



SNAC Bites

September 2017 Edition

Welcome to the September 2017 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings, & social media.

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1. Don't Miss an Opportunity to Present and Share Your Ideas at ANC 2018!

SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC) may have wrapped up in July; however, SNA is already busy preparing for next year's conference. We invite you to submit proposals for presentation consideration at the school nutrition event of the year, ANC in Las Vegas, July 9-12, 2018.

SNA is seeking proposals on a variety of in-demand topics identified by member needs surveys and based on the four key areas of USDA Professional Standards.

Hurry—the deadline to submit your proposal is **September 29, 2017!** [Submit your proposal here.](#)

2. Welcome SNA's New State Affiliate Relations Manager

We're pleased to introduce Nate Bell—the new State Affiliate Relations Manager for the School Nutrition Association. He is very excited to be onboard and is looking forward to working closely with the state leadership and staff in promoting SNA's mission.

Nate previously served at Kellen Company as an Associate Account Executive where he supported the daily association management operations of several clients. Prior to that role, he worked at the American Chiropractic Association as the Assistant Manager of Membership where he managed the state outreach program and supported the national membership efforts.



3. SNA Certificate Program – New Bridge Level

Launching July 2018

In July 2018, SNA will launch an additional Level to the Certificate in School Nutrition program that will serve as a “bridge” between Level 1 and Level 2. The goal of this new Level 2, would be to help members have a more realistic professional development path and help them strive toward continued growth and experiences beyond Level 1 requirements.

The new Level 2 will require 46 hours, which is less than the current Level 2 requirement of 86 hours. More details, including a short video and downloadable documents, about the new Level 2 requirements and what the new level means for current Certificate Holders are available at www.schoolnutrition.org/newlevel.

4. SNS Exam Recognized by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR)

Big news! **Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians (RDs/DTRs) who now successfully pass the SNS exam can earn 75 CPEUs.** As of June 2017, the SNS Exam is listed in the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) Professional Development Portfolio (PDP) Guide. It is listed under Certification for Alternate Recertification Periods, Activity Type 545: SNA, School Nutrition Specialist. Instructions on how to receive your CPEU certificate for passing the SNS exam are included in the pass notification letter. More information about the SNS and this opportunity for RDs/DTRs can be found at www.schoolnutrition.org/credentialing.

5. “Back to School,” Back to Webinars!

The first webinar of the new school year is taking place in September! SNA is developing a webinar calendar that is full of the webinars that you need as a school nutrition professional. Register now to participate in timely and informative webinars that will earn you CEUs toward Professional Standards Annual Training Requirements, along with the SNA Certificate Program or SNS Credential

Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 2 pm EDT - [Host a Legislator Site Visit](#)

Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 2 pm EDT - [Best of #ANC17 1 of 3: Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities](#)

[Registration Coming Soon!](#)

Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 2 pm EDT - Seafood: It’s Time to Catch On!

Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 2 pm EDT - Best of #ANC7: USDA Hot Topics: Flexibilities in the School Meal Programs

6. Spotlight Your Cafeteria with Items from SNA’s Emporium

As children return to school, parents are wielding shopping carts full of new clothes, art supplies and fancy notebooks. But what’s in YOUR shopping cart? Have you considered what promotional supplies you’ll need to put a spotlight on your cafeteria—and its team? SNA makes it easy: Simply visit the [Emporium](#), your one-stop shop for colorful posters, apparel, accessories and much more. And since October will be here before you know it, stock up now on this year’s [National School Lunch Week](#) merchandise.



7. Program Simplification: Share Your Thoughts

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue [announced intentions](#) to solicit direct and specific guidance from school nutrition professionals for the shaping of school meal policies. Now is your chance to do just that! USDA wants your opinion on how best to simplify school nutrition program regulations.

SNA encourages you to [share your ideas through this simple form](#) in response to a [Federal Register notice](#) posted June 17, 2017. The notice asks for ideas from the public on how the USDA can remove barriers to participation in programs, such as school meal programs, without interference to our customers or our mission. They are specifically asking for your ideas on regulations, guidance documents, or policy documents that are in need of streamlining, modification or repeal.

Please submit your ideas and we'll do the paperwork on your behalf. Your suggestions will be part of a consolidated document making recommendations to USDA on regulatory reform.

8. USDA Announces 2018 Direct Certification Improvement Grant Request for Application

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service announced [in a memo](#) its release of the FY 2018 Direct Certification Improvement Grant Request for Applications (RFA). The grants are to fund State Agency initiatives and projects that work to improve direct certification rates through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other needs-based assistance programs. The grants ultimately intend to assist States in improving access, increasing accuracy and reducing paperwork in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (SBP) by simplifying the certification process for free school meals. Under the [2018 RFA](#), States will have six opportunities to apply for Tier 1 or Tier 2 grants beginning November 15, 2017 and ending February 15, 2019.