



SNAC Bites

January 2019 Edition

Welcome to the January 2019 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, & social media. In some cases, the content will need to be customized for your state association's needs.

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1. Get Ready to Cast Your Ballot in the 2019 SNA Election!

SNA Members: Are you prepared to cast your ballot in the upcoming SNA Election? While voting doesn't begin until **February 15**, this is a great time to meet the candidates who will represent your professional interests and concerns—and focus on the new steps that will prepare you to participate in the election. This year, an individual email address is *required* to cast a vote. Read the [“SNA Election Special”](#) in the January issue of *School Nutrition* and visit www.schoolnutrition.org/snaelection for all the details.

2. #LAC19 Early Bird Registration Deadline Extended through January 11

Due to overwhelming demand, the deadline for early bird registration to SNA's annual [Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC) has been extended this week through **Friday, January 11, 2019!** LAC will take place on **February 24-26 in Washington, D.C.** at the Marriott Marquis. [Register today](#) and you will receive **\$50.00 off** your #LAC19 registration. This is the last opportunity to receive a discounted rate for this year's conference which is sure to be full of [inspiring speakers](#) and significant policy discussion that will help shape the future of school nutrition! Register for the [pre-conference session](#) on Saturday and you'll also learn how to set up an effective advocacy network in your state. [Register now!](#)

3. Registration Now Open for 3rd Annual FREE Virtual Expo

Get ready to experience the future of sourcing new products with no travel or expense required—registration for SNA's FREE [Virtual Expo](#) is now open! The Expo runs from **February 5-March 22** and features two virtual exhibit halls—Food and Beverage and Equipment/Technology, a Learning Center with 15 new pre-recorded education sessions from #ANC18 to earn CEUs and a networking lounge to connect with other attendees. The Expo is the perfect way to network and make connections with exhibitors and peers across the country and discover new products and services for your program—all from your own device or computer! [Register now.](#)



4. Share Your #NSBW19 Plans with SNA for a Chance to Win!

Get ready to put the pedal to the metal for [National School Breakfast Week](#): Start Your Engines! Check out all the new resources we've added to the website, including a [toolkit](#), [marketing and social media tools](#), [infographic](#) and new [activity sheets](#). We've also added an [#NSBW19 Contest](#)! It's quick and easy to enter, all you have to do is fill out your information and answer four questions about your #NSBW19 plans to be automatically entered in the contest for a chance to win a \$50 SNA Emporium Shop gift certificate that can be used to promote your program during NSBW! The contest **deadline is February 4**. [Enter now](#).

5. Let's Talk Food Trends on Webinar Wednesday

At the end of January, we will present the first webinar of our Best of #SNIC19 series. Maeve Webster is highly anticipated at this year's conference, and we're lucky enough to have her join us to present again for those that might miss her in person. She will share the latest food trends that are capturing student's attention and \$\$\$. For more details, go to our [Webinars](#) page.

6. Don't Delay! Submit Your Award Nominations Today

Recognize your colleague today for the Employee of the Year, Manager of the Year and Director of the Year awards. [Nominations](#) are being accepted online or to your State President until March 1, 2019. All state, regional and national winners will be recognized at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony at SNA's 2019 Annual National Conference in St. Louis, MO.

7. Request for Proposals: 2019 School Breakfast Leadership Institute

No Kid Hungry is now accepting proposals for its second School Breakfast Leadership Institute to be held June 11-12 in New Orleans. **Proposals are due March 6**. Selected state teams will receive a \$50,000 grant to implement a comprehensive action plan to expand access to school breakfast within their state. Learn more about the Institute and view the RFP [here](#).

8. Latest *Journal of Child Nutrition & Management* Online Now; Share Your Expertise on Special Diets

From the management of food allergies in schools to farm-to-school product purchasing, the [Fall 2018 edition](#) of the [Journal of Child Nutrition & Management](#) covers a wide range of research articles that are applicable to your school kitchens. *JCN&M*, which publishes every spring and fall, is your source for research and evidence-based information to help guide decisions.

Because special diets are a multi-faceted topic that interests many parties, the upcoming Spring 2019 edition will be themed with this in mind. And the publication is currently seeking submissions from anyone who may have research or a unique solution to accommodating special diets. Check out the [flyer](#) to learn more.

9. USDA Announces Final Rule on School Meal Flexibilities

On Thursday, December 6, 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced its final rule on school meal flexibilities](#). The final rule maintains Target 1 sodium limits for school meals through SY 2023-24, with Target 2 sodium limits taking effect in SY 2024-25 and the Final Target eliminated. It also restores the mandate that at least half of grains offered with school meals be whole-grain-rich, allowing schools to occasionally serve a few refined grain options, as needed, without having to apply for a waiver. In addition, the rule makes permanent the current option to offer flavored 1% milk.

You can read USDA's press release [here](#) and read the final rule [here](#).



10. SNA Announces 2019 Josephine Martin National Policy Fellow

Andrea Akerman, an SNA member and cafeteria manager at Lincoln Middle School in Rockford, Illinois, was named the [2019 Josephine Martin National Policy Fellow](#). Founded in honor of Dr. Josephine Martin, a pioneer in the field of school nutrition, the fellowship provides up to \$3,000 to cover expenses for travel to SNA's annual [Legislative Action Conference](#) (LAC) in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Akerman is a passionate advocate for school meals programs and wants to attend LAC to learn how to more effectively communicate with elected officials and to exchange ideas with school nutrition professionals from around the country. During the annual "Charge to the Hill," she plans to speak with her Member of Congress about the importance of nutrition education, as well as Breakfast After the Bell.

11. SNA Submitted Comment on Proposed Public Charge Rule

[SNA commented](#) on a [proposed rule changing the criteria](#) the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) considers when establishing whether an immigrant is inadmissible on public charge grounds. Under the proposed change, DHS would consider participation in a number of federal programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as evidence that an applicant for admission, extension of stay, change of status or adjustment of status is inadmissible under section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

In its letter, SNA expressed its opposition to this proposed rule change, as well as the concern that it would result in children going hungry during the school day. Though benefits offered through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are not included in the proposed rule, eligibility for these programs can be established through direct certification of families participating in SNAP. Fear and confusion resulting from the proposed rule could also deter families from submitting applications for free or reduced-price meals, and anecdotal reports from school nutrition professionals serving communities with large immigrant populations suggest that families are increasingly hesitant to apply for these critical benefits.

12. FNS Provides Update on Food Crediting for Child Nutrition Programs

In a [new policy memo](#), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) detailed its progress updating the food crediting system for all Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs), including NSLP, SBP, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

FNS issued a Request for Information in December 2017, seeking public input about the food crediting system and specific foods of interest to stakeholders; respondents were asked for recommendations to make crediting more simple, fair and transparent. [SNA responded to this request](#) with a letter replying to the each of the agency's questions.

Based on feedback received and its research into potential benefits, FNS will now allow shelf-stable, dried and semi-dried meat, poultry and seafood snacks to credit towards the meat component in a reimbursable meal or snack, as well as coconut, hominy, popcorn, surimi seafood and tempeh. The agency will also publish new guidance to allow crediting vegetables disguised as other food components or not provided in traditional forms, for example: noodles or pasta made from vegetables, including legumes.