



SNAC Bites

March 2019 Edition

Welcome to the March 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. SNA Election 2019: The Voters Have Spoken

Members of SNA have spoken, casting their ballots in the annual election for the Association's top leadership positions. The winning candidates for the Board of Directors will be installed this summer during SNA's [Annual National Conference](#) (ANC) in St. Louis, Mo., and will serve under the leadership of incoming President Doug Davis, SNS. The elected Leadership Development Committee members begin their term March 1, 2019 to align with the nomination and election cycle, under the leadership of Chair Dr. Lynn Harvey. The Industry Advisory Council Chair's term begins August 1, 2019. SNA congratulates the [following candidates](#) on their election to the SNA Board of Directors, Leadership Development Committee and Industry Advisory Council, and thanks all the candidates for their enthusiasm and commitment to serve the national Association.

2. Virtual Expo Closes March 22—Final Education Sessions Released

Make sure to visit SNA's FREE [Virtual Expo](#) before it closes on **March 22!** Visit and chat with 25 exhibitors, watch 15 pre-recorded education sessions from #ANC19 to earn CEUs and drop by the Networking Lounge to connect with other attendees. Make a note to join us on **Thursday, March 14 at 2:00 pm ET** in the Lounge to chat with **Chef Sharon Schaefer!** The Expo is the perfect way to network, make connections with exhibitors and discover new products and services for your program—no travel or expense required! [Visit the Expo.](#)

3. Meet Me in St. Louis: ANC 2019 Sneak Peek

We can't wait to meet you in St. Louis for the [73rd Annual National Conference July 14-16, 2019!](#) Check your March issue of *School Nutrition* for a sneak peek of #ANC19—featuring [inspiring keynote speakers](#), expanded [pre-conference workshops](#), 120+ [education sessions](#), and 875+ [exhibitors](#). Take note of the new [3-day schedule](#) for 2019 allowing you less time away from home and work! The conference runs from Sunday July 14 through



Tuesday July 16, with pre-conference workshops on Saturday, July 13.

4. Introducing SNA's New Procurement Zone!

As part of SNA's ongoing efforts to help school nutrition professionals on a path to continuous improvement in procurement practices, SNA has launched the [Procurement Zone \(www.schoolnutrition.org/Procurement\)](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Procurement), as part of its new [SNA Learning Center \(www.schoolnutrition.org/LearningCenter\)](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/LearningCenter).

The Procurement Zone offers user-friendly resources available to SNA members including procurement do's and don'ts, procurement regulations, procurement and administrative review preparations, understanding the Buy American provision and more. You'll also find templates from state agencies across the country and a primer designed to help school business officials understand the nuances of school nutrition procurement.

The goal of the new Procurement Zone is to help you feel more confident in this complex part of school nutrition. The resources available will help you manage effective, fair, transparent and competitive procurement practices. Check it out today at [www.schoolnutrition.org/Procurement!](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Procurement)

5. New Hiring Flexibility for Directors in Small School Districts

On Monday, February 25, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue addressed school nutrition professionals gathered in Washington, D.C., for SNA's 47th annual [Legislative Action Conference](#) and announced a final rule, effective April 30, 2019, on new hiring flexibility under professional standards.

The flexibility applies to the hiring standards for new school nutrition program directors in small local educational agencies (LEAs) and new State agency directors under the Professional Standards regulations for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

First, to address hiring challenges faced by small school districts, which are those with 2,499 or fewer students, this rule requires relevant food service experience *rather than* school nutrition program experience for new school nutrition program directors. Second, it provides State agencies with discretion to consider documented volunteer or unpaid work as relevant experience for new school nutrition program directors in LEAs with 2,499 or fewer students. Third, it gives State agencies discretion to accept less than the required years of food service experience when an applicant for a new director position *in an LEA with fewer than 500 students*, if the applicant has the minimum required education. Lastly, this rule adds flexibility to the hiring standards for State directors of school nutrition programs by allowing State agencies to consider applicants with either a bachelor's or advanced degree in specified fields.

These changes are expected to expand the pool of candidates qualified to serve as leaders in the school nutrition programs while continuing to ensure that school nutrition professionals are able to perform their duties effectively and efficiently.

Download [SNA's summary](#) detailing hiring requirements for School Nutrition and State Agency Directors, and the continuing education required for all school nutrition personnel or [access the final rule on the Federal Register website](#).



