

## MAINE CHILD NUTRITION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) establishes the minimum national standards that schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and other



federal meal programs must meet in order to obtain reimbursement. However, states can provide additional requirements and standards for school nutrition programs. Below is a snapshot of the policies for Maine. Also included are resources on the State legislature to assist SNA members interested in making an impact as the State crafts future policies. More information on Maine can be found with the [State agency](#) or by viewing the latest data available from [USDA](#).

### Current and Recent Legislation

- Bills passed on providing summer feeding programs, promoting locally sourced food items in schools, and the creation of a Child Hunger Task Force.
- Child Hunger Task Force Report with proposed policy changes can be found [here](#). However, a bill to implement the recommendations did not advance in 2015.
- Also in 2015, a bill establishing beverage standards in schools did not advance.

### School Meal Policies

- Maine mandates NSLP for grades K-8, but does not mandate participation in a breakfast program.
- The State provides \$.05 per lunch and covers the \$.30 for reduced price breakfast. Maine also provides additional funds for local produce.

### Competitive Foods/Smart Snacks Fundraisers

- All food based fundraisers in Maine must be Smart Snacks compliant.

### Farm to School

- Maine has a strong local sourcing program support by the Maine Department Education. The state provides additional funds for schools that purchase Maine produce.

### The Maine Legislature

- The Legislature meets in two separate sessions. The first session begins the first Wednesday in December following the general election and continues into the following year. The second session begins the first Tuesday in January of the next year, the same year as the next general election
- The rules on Maine lobbying disclosure can be found [here](#).

*For more information on state and national policies, contact SNA's Government Affairs and Media Relations Center.  
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