

Food Redistribution in Maine Schools

Opportunities for K-12 Schools to
Reduce Food Waste and Food Insecurity

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Food Waste & Sustainability

- More food is landfilled than any other item in the U.S. municipal solid waste stream (EPA 2017)
 - 38 million tons of food waste generated in 2014 (EPA 2017)
 - Cost \$1.3 billion to landfill in 2010 (Buzby, Wells, and Hyman 2014)
 - Landfilled food emits methane gas (Buzby, Wells, and Hyman 2014)
- Wasted food is wasted energy
 - 2.5% of energy in the United States (Webber 2012)
 - 300 million barrels of oil (Hall et al. 2009)
- Wasted food is wasted water
 - 25% of total fresh water in the United States (Hall et al. 2009)



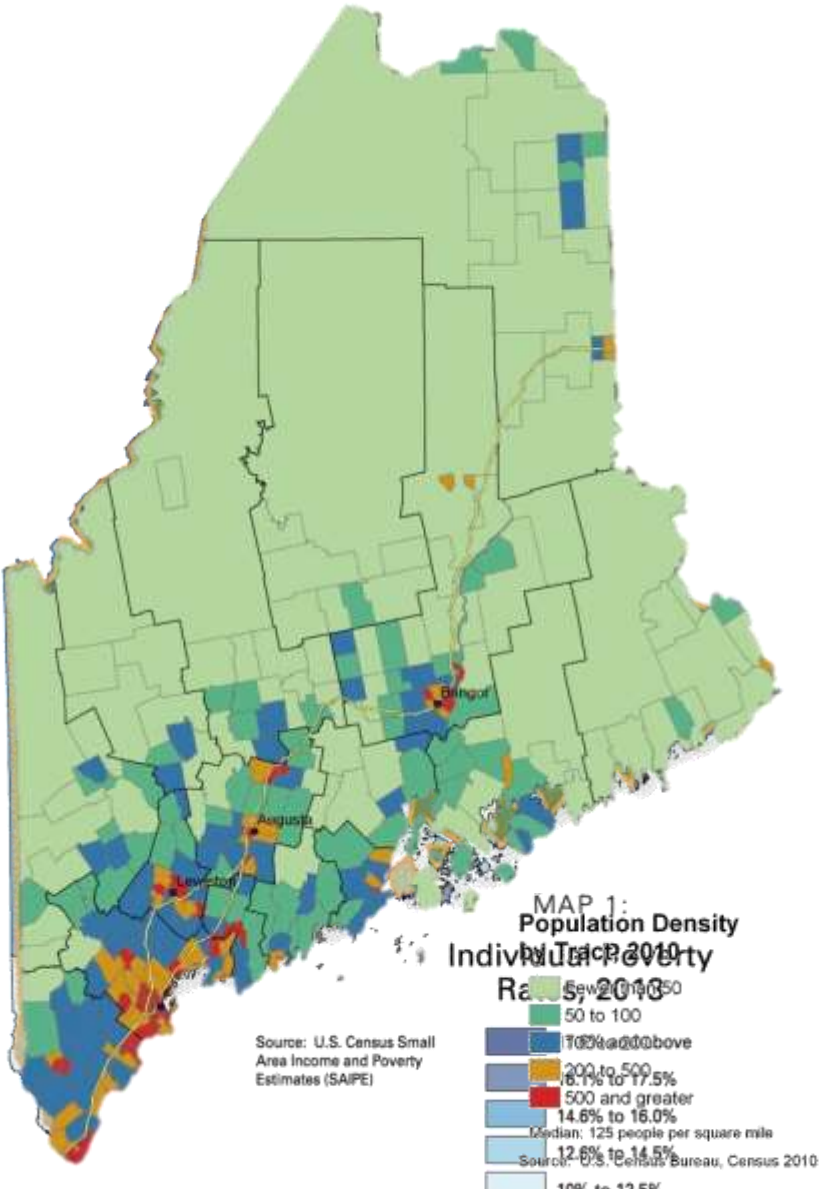
Food Waste in Schools

- **Concentrated** (Wilkie, Graunke, and Cornejo 2015)
- **Significant amounts of food wasted** (Smith and Cunningham-Sabo 2014)
 - 37% of fresh fruits
 - 33% of vegetables
 - 44% of grains
 - 32% of milk
- **Strong safety standards (HACCP)** (Poppendieck 2010)

(Behl, 2017)

Food Insecurity

- Lack of access to enough food for a healthy, active life (Coleman-Jensen et al. 2016)
- 15.8% of Mainers live with food insecurity (Coleman-Jensen et al. 2016)
- Food insecurity connected to poverty and rurality (Mills 2011; Good Shepherd Food Bank and Preble Street 2017)



Food Redistribution



Waterville School Pantry Kennebec Journal, 2015



Connecticut School Share Table WBUR.org 2017

Barriers to Food Redistribution



II

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION **S. 1719**

To clarify that schools and local educational agencies participating in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act are authorized to donate excess food to local food banks or charitable organizations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2011

