

North Carolina

School Nutrition Weekly Update

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USDA Releases Professional Standards Final Rule and Grant Opportunity to Support the Rule

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a final rule today with new national professional standards for all school nutrition employees who manage and operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The new standards established by the [final rule](#) are a key provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). The rule requires a minimum amount of annual training hours for all new and current state directors of child nutrition programs, state distributing agency directors, school nutrition directors, managers, and staff. Required topic areas will vary according to position and job requirements. This rule becomes effective beginning July 1, 2015, with several built in flexibilities intended to facilitate the first year of implementation and address the challenges faced by smaller school districts.

In addition, new state directors of child nutrition programs and directors of distributing agencies along with new school nutrition program directors will have to meet hiring standards. In developing the final professional standards rule, USDA considered input from a variety of sources, including representatives from state agencies, school districts, and school nutrition professional associations. As a result, the final rule establishes reasonable, minimum hiring standards for school nutrition directors based on district size.

Agriculture Under Secretary Kevin Concannon also announced the availability of up to \$4 million in funding for states to support implementation of the professional standards. USDA will competitively-award Fiscal Year 2015 funds to help state agencies develop and implement trainings that satisfy the requirements of the professional standards rule. State agencies administering the NSLP and SBP are eligible to apply for a professional standards grant. Successful grant proposals may provide online and/or in person trainings for school nutrition staff that meet one or more of the learning topics in the areas of: Nutrition, Operations, Administration and Communications/Marketing. They may also provide train-the-trainer sessions to meet learning objectives. The Request for Applications was released today on [Grants.gov](#). Letters of Intent are due on April 14, 2015, and completed applications are due on June 8, 2015. Up to \$150,000 may be requested per state agency. For more information about the grants, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/grants>

*****REMINDER** Equipment Assistance Grant Applications/Proposals Due March 10, 2015***

Please be reminded that all Equipment Assistance Grant Applications/Proposals are due in the Raleigh office by **Tuesday, March 10, 2015**. Please refer to the brief instructions below for submitting your application/proposal; however, for more detailed instructions and information about the grant, refer to the

February 4, 2015 issue of the *SN Weekly Update* at: <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/news-events/sn-weekly-updates/snwu-2015/snwu-feb-4-2015>.

Submitting the SFA Application Summary and School Application(s)

In order to complete the application process, the SFA must submit two (2) copies each of the SFA Application Summary and School Application, each with original signatures.

The applications must be received on or before 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 10, 2015 by the School Nutrition Services Section at the address shown below:

***North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
School Nutrition Services Section
301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601***

*We recommend applications be delivered to the section by traceable means in a manner that enables the SFA to receive written confirmation of delivery. **Applications/Proposals that arrive after 5:00 PM on March 10, 2015 will not be considered.***

It's National School Breakfast Week!

March 2-6, 2015 is National School Breakfast Week. This year's theme is "Make the Grade with School Breakfast." Please consider sharing with us how you are recognizing this event in your schools with pictures and/or written descriptions. We want to promote and raise awareness of the great things that are happening in school across the state.



For more information and resources for celebrating National School Breakfast Week visit the School Nutrition Association website at: <https://schoolnutrition.org/NSBW/>

We look forward to celebrating School Breakfast Week with you!

March is National Nutrition Month!

March is National Nutrition Month! This nutrition education and information campaign is sponsored annually by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The 2015 theme is "Bite Into a Healthy Lifestyle." The campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

For more information and resources visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website at: <http://www.nationalnutritionmonth.org/nnm/>

Source: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website.



Golden Key Achievement Award

The Golden Key Achievement Award program is a new set of criteria designed to recognize the great accomplishments in a single school cafeteria. The purpose of the award is to promote benchmarks of excellence across North Carolina and to honor School Nutrition programs that maintain high standards. This award replaces the previous Awards for Excellence program with updated activities that complement current program regulations and best practices.

The information and criteria for the Golden Key Achievement Award is found at:

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/awards-recognition-opportunities>

For each school being considered for the award, complete a separate Awards Summary Form found on the pages 18-20 of the award document. Once completed, **submit the form no later than 5:00 PM on April 15, 2015** to Melody Watkins by one of the methods below.

1. By email with attachments to Melody.Watkins@dpi.nc.gov (preferred method)
2. By fax to Melody's attention at (919) 807-3516
3. By mail to Melody Watkins, 6324 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6324.

****IMPORTANT NOTE**** If you plan to present the awards at a local event, you must submit the summary **at least three weeks prior** to the date you need the certificates or plaques. Please notify Melody of the date needed. Otherwise, the awards will be provided in May.

To be considered for state-wide recognition, you may submit the one best complete entry (including a copy of the summary form) from your School Food Authority. These entries may be mailed to Melody Watkins at the address above and must also be received by 5:00 PM on April 15, 2015. Winners will be announced at the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina Annual Conference in June 2015.

