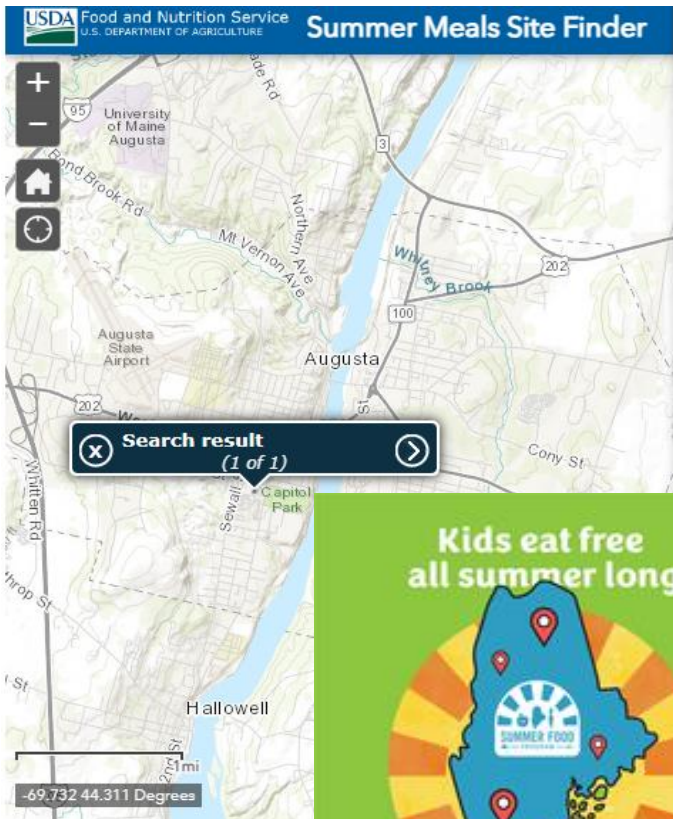
Child Nutrition End of Year Webinar

Presented by: Jane McLucas





Happy End of Year!



Summer is coming.....

Please let us know if you are having any kick off or spike events, we would love to come.

HOT LUNCH SUMMER is live, to help you find your closest locations, and the colors will differentiate between congregate and non-congregate sites



TURNIP THE BEET

with high quality summer meals!

The **Turnip the Beet Award**, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors who work hard to offer high quality meals that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious.

Who is eligible, and how do they apply?

All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors, may be eligible for a **Turnip the Beet Award**. Sponsors may self-nominate or be nominated by another party. Each State agency determines their own deadline for nominations. The nomination must include a completed Nomination Form and a detailed one-month menu. FNS evaluates and scores the nominations and notifies the winners in writing. The Nomination Form is available on the **Turnip the Beet** webpage <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet>.

How are nominations evaluated?

Nominations must clearly illustrate how the meals are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious. The Nomination Form includes short-answer questions and menu criteria based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The criteria include serving local foods, a variety of vegetables and fruit, whole grains, and low-fat and fat-free milk. For more detailed information on the **Turnip the Beet Award** and the evaluation criteria, check out the **Turnip the Beet** webpage.

What are the prizes?

Three award levels are available: gold; silver; and bronze. All winners will receive a certificate and will be featured on the **Turnip the Beet** webpage.

Questions?

Questions regarding the **Turnip the Beet Awards** should be directed to your Summer Meals State agency: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts>.

Resources

FNS has an abundance of resources available for sponsors to help make the summer meals they serve more appetizing, appealing, and nutritious:

- The **Nutrition Guide for Sponsors** (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2018-nutrition-guide>) includes tips for serving high quality meals and incorporating local foods, as well as sample cycle menus.
- The **Farm to Summer Fact Sheet** (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cfs/farm-summer-ripe-local-foods>) describes how to "bring the farm" to summer sites.
- The **Team Nutrition Resource Library** (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/resource-library>) has free nutrition education materials.