6. LAC Attendees Helped the School Nutrition Foundation Party With a Purpose!

SNA members do many things well in addition to feeding our nation's schoolchildren. *Having a good time and raising funds* for the School Nutrition Foundation are just two more of them. **Party With a Purpose** at SNA's recent Legislative Action Conference (LAC) provided the ideal opportunity for all attendees to enjoy a tremendous show by the Capital Steps *and* to donate to their Foundation. Almost \$102,000 was raised which will provide more scholarships and professional development programs for SNA members. The generous industry sponsors include:

\$10,000 Leaders

Accutemp Products
KeyImpact Sales & Systems
Titan School Solutions
National Dairy Council

\$5,000 Champions

Schwan's Food
School Nutrition Association
Land O' Lakes
J&J Snack Foods
GES
Los Cabos Mexican Foods
ConferenceDirect

JTM

SFSPac Food Service Sanitation Systems
Heartland School Solutions

\$3,000 Supporters

ConAgra Foodservice
Ruiz Foods
Rich Products
S.A. Piazza & Associates

\$500 Friends

Don Lee Farms
Food Handler Solutions
Gold Star Foods

7. SNF Ambassador Program Kicks Off!

SNF is re-igniting its Ambassador Program in order to better assist the dedicated volunteers who help raise funds in their states for the School Nutrition Foundation. With rewarding, fun and competitive incentives, the Ambassador Program supports the fundraising goals of state associations by providing fundraising tips and tools and by sharing inspirational videos and other materials. The top three states in each of SNA's membership categories will win bragging rights, recognition at ANC's Red Carpet Ceremony and one free ANC registration scholarship to bring back to their state. For more information, contact Dana Clerkin at dclerkin@schoolnutrition.org.

8. Best of #SNIC19 and #LAC19: SNA's Webinar Wednesday Series is 'March'ing Forward

We have a full month of Webinar Wednesdays headed your way. Join us on Wednesday, March 6 and learn how the Community Eligibility Provision's (CEP) National School Lunch Program (NSLP) data can be used for Title I purposes!

On Wednesday, March 13 we will look to the future as we continue our Best of #SNIC19 series with Innovation Expert Daniel Burrus, who will not only have you thinking about how to look at current trends, but he'll give you the tools to spot upcoming trends before they influence your bottom line.

On Wednesday, March 20, we begin our Best of #LAC series, with SNA's own Director of Media Relations, Diane Pratt-Heavner, who keeps a pulse on what districts all over the U.S. are doing to increase breakfast and lunch participation. We'll wrap up the month and the Best of #SNIC19 series with all new plant-based recipes your students will love! [Learn more.](#)



9. SNA's Call for Posters—Bonus Opportunity

SNA is providing a bonus opportunity to submit poster proposals for the School Nutrition Research and Best Practices Showcase that will take place during SNA's 2019 [Annual National Conference](#) (ANC) in St. Louis, Missouri.

There are two types of posters presented at the ANC:

- **Best Practice Posters:** These posters focus on best practices that school districts have recently implemented related to child nutrition.
- **Submit a School Nutrition Research Posters:** These posters share findings from recent research on child and school nutrition.

[Click here and complete the form to submit your abstract by the March 20, 11:59 pm EST, 2019 deadline.](#)

Any questions regarding poster submissions can be directed to Donovan Lessard, Research Manager, at dlessard@schoolnutrition.org.

10. Read the Latest *JCN&M*: Can Lunch Period Duration Affect Nutrient Consumption?

As part of new research released in the *Journal of Child Nutrition & Management*, the impact of the length of school lunch periods on nutrient consumption was studied. The goal of the study was to determine whether time available for lunch impacted consumption of school meal items, particularly nutrients typically under-consumed such as vitamins A and C, fiber and calcium. [Learn more.](#)

11. Submit Your Research on Special Diets!

Special diets are a hot topic of debate in lunchroom and school nutrition departments. For the upcoming Fall 2019 edition of *Journal of Child Nutrition & Management*, the issue will be themed with this interesting topic in mind. Consider sharing strategies, research, tips or stories from your own experiences. Submission deadline is May 15, 2019. [Learn more.](#)

12. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue Speaks at LAC 2019

On February 25, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue addressed school nutrition professionals gathered for SNA's 47th annual Legislative Action Conference. Sec. Perdue spoke about his experiences with school meals programs, and the work the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been doing to provide flexibility for state agency staff and school nutrition operators. He also announced USDA's final rule on hiring flexibility for school nutrition programs.

13. SNA Policy Priorities Included in 2019 Appropriations Bill

The 2019 Agriculture Appropriations [bill](#) signed into law in February included two SNA policy priorities. The law provides \$20,000,000 in commodity support for the School Breakfast Program and \$30,000,000 for school nutrition equipment grants. Increasing commodity support for school breakfast remains a key SNA priority this year and was included in the [2019 Position Paper](#).

14. FNS Issues Memo Supporting Administrative Review Cycle Flexibility

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service [issued a memo](#) in February to provide guidance to State agencies who have determined that the 3-year review cycle hinders effective allocation of State agency resources and negatively impacts program management. FNS will allow State agencies to request waivers of the 3-year review requirement and extend the review cycle.



The memo also noted that FNS “strongly encourages” State agencies to coordinate internally when they administer multiple programs to identify opportunities to streamline the review and participation requirements for Child Nutrition Programs. Specifically, FNS encourages states to allow SFAs to align CNP administrative activities and perform different monitoring activities concurrently, such as administering procurement reviews and administrative reviews on the same cycle.

15. 2018 Year End State Legislative Report Now Available!

State legislatures in 32 states considered 138 school meals bills last year! Check out the [Year End State Legislative Summary](#) to learn about the bills signed into law and trends in state school meals policy. You can find previous State Legislative Summaries [here](#).