

Guide to Professional Standards *for* School Nutrition Programs



Find it on the web:

www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/professional-standards

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Professional Standards - School Nutrition

Hiring standards and continued professional development/training will be required for school nutrition employees. The final rule, effective July 1, 2015, was released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and published in the Federal Register on March 2, 2015. The standards are another key provision of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 with the purpose of ensuring all staff have training and tools necessary to plan and provide nutritious and enjoyable school meals.

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[Professional Standards for All School Nutrition Program Employees](#) - Summary of the final rule effective July 1, 2015.

If you will be hiring a Food Service Director on or after July 1, 2015, education and training minimums will apply. Current Food Service Directors will be able to remain in their positions or transfer to a similar position in another SFA of the same size category without having to meet the hiring standards.

[Food Service Director Hiring Standards Chart](#)

Annual continuing education requirements for all new and current School Nutrition Program staff have also been set. Lower levels have been set for the 2015-2016 school year and range from 4 hours to 8 hours depending on weekly hours worked and position held.

[Continuing Education Requirements](#)

Resources and Tools

[Learning Objectives](#): Training topics to meet professions standards are divided into four key areas: Nutrition, Operations, Administration and Communications/Marketing. Training should meet one or more of objectives listed in this resource.

[USDA Training Database](#): Search this site to search for training to meet school nutrition learning needs.

[Web-Based Tutorials](#): FREE interactive web-based trainings designed for school nutrition; each provide a certificate of completion.

[USDA Training Tracker Tool](#): This is the recommended tracking tool. This tool can provide helpful reports and is easy to use. *MS Access is required for the USDA Training Tracker Tool. If you do not have MS Access, please use one of the alternate tools provided.*

Alternate Training Tracker Tools: Here are some additional options, if you cannot use the USDA tracker.

- [Iowa SFA Tracker Tool](#) - MS Word
- [Iowa SFA Tracker Tool](#) - MS Excel

Questions ???