- June Claim is open, and due by July 8th
- CEP Deadline – June 30th
- SNP Annual Application – August 15th
- Annual financial Report – September 1st

Back to
school

Annual

Requirements



Civil rights
Training



Procurement
Training



Yearly press
release



Thursday, June 20, 2024
2:00 PM 3:00 PM

USDA EXPANDED GEOGRAPHIC PREFERENCE WEBINAR



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Patrick Leahy Farm to School Team (USDA Farm to School Team) will host a webinar for farm to school partners, including Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators, on the expanded geographic preference option in the final rule, [*Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*](#). The final rule includes a small yet significant expansion of the geographic preference provision. Beginning July 1, 2024, the provision will permit CNP operators to use local as a specification when procuring unprocessed agricultural products. The USDA Farm to School Team will provide an overview to help farm to school partners share and learn about the expanded geographic preference option.



Bulk Milk

Milk cartons and bottles – as well as discarded milk – are the biggest source of school food waste.

Our Bulk Milk program helps schools transition from serving milk in single-serve containers to serving milk using bulk dispensers and reusable cups.

Plus, milk tastes better and stays fresh longer when served in bulk!

Applications are open! Apply by June 27, 2024.

<https://www.chefannfoundation.org/what-we-do/bulk-milk/>

SUN Bucks Basics

SUN Bucks, sometimes called Summer EBT, is a new federal program that helps families who qualify to buy groceries during the summer months using a debit-like EBT Card.

To get SUN Bucks, each child must meet criteria set by the USDA. Some kids will automatically qualify, while others can apply. Children must individually qualify during the school year before the summer starts or they can apply over the summer.

Each student that qualifies will receive one payment of \$120 in benefits for the summer period.

Visit <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofj> for more information and latest updates.

Who will get SUN Bucks Benefits?

NSLP School Student Eligibility

Students enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they participate in at least one of the following:

- Have submitted and qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, with a Free & Reduced Price Meal Benefit Application or Alternate Income Form
- SNAP, TANF, FDIR
- Are Homeless, Migrant or a Foster Child
- MaineCare with a verified household income level below 185% of the federal poverty level

All other students that attend an NSLP school may apply for SUN Bucks by completing an application

Non- NSLP School Student Eligibility

Students NOT enrolled in NSLP schools are automatically eligible if they are between the ages of 6-16 and participate in at least one of the following:

- SNAP, TANF, FDIR
- Are Homeless, Migrant or a Foster Child
- MaineCare with a verified household income level below 185% of the federal poverty level

All other Non-NSLP students are not eligible for Sun Bucks

Students at Community Eligibility (CEP) Schools or Schools participating in Special Provision II

Students in special provision schools are automatically eligible if they participate in at least one of the following:

- SNAP, TANF, FDIR
- Are Homeless, Migrant or a Foster Child
- MaineCare with a verified household income level below 185% of the federal poverty level

All other students that attend special provision schools may apply for SUN Bucks by completing an application



When will SUN Bucks Benefits be issued?

Late June 2024 to late October 2024: Summer 2024 benefits for qualifying students will be issued at the end of each month, June – October as students are determined eligible

- If the student currently receives SNAP, the benefits will be loaded onto their existing Pine Tree card
- If the student received P-EBT last year, the benefits will be loaded onto their existing P-EBT card
- If the student does not have an existing account, they will be sent a new Pine Tree Card

If students no longer have their P-EBT Card, they can order a replacement by calling OFI at 1-855-797-4357 (8-4:30 M-F)

To Activate a new card

To activate a new card, the PIN activation code will be the child's date of birth, when prompted for a SS# use the child's social security number, if this is a new account use all 9's.

It is crucial to activate the EBT card within 45 days of receipt, or a new one will need to be ordered, if you try and fail 3 times, you will need to wait 24 hours to try again.

