



SNAC Bites

August 2019 Edition

Welcome to the August 2019 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and news, and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings and social media channels. In some cases, the content will need to be customized for your state association's needs, should you decide to use the below stories.

Here are this month's headlines:

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1. Membership Processing Fee and Certificate Fee Changes

For the 2019-2020-year, SNA's Board of Directors has approved small increases to the membership processing fee and the Certificate program fees. As of October 1, the membership processing fee will be increased to \$2.50, reflecting the ongoing costs of doing business.

New pricing for the Certificate program will also take effect on October 1, 2019. The changes impact new Certificate applications, renewals and reinstatements. [Click here](#) for full details and more information. If you have questions, please contact SNA at certSNS@schoolnutrition.org.

2. Because You're Worth It

Calling all SNA members who never stop learning! Mark your calendars: The School Nutrition Foundation's Professional Development and SNA Conference Scholarship application process opens on Sept. 1, 2019.

These scholarships enable curious members like yourself the opportunity to attend one of SNA's conferences or pursue education opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested in attending SNA's School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC) or the Legislative Action Conference (LAC), you can discover more by [checking out the SNF website](#). Interested in starting or continuing your education? SNF offers more than \$100,000 in professional development scholarships to eligible SNA members, too!

[Watch what these SNF scholarship winners](#) say about how winning a scholarship changed their lives and



helped them both personally and professionally. The application process is simple, and you can start, save and return to your application until it is completed. Questions about the scholarships? Write to us at snf@schoolnutrition.org.

3. See What All the Commotion is About: Discover the New Training Zone

SNA is pleased to introduce the new Training Zone! Located in the Learning Center on the SNA website, this new platform allows you to stream live and on-demand webinars, take evaluations, quizzes and print/download certificates all in one place. Now compatible with all web browsers, including Android and iOS's browsers for smartphones, it's easier than ever to get the training you need on the go and at your convenience.

The greatest part? The Training Zone will track your CEU certificates, so you no longer have to! That's right! You no longer have to search to find your certificates for audits. Simply log back into the Training Zone and every module, webinar or education session you've completed will be tracked in one place. With new content added regularly, you'll never run out of training opportunities. Check it out to see how beneficial training can be to your day-to-day operations, and how easy it is to gain CEUs while you're at it! Go to bit.ly/SNA-TZ.

4. Celery-brate *School Nutrition!*

The August edition of *School Nutrition* will be coming off the presses shortly, but in the meantime, have you fully explored the jam-packed June/July issue? In its 172 pages, the issue explores agriculture today with stories directly from U.S. farmers, a look at farm technologies, innovative farm-to-school programming and so much more.

For August, the articles will leave the fields and return to the workplace to provide a refresher on workplace communication skills. From office gossip to email etiquette, the topics will help you feel more confident in your ability to communicate with your staff.

5. Equip Yourself for the New School Year with All New Webinar Wednesdays

As summer break is winding down, Webinar Wednesdays are revving up. We've been excited about these upcoming webinars all summer long! Bonnie Cullison, member of the Maryland House of Delegates, will moderate a panel of Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) advocates, some of whom spoke at the recent Breakfast Summit in Arlington, Virginia. During the Summit, they discussed social emotional learning (SEL) and a recent study that supports the theory that BIC improves students' SEL and development. The panel will open the discussion (and phone lines) to the audience to answer questions and hear about their experiences with BIC.

For another August webinar, three school foodservice directors discuss their search for economic and environmentally sound solutions to growing concerns about plastic waste in their cafeterias. Hear how these directors have implemented new products to help to help their district reach higher standards of



environmental sustainability and get ideas for approaches you can take in your district.



6. SNA and Allied Organizations Provide Input on Child Nutrition Reauthorization

As Congress considers a Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) bill, SNA along with our partners in the Association of School Business Officials and the School Superintendents Association sent [a letter](#) to the leadership of key committees outlining our priorities for any CNR effort:

- Return to a five-year Administrative Review cycle;
- Modify the Smart Snacks in Schools Rule to allow any item that is served as part of a meal to be sold a la carte;
- Increase USDA Foods support for the School Breakfast Program; and
- Oppose School Meal Block Grants.