Please contact Susan Thompson at susan.thompson@dpi.nc.gov if you have questions about the award.

Vacancy Announcement

School District: **Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools**

Position: **Director of Child Nutrition**

Position Available: **July 1, 2015**

Please review the [vacancy announcement](#) for details about the position and application instructions or visit the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public schools website at: www.ecpps.k12.nc.us

****REMINDER** Memorandum of Agreement – Career and Technical Education**

The 2014 – 2015 Memorandum of Agreement between the School Nutrition Services Section and the Career and Technical Education Division has been fully executed. Please cooperate with your local CTE Director to comply with the terms of the agreement. If you have questions, please contact your Regional School Nutrition Consultant. [CLICK HERE to download 2014-15 MOA-CTE](#)

USDA Policy Memoranda

The following USDA Policy Memos were recently released.

SFSP 11-2015	Assessing Costs in the Summer Food Service Program
SFSP 11-2015a	SFSP 11-2015 Attachment
SP 23-2015	Release of the FNS-828 Paid Lunch Price Data for School Years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014
SP 23-2015a	SP 23-2015 Attachment A (2012-2013 Paid Lunch Price Data Spreadsheet)
SP 23-2015a2	SP 23-2015 Attachment B (2013-2014 Paid Lunch Price Data Spreadsheet)

****IMPORTANT NOTICE** Region 6 Policy Update Rescheduled**

The Region 6 policy update has been rescheduled for **Monday, March 30, 2015** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Concord, NC. If you have previously registered for the update, your registration has been automatically updated to reflect this date change and no further action is required unless you need to cancel. If you did not previously register and are interested in attending, there is still time to register using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Region6PolicyUpdateSpring2015>

2015 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference Rescheduled

Due to inclement weather across the state, the 2015 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 18. The conference will be held at the Blue Zone in Kenan Stadium on the UNC Campus. For more information please visit the No Kid Hungry website at: <http://nc.nokidhungry.org/>

American Academy of Pediatrics Releases New Policy Statement

The American Academy of Pediatrics has just released a new policy statement recommending that children, families and schools consider a whole diet approach. You may review the entire statement at:

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/AAP-Recommends-Whole-Diet-Approach-to-Children%27s-Nutrition.aspx>

Continuing Education Opportunities

**NOTE* Click each title to view/download information and instructions.*

Conferences

March 9-10	<u><i>North Carolina Procurement Alliance (NCPA) Continuing Education Conference and New Products Food Show</i></u>
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Webinars

March 11	<u><i>Getting Your Wellness Policy Ahead of the Curve</i></u>
March 26	<u><i>Norovirus: Control Strategies and How to Handle a School-based Outbreak</i></u>

Workshops

March 16-18	<u><i>N.C. Safe Plates</i></u>	Person County
March 23-25	<u><i>N.C. Safe Plates</i></u>	Stokes County
March 25	<u><i>Procuring Local Produce</i></u>	Carthage, NC
April 6-8	<u><i>N.C. Safe Plates</i></u>	Montgomery County
April 13	<u><i>Procuring Local Produce</i></u>	Greensboro, NC
April 17	<u><i>Procuring Local Produce</i></u>	Concord, NC
June 22-23	<u><i>N.C. Safe Plates</i></u>	Greensboro, NC (SNA-NC Annual Conference)

Important Dates

March

March 2-6	National School Breakfast Week
March 4	Region 1 Spring Policy Update
March 6	Region 3 Spring Policy Update for Charters & RCCIs
March 10 (Tuesday)	Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for February 2015)
March 10	Equipment Assistance Grant Application/Proposals Due
March 15 (Sunday)	Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for February 2015)
March 16	Region 5 Spring Policy Update for Charters and RCCIs
March 18	2015 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference
March 19	Region 7 Spring Policy Update
March 20	Region 2 Spring Policy Update
March 20	Region 3 Spring Policy Update for Traditional Public Schools
March 20	Region 5 Spring Policy Update for Traditional Public Schools
March 26	Region 8 Spring Policy Update
March 30	Deadline for submitting USDA Best Practice Awards Nominations
March 30	Region 6 Policy Update
March 31	Region 4 Spring Policy Update

April

April 1	Deadline for Completing Self-Assessments for RCCI/Charter/Non-Public SFAs (File at SFA)
April 3	Good Friday (State Offices Closed)
April 10 (Friday)	Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for March 2015)
April 15 (Wednesday)	Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for March 2015)
April 15	March Nutrient Analysis Reports Due (Submit to Regional Nutrition Specialist)
April 30	3 rd Quarterly Financial Analysis Worksheet Due (for Traditional Public School SFAs only)

May

May 4-8	National School Nutrition Employee Week
May 10 (Sunday)	Deadline for Submitting Claim for Reimbursement (for April 2015)
May 15 (Friday)	Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement Deadline (for April 2015)

The U.S Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), found at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

"The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Under the Federal School Nutrition Program and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited under the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.