



SNAC Bites March 2020 Edition

Welcome to the March 2020 issue of SNA Communication (SNAC) Bites! SNAC Bites highlights new SNA programs and news, and provides content for your state association publications, chapter meetings and social media channels. In some cases, the content will need to be customized for your state association's needs, should you decide to use the below stories.

Here are this month's headlines:

1. [SNA Comments on Proposed School Meal Flexibilities](#)
2. [SNA Election Results](#)
3. [Take the +1 Membership Challenge—Help Strengthen the Voice of School Nutrition](#)
4. [Prepare for Takeoff—It's National School Breakfast Week!](#)
5. [Party With A Purpose Reminder](#)
6. [Mark Your Calendars for #ANC2020, July 12-14, 2020—Registration Now Open!](#)
7. [Social Media Takeover](#)
8. [Check Out the Latest Articles from *School Nutrition*](#)
9. [Data and Sustainability this Month on Webinar Wednesdays](#)
10. [#ANC19 Video Series Coming Soon!](#)
11. [More ANC First-Timer Scholarships Available Than Ever Before!](#)
12. [Monthly Mavericks To Receive Hats at ANC!](#)
13. [FNS Posts 2020 Reimbursement Rates for SFSP](#)
14. [FNS Publishes Notice on Summer Meals Award Program](#)
15. [FNS Announces Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the CACFP](#)
16. [Fifth Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
17. [USDA Announces Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study](#)
18. [Department of Labor Consumer Price Index Comment Request](#)

1. SNA Comments on Proposed School Meal Flexibilities

SNA has [submitted](#) detailed comments in support of the USDA proposed regulation to simplify school meal service and monitoring requirements in the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP). The [comments](#) reflect the input of SNA members nationwide and emphasize the need to ease overly complex and burdensome administrative and meal planning mandates. Now it's your turn! Use SNA's [convenient template](#) to send your individual comments directly to USDA.

2. SNA Election Results

The votes are in! Members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA) have cast 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 Nashville, TN., and will serve under the leadership of incoming President Reginald Ross, SNS. The elected Leadership Development Committee members begin their term March 1, 2020, under the leadership of Chair Lynn Harvey, Ed.D., RDN, SNS. Special thanks to all candidates for their enthusiasm and commitment to serve the national Association! Visit the SNA website to [view the selected candidates](#).



3. Take the +1 Membership Challenge—Help Strengthen the Voice of School Nutrition

With SNA's Legislative Action Conference (LAC) being held this month, we encourage you to also continue promoting the [+1 Membership Challenge](#). Each new member recruited helps to strengthen the collective voice of school nutrition and ensure that child nutrition programs are well represented in Congress. Simply share your reason for being an SNA member using the [social media tools](#) and recruit at least 1 new member—your +1.

4. Prepare for Takeoff—It's National School Breakfast Week!

Yeah, it's finally here...happy [National School Breakfast Week](#) (#NSBW2020)! The [#NSBW2020 site](#) has a galaxy of downloads that you can still use to engage students and parents! Use our fun Facebook cover page photo or our Instagram meme to create buzz online and download our infographic available in English and Spanish to share fun facts with parents. Don't forget to vote online for your favorite School Breakfast Crew member through the [NSBW Poll](#). And as you embark on your space mission, please share all your fun photos and videos with us through social media using hashtags, #NSBW2020, #NSBW20 or #OutOfThisWorld for a chance to be featured in the SN Magazine! We hope you and your school enjoy working with the #NSBW2020 Breakfast Crew as you celebrate the importance of your school breakfast program!

5. Party With A Purpose Reminder

If you haven't already, mark your calendar for **Sunday evening, March 8 at 5:45 pm!** The School Nutrition Foundation is once again hosting its signature fundraising event at SNA's Legislative Action Conference (LAC) with a bountiful reception and a performance by the wildly popular Capitol Steps! It *is* election year after all, so imagine the show they'll put on for all LAC attendees. Join the fun and help support your Foundation at the same time.

