

USDA has sought the input of many school nutrition professionals throughout the process of developing the professional standards:

- ▶ State Agency Directors
- ▶ Local school nutrition directors
- ▶ Government agencies
- ▶ School Nutrition Association and other associations



Watch for the proposed rule

Professional Standards for all School Nutrition Employees

As a part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA), USDA is developing professional standards for all school nutrition employees.

Professional standards will:

- ▶ Enhance the image of school nutrition professionals
- ▶ Communicate clearly that individuals working in school nutrition meet national requirements.



What are the requirements and who does it affect?

The HHFKA specifies the following:

- ▶ District directors will have minimum requirements for education, training and certification
- ▶ Managers and other staff will have annual training requirements (The specific details of the requirements for various categories of employees are still being determined.)
- ▶ State Agency Directors will have hiring and training requirements

How will individuals achieve the new standards?

Many people working in school nutrition already complete annual training. For others, the requirements may be new.

There are a variety of ways child nutrition professionals will be able to achieve the training requirements, such as online courses, association meetings, and in-person training.

Numerous courses are free of charge.



How can child nutrition professionals prepare?

- ▶ **Watch for the proposed rule, read it and submit your comments.**

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- ▶ Start keeping track of any training you take. It will be helpful for you to have a record of your recent past training in order to prepare for any future requirements.