



## SNAC Bites

### September 2020 Edition

*Welcome to the September 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:

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#### **1. SNA Election: Leadership is Calling Your Name**

The 2021 election nominations process is open! SNA needs members with strong leadership skills, outstanding professional achievements and a record of active participation in their state association or SNA to lead the association in the future. The Leadership Development Committee is recruiting for several positions. All paperwork is due Wednesday, September 30, 2020—so don't delay! [Learn more](#).

#### **2. USDA Extends SFSP/SSO Waivers**

On August 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [extended](#) all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) waivers through as late as December 31, 2020, dependent on available funding. The move allows schools to offer meals to all children at no charge this fall to minimize the challenges of meal service during a pandemic. SNA is continuing to advocate for these waivers to be extended through School Year 2020-21. The announcement came less than one week after SNA's Board of Directors hosted a call with USDA officials to share urgent feedback from schools that have seen dramatic declines in student lunch participation in the opening weeks of school, leaving meal programs in dire financial circumstances. [Read more in SNA's press release](#).



### **3. SNA Joins Allied Groups on Letter to FNS on Waivers Extensions**

On August 11, 2020, SNA, along with 1,315 other organizations, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Feeding America, signed on to an allied letter by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requesting the extension of vital school nutrition waivers. This letter contains requests concerning program operations and illustrates the need to extend all nationwide waivers for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO), including the non-congregate and area eligibility waiver, through the school year. [Read the full letter.](#)

### **4. New School Meal Bills Introduced**

All school nutrition-related bills and legislation can be found on SNA's [Action Network](#). One (1) new Federal bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in August 2020:

- Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (NV) introduced [S.4447](#), the Child Nutrition Relief Act, the companion bill to Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez's (NY-07) [H.R.7764](#) to allow the USDA to extend all COVID-19 emergency school feeding waivers through June 30, 2021.

### **5. USDA Announces Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Parent Pick Up Waiver**

On August 12, 2020, the USDA FNS announced that individual states may apply for the [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\) Parent Pick Up Waiver](#). This waiver allows parents or guardians to pick up commodities as part of the FFVP for those students that qualify. So far, five states have been approved for this waiver, which expires June 30, 2021.

### **6. Reps. David Trone and MD Delegation Send Letter to USDA for the Extension of Waivers**

On August 14, 2020, U.S. Representative David Trone (MD-06), along with a majority of the congressional delegation from Maryland, sent a letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue. This letter requests the extension of the following USDA waiver programs for SY2020-21: Area Eligibility Waiver, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Waivers, After school Activity Waiver, Unexpected School Closures Waiver, and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Parent Pick-Up Waiver. [Read the full letter.](#)

### **7. USDA Announces Nationwide Waiver Extensions**

On August 4, 2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced six new waiver extensions.

- [Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the SFSP](#) – Extension 2. Expires September 30, 2021.
- [Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs](#) – Extension 2. Expires June 30, 2021
- [Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP](#) – Extension 2. Expires September 30, 2021.
- [Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the CACFP](#). Expires September 30, 2021.

### **8. Reps. Carbajal and Bacon Send Letter to USDA on the Extension of SFSP and SSO Waivers**

On August 18, 2020, U.S. Representatives Salud Carbajal (CA-24) and Don Bacon (NE-2), along with 14 other military veterans in Congress, sent a bipartisan letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue. This letter requests that USDA renew waivers enabling the continued implementation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the



Seamless Summer Option (SSO), while also waiving the Area Eligibility Requirement in those programs, throughout the national emergency declaration during the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the full letter.](#)

### **9. Senator Stabenow and Congressmen Scott Sends Letter to USDA**

On August 14, 2020, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA-03) sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. This letter urges USDA to immediately extend all school meal flexibilities so that schools and state agencies are equipped to provide school meals for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read the full press release.](#)

### **10. Senator Pat Roberts Sends Letter to USDA Requesting the Extension of Waivers**

On August 17, 2020, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) sent a letter signed by 19 other Republican Senators, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. This letter calls for USDA to utilize program flexibilities and extend the waivers that allow for summer feeding models to continue for the 2020-21 school year. [Read the full letter.](#)

### **11. Congress Sends Bipartisan Letter to USDA Requesting the Extension of Waivers**

On August 7, 2020, 25 members of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a bipartisan letter authored by Representative Susan Davis (CA-53) to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue asking for the extension of all waivers available to schools to provide meals to children during this pandemic. This letter urges the extension of waivers that allow for the implementation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFS) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO), including area eligibility waivers, through the 2020-2021 school year. [Read the full letter.](#)

### **12. Federal Register Notices**

SNA monitors the Federal Register for notices impacting school nutrition programs including recent Proposed, Interim, and Final Rules, and changes to existing Rules. Check for updates, including SNA comments, and share your comments on SNA’s Action Network.