6. Mark Your Calendars for #ANC2020, July 12-14, 2020—Registration Now Open!

It's clear to see that we have insightful experiences in store for you at SNA's 74th [Annual National Conference](#) (#ANC2020), July 12-14, 2020! You don't want to miss keynote speakers, [Ben Nemtin](#), writer, inspirational speaker and television personality and [Erik Qualman](#), best-selling author and digital influencer, as they address the opening and closing [general sessions](#)!

New to #ANC2020 are [Game Changer Sessions](#)—intimate and educational sessions focusing on leadership and communication. All the traditional [education formats](#) will also be back at ANC including 60-minute sessions, popular 30-minute [Ideas@Work Sessions](#), [Membership Section Meetings](#), [Roundtable Sessions](#) and #OpenSpace. Kickstart your conference experience by attending [Pre-Conference Workshops](#)! Don't forget to visit the [Exhibit Hall](#) which includes more than 900 booths with representatives who will share new products and innovative solutions!

The School Nutrition Foundation is giving a big "Thank You" to all ANC registrants! You get to **jump the registration line with your SNF Fast Pass and pick up your SNF Goody Bag!** Simply just check the SNF donation box and [donate \\$50](#) or more when you register online.

Be sure to attend a private show on Tuesday evening, July 14, at the [Closing Event Concert](#), sponsored by TITAN School Solutions, taking place at the "home of American music," the Grand Ole Opry House. Look at other attractions Music City has to offer by [watching this video](#)!



7. Social Media Takeover

The first official takeover of the SNA Facebook page featuring [Alaska SNA](#) was a great success! Stay tuned for the next takeover by your colleagues from Michigan SNA, coming up later this month!

Thank you for your continued support! If you have any questions, contact membership@schoolnutrition.org.

8. Check Out the Latest Articles from *School Nutrition*

With articles ideal for employees at all levels, the latest editions of [School Nutrition](#) are brimming with great content. Smartphones have drastically altered our lives for the better, but did you ever wonder how this form of tech can influence K-12 foodservice? Learn how several districts across the country have implemented mobile ordering for both students and staff and boosted their participation as a result. A tricky yet important topic to talk about, defend yourself and your employees against workplace violence. For menu inspiration, go beyond holiday meals and use turkey, an incredibly versatile protein option, in tacos or sandwiches. Or, serve up fresh or frozen raspberries at breakfast or lunch. Plus, [SN](#) offers tips on volunteering, leadership profiles, inspiring stories, tasty recipes and so much more. [Read the latest issues today!](#)

9. Data and Sustainability this Month on Webinar Wednesdays

Does this scenario sound familiar? There are a few schools in my district that are benefitting from Title I funding and the Community Eligibility Provision, but my school just doesn't have a low enough identified student percentages (ISP) to enjoy the same benefits. Maybe your scenario is a bit different, but did you know there are plenty of ways to group your schools so that those with higher ISP's can partner with schools with lower ISP's, and both schools benefit? Diane Girouard, Child Nutrition Policy Analyst with the Food Research & Action Center is here to thoroughly explain how to make it happen. Join us on March 4, 2020 for [Making Community Eligibility Work with Lower ISPs](#).

On March 11, 2020 join us for [USDA's Data Validation Service: A Cloud-Based Solution to Improved Verification Reporting](#). As some of you may have experienced, sometimes Form FNS-742 for the School Food Authority (SFA) Verification Collection Report is returned to the district with a list of requested edits. This can lead to months of back and forth. Exciting news, Food Nutrition Services (FNS) has created a solution with a new online form that verifies and checks for errors prior to submission. Come learn how you can save valuable operation hours by utilizing the application programming interface (API) online form, and hear how FNS is putting the data to use for your district.

Then on March 18, hear how two districts are listening to their stakeholders and applying sustainability practices to their school nutrition programs. With a comprehensive approach to using products that are reusable, or recyclable, and requesting bids for items that have less to no plastic packaging, learn how they are making it work within their budget while reducing waste management labor hours [with Best of #SNIC2020: Making it Happen: Sustainability and School Nutrition](#).

For more information, visit us at the [Training Zone](#).



10. #ANC19 Video Series Coming Soon!

