

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Child Nutrition Website - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org

SY2025 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Awards

The SY 2025 FFVP awards are being finalized and will be released in the coming weeks. We will notify everyone via the Thursday update when an awards list is available. As a state, Maine received less funding than in prior years and we are working to maximize the funds that get distributed to schools.

Summer Harvest of the Month

It is time to pledge for Summer Harvest of the Month (**July & August**)! Summer is the best and easiest time of year to source locally in Maine!

By pledging you agree to:

- Serve the local HOM product at least 2x per month

In return you receive:

- Toolkits for July & August including:

- Posters

- Fact and recipe sheets

- Stickers

- Monthly Newsletter email

- Additional resources & support from Farm & Sea to School Coordinator

Please reach out to Katie with any questions at katie.knowles@maine.gov

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!



A healthier future for our country begins with our children. Unfortunately, many children face hunger during the summer when they lose access to school meals. Children need good nutrition to grow, learn, and thrive. There are new tools to address summer hunger, including Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (Summer EBT), and a new flexible way to offer meals to children living in hard-to-reach, rural communities.

The Notice of Decision letters will be mailed tomorrow and delivered to households early next week. This letter will notify a family that they have been found eligible for this benefit, by participating in other DHHS programs (SNAP, TANF, FDPIR, MaineCare*) or by qualifying with a Free and Reduced Meal Benefit Application or by EPS Form (Alternate Income Data Form). It will tell them how they will get the benefit, and how they can use the benefit.

Jane has created a few documents to help you and other school staff answer questions about the program. This same packet will be sent to Superintendents and Principals tomorrow through a DOE Notice.

The [letter to households](#) is intended to be posted on the school's websites. If you can ask that all schools post this letter on their websites, I think it would be helpful.

The [letter to school staff](#), is to share basic information about the program with all school staff. My hope is that the more that have the information, the more that can help.

The [job aid](#), is just that, more information to assist families with knowledge about the program. I hope that this gets printed and hung in every office, in every school, with the contact information for DHHS highlighted.

Jane hosted two webinars, and one of them was recorded and can be found on the [SUN Bucks](#) page of our website.

From the USDA

Policy Memo on the Buy American Provisions Related to the Final Rule

The USDA has released a policy memo on the Buy American Provisions Related to the Final Rule Titled, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The memorandum, (SP 23-2024) provides more detailed guidance on recent regulatory changes to the Buy American provisions. The Buy American Exceptions Tracking Standard Form is an optional template that school food authorities can use to organize files and document the use of exceptions to purchase non-domestic foods under the Buy American provision.

To view additional existing resources, please visit: [Updates to the School Nutrition Standards | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\) webpage.](#)

Webinar on the Expanded Geographic Preference Option in the Final Rule

On Thursday, June 20, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT, 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.

The registration link for the webinar can be found at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_qHI2cl11THCBXLblzVc0iA

Child Nutrition Training Opportunities

Registration links are in the title or
can be found on our website

End of Year Webinar

June 10th @ 1:30pm

Join Jane for the School Year 2024 End of Year Wrap Up
and Child Nutrition updates .



ServSafe

Class and Exam

Monmouth Memorial School

130 Academy Road

Monmouth

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 - 8:30am-3:00pm

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 - 8:30am-approx. noon for the test

The class is for school food service and CACFP only

Books are ordered and mail once registration has ended

Please note start times for each day

Bring photo id, pen or pencils with erasers

You must provide an email address as certificates are sent via email.

Please note testing start time on the second day

Lunch is NOT provided. Please bring a lunch.

Charge for the class is \$102

Payable by credit card, at the time of registration.

ServSafe

Class and Exam

Messalonskee High School
131 Messalonskee High Drive
Oakland

Thursday August 22, 2024 - 8:30am-3:00pm

Friday, August 23, 2024 - 8:30am-approx. noon for the test

The class is for school food service and CACFP only

Books are ordered and mail once registration has ended

Please note start times for each day

Bring photo id, pen or pencils with erasers

You must provide an email address as certificates are sent via email.

Please note testing start time on the second day

Lunch is provided on the first day.

Charge for the class is \$102

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Child Nutrition Employment Opportunity

Education Program Supervisor - Child Nutrition

Are you a creative thinker with a passion for supporting Maine students? Do you thrive in a collaborative environment where you can bring fresh ideas to the table? If so, we want to hear from you! As a Child Nutrition Program Supervisor, you'll play a key role in the development, enhancement and implementation of child nutrition programming in Maine. This role offers a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact for all Maine students.

Purpose: This is a professional, supervisory position for planning, managing, and evaluating statewide Child Nutrition programs.

Responsibilities include: performance as a program supervisor; fiscal management of state and Federal funds; oversight of program participant financial management; recommendation and implementation of state and Federal standards, rules, and regulations for Child Nutrition programs; oversight of the Summer Food Service program to include outreach, marketing, and collaboration with program participants.

You will find the full description on the [Maine.gov](https://www.maine.gov) website.

MSNA Annual Conference

Registration is now open!!

The full agenda and schedule coming soon

Some of the planned events:

August 6th Vendor Food Show

**August 6th Dinner banquet honoring
Years of Service Employees**

Chef Demos with Forward Food,

August 7th Keynote speaker Joe Pettit

Important DOE updates

Recipe Crediting

Serving Up Science

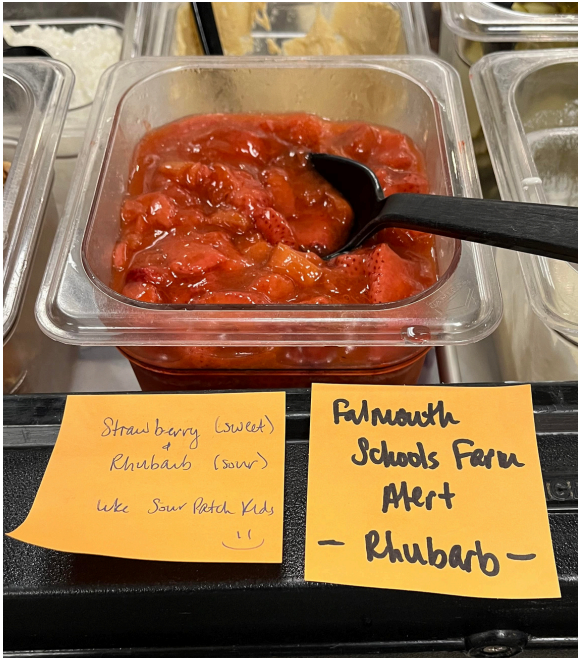
AND MUCH MORE!

Discounted room rates available at Sugarloaf Mountain
Hotel. Use code MSNA to reserve your room.

Visit MSNA's website for more information

Shout Outs!!!

Beautiful produce from the gardens in Falmouth



Strawberry Rhubarb



Radish Spinach Salad



Parsley Salad

Thank you for sharing, Paul



Congratulations Sheila!!!

Deer Isle Stonington Food Service Director receives RISE Award

From WABI - "The RISE award is a special award of recognition for those unsung heroes who are out there every single day on the front lines, making important wonderful things happen for schools, for students, for the staff of the schools. It's usually not somebody who has a bright light shining on them ever really," said Pender Makin, the commissioner of education for the State of Maine.

That unsung hero is none other than Sheila Nevells,
the school's food service director.