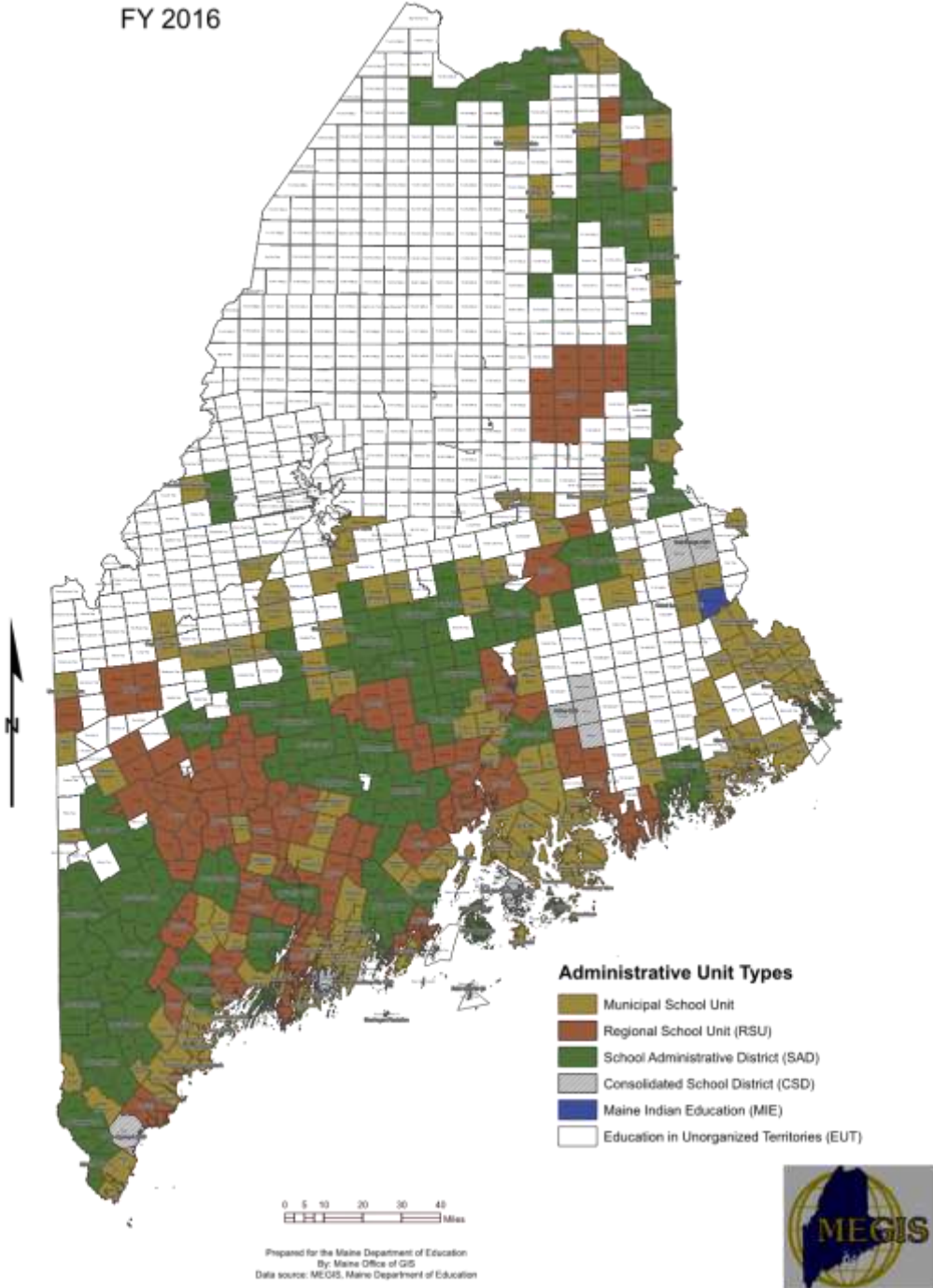
Mrs. FEINSTEIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Share Table Overview

FNS regulations require participating schools, CACFP institutions, and SFSP sponsors to provide reimbursable meals that meet specific meal pattern requirements outlined in 7 CFR 210.10, 220.8, 226.20, and 225.16, respectively. However, FNS recognizes that, for various reasons, children may not always want to consume certain food or beverage items included in their meal. "Share tables" are tables or stations where children may return whole food or beverage items they choose not to eat, if it is in compliance with local and State health and food safety codes. These food and beverage items are then available to other children who may want additional servings.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender

- Institutional Barriers & Policy Uncertainty
 - Maine Department of Health and Human Services
 - Maine Department of Education
 - United States Department of Agriculture
 - School Boards
- Perceptions of risks
 - Maintaining temperatures
 - Food allergies



Maine Schools

- 620 public schools
- 117 private schools
- 242 School Administrative Units

(Maine DOE, 2015)

Waste Reduction Policies

- 146 School policies
 - 8 had waste reduction/sustainability policies
 - York County (2)
 - Cumberland County (3)
 - Waldo County (2)
 - Franklin County (1)
 - 18 mentioned waste reduction in policy
 - Penobscot (4)
 - Kennebec (2)
 - Androscoggin (1)
 - Aroostook (3)
 - York (2)
 - Cumberland (1)
 - Oxford (2)
 - Piscataquis (1)
 - 11 schools had policies that would promote waste reduction, but did not use waste reduction language (Offer vs. Serve, scheduling recess before lunch)

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Questions