- **Federal Register: Notification of CFAP Funding Availability for CFAP and Additional Commodities.** USDA issued the [Federal Register notice](#), “Notification of Funding Availability; Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Additional Eligible Commodities.”
- **Federal Register: USDA Issues Correction to Final Rule for CFAP.** USDA issued the [Federal Register notice](#), “Coronavirus Food Assistance Program; Correction.”
- **Federal Register: Turnip the Beet! Comment Request.** USDA issued an [information collection](#) for OMB review regarding the Turnip the Beet! summer meals program.

### **13. Register Now for SNA’s Innovative Solutions Showcase—Extended Through October!**

As a school nutrition professional, are you wondering how you will determine what new products, service or equipment you will need for the upcoming school year—or perhaps even during the summer as you continue to feed kids during this pandemic? If so, don’t miss this opportunity to participate in up to six industry presentations per week through SNA’s [New Innovative Solutions Showcase](#). Registration is FREE for SNA members! [Learn more.](#)

### **14. The SNF \$10,000 Golden Ticket Raffle**

The School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) is excited to announce the **2<sup>nd</sup> Golden Ticket Raffle!** Visit the [SNF website](#) to purchase your ticket securely online starting September 8, 2020. The SNF \$10,000 Golden Ticket Raffle drawing



will take place LIVE! at the School Nutrition Association headquarters in Arlington, VA. The drawing will take place after 200 tickets are sold. Winner MUST possess receipt of ticket purchase along with a valid form of ID. *Limit three (3) tickets per person/household.* Ticket cost is not tax deductible.

### **15. Register Now for the Virtual Directors' Best Practices Conference**

Hear the best ideas to feed kids during a pandemic, learn what's working and what's not, discuss financial sustainability and collectively brainstorm solutions to complex challenges in this one-of-a-kind conference taking place on three afternoons of October 26-28. [Learn more.](#)

### **16. SNA Webinars are Here to Help**

Dr. David J Schonfeld, Director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement Children's Hospital Los Angeles joins SNA this month for a brand-new webinar. This educational session will provide practical advice on how school nutrition professionals can help students cope with the current COVID-19 pandemic and how to support grieving students and some guidance related to professional self-care. Dr. Schonfeld will share tips and techniques to help you navigate your way through these unprecedented circumstances. There will be time available for questions to engage with Dr. Schonfeld and other SNA members. *Taking Care of Yourself and Your Students: Coping with Pandemic Crisis & Loss* will air live on September 16, 2020 at 3 pm ET. For more information and to register, sign into the [Training Zone](#).

Nika White will be headlining our October 1 webinar with a focus on leadership and practical ways to be an inclusive leader. Stay tuned and keep checking the Training Zone under the [Events](#) page for further updates.

If you ever miss a webinar you can find the recording in our expanding library of [On-Demand Webinars](#). Here you can explore school nutrition topics in every Key Area and receive credit for participating.

### **17. Dining Guide for Meals in the Classroom**

This new dining guide, created with inspiration and support from many School Nutrition Association staff, board and members, is a suite of customizable resources to help school nutrition professionals more easily communicate with all stakeholders their plans and procedures for eating in the classroom for SY2020-21. [Learn more.](#)

### **18. Share the New Flyer: School Meals are Safe and Nutritious**

This new flyer, available on the SNA website in the [COVID-19 Back to School Resources](#) section, emphasizes that school meals continue to be a safe, nutritious option to fuel student success in SY2020-21 and includes links to supporting language from the USDA, FDA and CDC. Use it to help reassure parents and other stakeholders about school meals by sharing the [electronic version](#) or printing out a copy to give to parents. Also available in [Spanish](#).

### **19. Start Planning Now for National School Lunch Week**

Now more than ever, it is vital to communicate how important safe, nutritious and healthy school meals are in fueling student success. Taking part in [National School Lunch Week](#), October 12-16, at whatever level your program can participate, helps increase participation, spread the message that school meals remain safe and nutritious, and infuses your program with a little fun and excitement to engage students and stakeholders. Start by downloading the [artwork](#), check out [marketing and PR resources](#), and head over to the [SNA Shop](#) to get your team in the spirit!



## **20. Manage Your SY2020-21 Menu Needs With a New Resource**

Recently, SNA published *Managing Menu Needs in SY2020-21, Your K-12 School Nutrition Buyer's Guide*, Strategy & Solution Resource. Brought to you by the editorial staff of *School Nutrition* magazine, it will help school nutrition directors, chefs, supervisors and site managers face this year's unique challenges related to serving tasty, nutritious school meals to students whether they are learning at home or in school buildings. A digital version of *Managing Menu Needs*, featuring live links to the companies listed in the Buyer's Guide, can be found [here](#). [Learn more](#).

## **21. School Nutrition Magazine Reaffirms the Importance of Safety for All**

Staying safe at work is more important than ever in the age of COVID. However, right now it's easy to focus on avoiding infections and putting other safety and sanitation concerns on the backburner. The September issue of *School Nutrition* brings those issues back to the forefront with important advice on passing health inspections, planning for disasters and keeping employees safe in the kitchen. It doesn't ignore COVID-19 entirely, though—the issue also includes an update on the virus, taking a look at what we know now that we didn't know back in the early days of the pandemic. [Read the September issue](#).