Points of Contact/ Additional Questions

Families should wait to receive the Notice of Decision, that will be mailed to families in mid May to see if they have been pre-qualified. If they do not receive a letter in the mail, they can find and application for benefits at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofj/applications-forms>

Applications will be accepted until August 15th
You can also find answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ's) at www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofj or by calling OFI at 1-855-797-4357 (8-4:30 M-F)

HOT LUNCH Summer Meals

Families receiving SUN Bucks, may still participate in HOT LUNCH Summer programs across the state, where they can find SUN meals or SUN meals to go.

To find the site closest to you go to:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/hotlunchsummer>

- 1st payments go out in late June
- Families can apply until August 15th
- Applications are on the OFI website:
- [Applications & Forms | Department of Health and Human Services \(maine.gov\)](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofj)



Maine Office
for Family
Independence





For schools participation in
Traditional Meal Service:

[Free & Reduced Meal Benefit
Application](#) is updated:

CEP & Provision II Schools:

[Economic Status Form](#) has been
updated:

- Medicaid Demonstration Project starts in July 2024



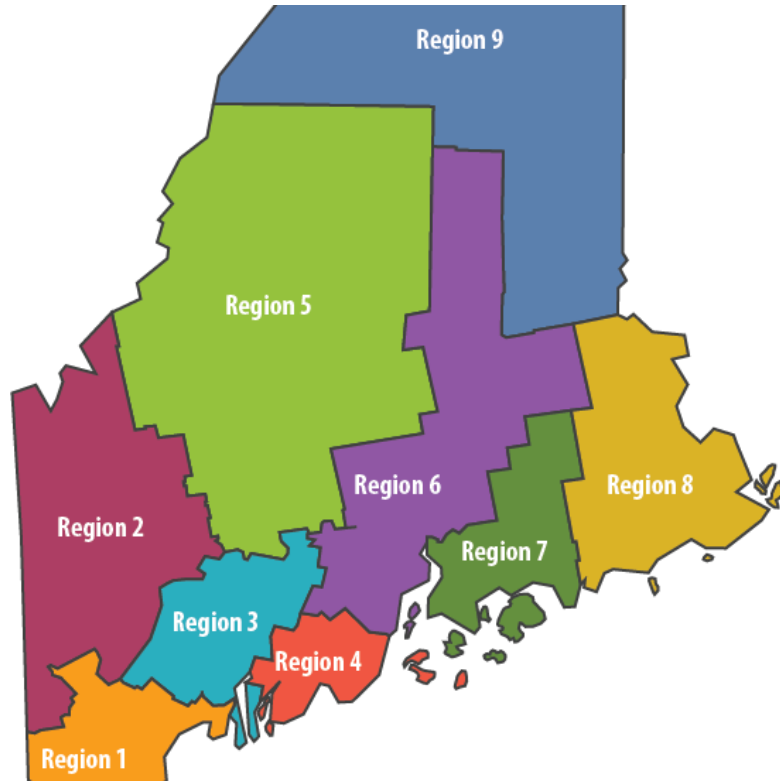
DHHS will be able to streamline certify students for school meals by using verifiable Maine Care Data.

They will be able to do this for both Free and Reduced students.

Reduced students will not count towards CEP or SPII

More information at the MSNA Conference at Sugarloaf in August

Maine Regional Local Foods Project



Starting this fall, Child Nutrition will be piloting a two-year “Maine Regional Local Foods Project” that is funded by a USDA Farm to School State Formula Grant. The objective of this project is to expand and deepen the impact of the Department’s Farm & Sea to School programming in schools, by providing local foods coordinators to each superintendent region in the state of Maine.

The coordinators will be hired to work with and support school nutrition staff to implement new, and augment existing, programs that support schools in providing fresh, locally sourced foods in school meal programs while also facilitating projects and activities that enable students to learn about local agriculture and healthy eating. All schools will be encouraged to participate in Farm & Sea to School Programs, including Harvest of the Month, the Local Foods Fund, and other farm and sea to school opportunities in the state.