7. Child Nutrition Reporting Burden Analysis Study Published

As part of the 2017 Appropriations Bill, Congress, in response to [SNA's advocacy](#), appropriated \$1 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to commission an independent study on program simplification for school meal programs. On June 2, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the [Child Nutrition Reporting Burden Analysis Study](#), which it commissioned to examine challenges faced by state agencies and School Food Authorities (SFAs) related to child nutrition program administrative and reporting requirements. The study identified requirements that contributed most to the workload for state agencies and SFAs and developed a set of considerations for reducing these burdens.

Among its key findings:

- Streamline school meal certification and verification processes;
- Implement a risk-based administrative review cycle;
- Consolidate duplicative information requests across Management Evaluations and Financial Management Reviews;
- Develop a fact sheet for each CN reporting requirement;
- Develop procurement templates and supporting materials; and
- Modernize the Food Programs Reporting System (FPRS).

8. USDA Deputy Secretary Censky Speaks at SNA's ANC

SNA was proud to host the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary, Stephen Censky, as an opening general session speaker at [SNA's 73rd Annual National Conference \(ANC\)](#) in St. Louis, MO. Censky provided updates from USDA and reinforced the importance of partnership between SNA members and USDA officials to ensure that students can receive the nutritious and delicious meals they need to succeed in school.

"School nutrition professionals are the living embodiment of USDA's mission to do right and feed everyone," said Censky during his speech. The Deputy Secretary also announced \$9 million in farm-to-school grants with more details to be provided in the coming weeks. SNA is looking forward to a continued productive partnership with USDA.



9. New School Meal Bills Introduced to Congress

- Nine new bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in June 2019:
- Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) introduced [H.R. 3125](#), the School Milk Nutrition Act of 2019. The legislation reaffirms recent regulations from the USDA by providing schools with the option to serve low-fat, flavored milk with the intent of increasing milk consumption in schools.
- Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD) introduced [H.R. 3090](#), the Farm and Ranch to School Act, which would amend the Farm to School Program to include funding as an incentive for local livestock and meat procurement for school lunch programs.
- Rep. Kim Schrier (D-WA) introduced [H.R. 3049](#), the School Nutrition Transparency for Healthy Kids Act of 2019. This legislation works to ensure public disclosure of nutrition standards compliance by school food authorities.
- Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-MN) introduced [H.R. 3220](#), the Kids Eat Local Act. The bill will allow schools to use geographic preference when procuring unprocessed agricultural products.
- Sen. John Boozman (R-AK) introduced [S. 1918](#), the Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act of 2019. The bill proposes two alternative options states can utilize through the program. The first would allow for meals to be consumed off-site through innovative means like mobile feeding programs and backpack meal programs. The other option would authorize the summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program, which would provide eligible families \$30 per summer month per child, with a maximum of \$100 per child per year, to purchase eligible food items from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) approved retailers.
- Rep. Jon Wright (R-TX) introduced [H.R. 3291](#), the SNACKS Act. The bill would allow schools to sell a la carte any food that can be served as part of a reimbursable meal under the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs.
- Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) introduced [S. 1907](#) and [H.R. 3366](#), the No Shame at School Act. The bill would prohibit public schools from shaming students who are unable to pay for school meals or who have outstanding debt. Additionally, the measure requires schools to certify a child's unpaid meal fees and authorizes the federal government to reimburse the meals for up to 90 days.
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced [S. 1908](#), the Summer Meals Act of 2019. The bill would expand access to summer meal programs by reducing regulatory burdens for local organizations that are serving summer meals and increasing the availability of meals and snacks to students outside of regular school hours.

10. USDA 2019 Spring Unified Agenda

In June, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs released the [Spring 2019 Unified Regulatory Agenda](#). The Agenda reports on regulatory and deregulatory actions administrative agencies plan to issue in the near and long term. In the USDA [agenda](#), the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) lists current and upcoming Proposed and Final Rule policy priorities for nutrition programs, including school nutrition programs.



11. National School Lunch Week 2019: Start Compiling Your Playlist

#NSLW19 kicks off Oct. 14—What's on *your* playlist to raise awareness about your program and increase participation? This year, get the tunes pumping and the beats roaring to get students, staff, parents, school administration, stakeholders and more jazzed about school lunch. Visit the NSLW website to download official artwork and [get started!](#) Download the [#NSLW19 Toolkit](#) for tips, resources and more. Directors and managers will also find the latest [Emporium catalog](#) in their August issue of the *School Nutrition*, featuring all the newest NSLW merchandise to outfit your team, decorate your cafeteria and help engage students and parents. [Order early](#) for the best selection!