We love our ANC speakers, and know that the content they share at our annual conference is too important to share only once. That's why we recorded 20 sessions so that a wider audience can engage with this amazing content. We love our members too, so they can peruse the catalogue and purchase individual sessions at a discounted rate or purchase all 20 and receive an even greater discount!

Each recording is worth one Continued Education Credit (CEU) after completion of the associated evaluation and quiz. All your certificates will be stored in the Training Zone to retrieve and print or download whenever you need them! Go to [Training Zone](#) for session descriptions and updates.

11. More ANC First-Timer Scholarships Available Than Ever Before!

In its continuing efforts to provide SNA members with opportunities to advance their education and SNA participation, the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF), through the generous sponsorships from AccuTemp Products and Asian Food Solutions, are awarding 40 scholarships to first-time attendees to ANC in Nashville. Applications are being accepted now. Be sure to visit www.schoolnutritionfoundation.org for eligibility requirements and a link to the application.

AccuTemp Products First-Timers Scholarships: For the fourth year in a row, **AccuTemp Products** is offering twenty (20) \$500 scholarships that will pay for ANC registration of members who are attending ANC for the first time.

Asian Food Solutions First-Timers Scholarships: **Asian Food Solutions** also wants to offer SNA members the wonderful opportunity to attend a national conference. It is also offering twenty (20) \$500 ANC First-Timer Scholarships this year.

12. Monthly Mavericks To Receive Hats at ANC!



Become an SNF Monthly Maverick and receive your very own Maverick hat at ANC in Nashville. What better way to show your support? The School Nutrition Foundation is awarding almost \$400,000 worth of scholarships and grants in 2020? [Donate now](#) and click on the "Monthly" donation box. Pick up your Maverick hat at the SNF booth at ANC and wear it proudly to let others know you help put the "FUN" in fundraising!

13. FNS Posts 2020 Reimbursement Rates for SFSP

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced its [annual adjustments](#) to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for Children. This notice informs the public of the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for meals served in the Summer Food Service Program for Children. These adjustments address changes in the Consumer Price Index. SNA posts current school meal participation statistics, reimbursement rates, income eligibility rates, and other critical information in the [About School Meals](#) section of SNA's website.

14. FNS Publishes Notice on Summer Meals Award Program

On February 7, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requested comments on Federal Register notice, ["Agency Information Collection Activities: Turnip the Beat! High-Quality Summer Meals Award Program."](#) This collection was created to recognize the program sponsors' nutrition efforts in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). Written and electronic comments must be submitted by April 7, 2020.



15. FNS Announces Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the CACFP

On February 12, FNS published the Federal Register notice [“Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.”](#) In this notice, FNS announced corrections to the presentation of the meal pattern tables from the final rule that was published on September 25, 2019.

16. Fifth Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Meeting

USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have announced the [2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee](#) (DGAC) will hold its fifth public meeting on March 12-13, 2020, in Washington, D.C. Listeners may participate in person or via a live webinar. The Committee will also meet via webcast (only) to discuss its draft scientific report before submitting its final scientific report to USDA and HHS on May 11. Registration for this public meeting is expected to open in April.

Reminder: The [public comment period](#) is open and will remain open throughout the DGAC’s work and deliberations. The DGAC will review the scientific evidence on topics and questions from the respective Departments and will then provide a report to the Secretaries that will help to inform USDA and HHS in the development of the *2020-25 Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

17. USDA Announces Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study

On February 19, the FNS published a Federal Register notice requesting comments on the proposed records collection required for the [Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study \(SFSP\)](#).

The study aims to obtain information about the administration and oversight of the SFSP and to identify potential barriers to ensuring the integrity and effective management of the program. The study will collect data from State Agency directors and staff, local SFSP sponsor directors and staff, and SFSP site supervisors using web-based surveys and telephone interviews. All comments should be submitted by March 20, 2020.

18. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index Comment Request

The Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is [soliciting comments](#) concerning the proposed extension of the “Consumer Price Index (CPI) Commodities and Services Survey.” Changes in the CPI impact National School Lunch and Breakfast Program reimbursements which are adjusted annually by the USDA based on the change in the CPI series, “Food away from Home.” Comments must be submitted by April 21, 2020.