For Year 1 (SY 2024-2025) we will be piloting the program with four coordinators in the following regions:

- Western ME (Oxford, Androscoggin, Franklin)
- York
- Washington/Hancock
- Aroostook

Over the coming months, we will be seeking feedback from districts. Feel free to reach out to Katie, Katie.Knowles@maine.gov or Stephanie, Stephanie.Stambach@maine.gov for more information!

Fall Dates to Remember

- ✓ Maine Harvest Week
September 16-20
- ✓ Farm to School Month
October
- ✓ National School Lunch Week
October 14-18

Fall Info Meeting
October 17th





HEALTHY MEALS INCENTIVES

Recognition Awards

As part of a cooperative agreement to develop and implement the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Initiative, Action for Healthy Kids is recognizing and celebrating School Food Authorities (SFA) who have made operational changes to improve the nutritional quality of their school meals, as well as SFAs who engage students and families in nutrition education and in the planning and preparation of nutritious school meals.

Recognition Award Categories

SFAs are eligible to apply for the Recognition Awards if they participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) in the contiguous United States, Hawaii, Alaska, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, or the United States Virgin Islands.

The **Trailblazer Award Series** highlights SFAs paving the path with gradual changes in school menus to be consistent with the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, specifically for reducing sodium in school lunch and added sugars in school breakfast.



Breakfast Trailblazer

The Breakfast Trailblazer fuels a student's day by providing a nutritious breakfast with limited added sugars and engages students in planning breakfast menus that are fun and enjoyable.



Small and/or Rural SFA Breakfast Trailblazer

The Small and/or Rural SFA Breakfast Trailblazer fuels a student's day by providing a nutritious breakfast with limited added sugars and engages students in planning breakfast menus that are fun and enjoyable.



Lunch Trailblazer

The Lunch Trailblazer has reduced sodium in school lunch and engages students in planning nutritious meals that are delicious.



Small and/or Rural SFA Lunch Trailblazer

The Small and/or Rural Lunch Trailblazer has reduced sodium in their school menus and recipes.



Innovative School Lunch Makeover

Innovative School Lunch Makeover recognizes improvement in the nutritional quality of a school lunch meal while maintaining student acceptance.



Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals

Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals recognizes nutritious school meal menu options that reflect the different cultures of students.



Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals

Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals recognizes schools who plan and prepare scratch recipes for school breakfast and lunch.



Innovation in Nutrition Education

Innovation in Nutrition Education recognizes the implementation of nutrition education activities that make classroom, cafeteria, community, and home connections for students and parents/guardians.

Shout out to the winners, so far



Grants for Small and/or Rural SFA's

- Wells- Ogunquit \$89,321
- RSU 14 \$124,170
- RSU 10 \$113,700
- RSU 2 \$107,500
- RSU 12 \$147,388
- RSU 40 \$146,767
- AOS 91 \$17,298
- RSU 22 \$148,810
- RSU 87 \$20,000
- Millinocket \$138,088
- RSU 89 \$146,566
- Easton \$149,842

Recognition Awards

- RSU 89 Innovation in Preparation of School Meals
- RSU 87 Breakfast Trailblazer
- Easton Lunch Trailblazer




FINAL RULE FOR SCHOOL MEAL STANDARDS

Updated School Meal Standards: working towards a common goal of healthy children and helping them reach their full potential.



School meals are the main source of nutrition for millions of children every school day. USDA is ensuring these meals are even more nourishing, while keeping them appealing to kids.

