



State of New Jersey


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Division of Food & Nutrition
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To: School Business Administrators, Charter School Leads; Non Public School Administrators; Food Service Directors of Schools Participating in the School Nutrition Programs

From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, Coordinator 
School Nutrition Programs

Date: February 2, 2015

Subject: Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals – Update

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) required the USDA to establish professional standards for school nutrition personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs on both the state and local levels. In addition, it required all personnel in these programs to complete annual continuing education and training.

The Proposed Rule was published in February of 2014. It included minimum hiring requirements for nutrition program directors based on Local Education Agency (LEA) size, a proposed certificate program that would acknowledge varying levels of training completed by current program staff, managers and directors, and minimum training and education standards for all new and current directors, managers and staff working an average of at least 20 hours a week.

Once the final rule is published, the expected implementation date is **July 1, 2015**. Please note that **the minimum hiring requirements will only apply to school nutrition personnel hired on or after this date.**

The USDA has developed a *Professional Standards for School Nutrition Professionals* website that allows school nutrition professionals to search for specific training that will meet their learning needs. This website can be found at <http://professionalstandards.nal.usda.gov/>.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture School Nutrition Programs unit will be providing further guidance once the Final Rule has been published; however, we encourage you to begin considering the proposed hiring and training requirements when planning for the next school year. Please direct any questions you may have to your School Nutrition Program Specialist at 609-984-0692.

Thank you again for your commitment to feeding the children of New Jersey nutritious, safe and balanced meals.