Key Provisions




Whole Grains

Schools may continue to offer a variety of nutrient-rich whole grains with options for some enriched grains (no changes in standard)



Milk



Continue to allow flavored and unflavored milk (no changes in standard) with new limits on added sugars



Added Sugars


Limit using a phased approach:

- **Phase 1:** Limits on specific high-sugar products (cereals, yogurt, flavored milk)
- **Phase 2:** Overall weekly limits



Sodium

Gradually phase in one reduction of weekly limit



Lots more to come, but wanted to highlight the changes that will need to start on July 1, 2024

Whole Grain



- **Maintain current whole grain requirements**
- Adds definition of whole grain-rich to regulations
- Update definition of entrée item to clarify that whole grain-rich and enriched grain entrée's may be sold as smart snacks

Sodium



- **Maintains current sodium limits, Sodium Target 1AA at lunch through June 30, 2027**
- Finalizes one 15% sodium reduction from current limit for school lunch, which schools must implement by July 1, 2027
- Finalizes one 10% sodium reduction from current limit for school breakfast, which schools must implement by July 1, 2027

Meat/Meat Alternates at Breakfast



- Finalizes the proposal to allow schools, at their option, to offer grain, meat/meat alternates, or a combination of both at breakfast with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Substituting Vegetables for Fruit at Breakfast



- Finalizes the proposal to allow schools to continue to substitute vegetables for fruits at breakfast and updates the vegetable variety requirement as proposed with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024.***

Beans, Peas, and Lentils at Lunch



Allow beans, peas, and lentils offered toward the meat/meat alternates meal component to also count toward the weekly vegetable subgroup requirement with implementation date of

July 1, 2024

Nuts & Seeds



Finalizes the proposal to allow nuts and seeds to credit for 100% of the meat/meat alternative component with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Competitive Foods: Bean Dip Exception



Finalizes the proposal to add “bean dip to the list of foods exempt from the total fat standard in the Smart Snacks in Schools Regulation with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Professional Standards: Hiring Exception



Finalizes the proposal to allow State Agencies discretion to allow medium or large LEA's to hire an individual without a bachelor's or associate's degree as a school nutrition program director, if they have at least 10 years of school nutrition program experience with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Meal Modifications



Finalizes the proposal to codify that state licensed healthcare professionals may write medical statements to request modifications on behalf of students with disabilities and to define the term of “state licensed healthcare professional” in the school meal program regulations with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Final Rule will expand the authority to write medical statements to registered dietitians with an implementation date of July 1, 2025

Fluid Milk Substitutes Nutrient Requirements



Finalizes the proposal to update Vitamin A and Vitamin D requirements for fluid milk substitutes from International Units to micrograms, consistent with labeling requirements in 2016 rulemaking from the FDA. This applies to fluid milk substitutes offered in NSLP, SBP, and SMP

The amount of Vitamin A and Vitamin D required in fluid milk substitutes does not change; only the unit of measurement has changed to conform to FDA labeling requirements.

*Implementation date of **July 1, 2024***

Geographic Preference



Finalizes the proposal to allow “locally grown”, “locally raised”, and “locally caught” to be used as procurement specifications with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Buy American



- Update federal regulations to include current exceptions related to product availability and cost that were previously only provided in guidance.

- Set a 5% limit on non-domestic food purchases when a school food authority uses an exception but adopts a phased in approach.

- 10% beginning in SY 2025-26.

- 8% beginning in SY 2028-29.

- 5% beginning in SY 2031-32

- Require school food authorities to maintain documentation showing that they do not exceed the non-domestic food purchases limit.**

- Require school food authorities to include the Buy American provision in all applicable procurement procedures, solicitations, and contracts.

- Clarify that over 51% of a food product must consist of agricultural commodities that were grown domestically.

- Explain how Buy American applies to fish and fish products.

With an overall implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Terminology Change



Changes the name of the “legumes (beans and peas) vegetable subgroup to “ beans, peas, and lentils” with an implementation date of **July 1, 2024**

Training Opportunities

Farm & Sea to School Institute



Culinary Skills for School Meals Training





ANC²⁰₂₄
**ANNUAL NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**





Maine SNA Conference August 6 & 7 At Sugarloaf



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