



## SNAC Bites

### November 2020 Edition

*Welcome to the November 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. 2021 SNA Election Ballot Announcement**

The SNA Leadership Development Committee met to review nominations for positions on the SNA Board of Directors, Leadership Development Committee, and Industry Advisory Council. After reviewing the biographical information on each candidate, as well as supporting documents such as the candidate's goals and the recommendations submitted by colleagues on leadership experience and competencies, the Committee selected a slate for the 2021 election. Biographies of candidates selected for the ballot will be available to view online in early January 2021. The election will be held February 15-28, 2021. [Learn more.](#)

#### **2. Registration Now Open for #SNIC21!**

Registration is now open for the School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC)—a virtual event January 12-14, 2021! Get ready to "lead in times of change" and put the most innovative ideas in school nutrition into practice while you build an extraordinary team. The registration fee includes three afternoons of keynotes and educational sessions, special events and Zoom breakouts. Learn more and register: [www.schoolnutrition.org/snic](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/snic).

#### **3. SNA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Series: "How to Become a More Inclusive Team Member"**

Everyone wants to work on a team where they feel welcome, respected and valued. Join us on Thursday, November 5 at 3:00 pm EST for a webinar designed to do just that—and created especially for the heart of every K-12 foodservice team—school nutrition employees and frontline staff. Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) expert, Dr. Nika White, will provide guidance to help you create a more inclusive environment. She'll also unlock the secrets to great teamwork and share how you can take small steps that will make a BIG difference every day! [Learn more and register today.](#)



#### **4. Available Now! On-Demand Edition of SNA's Directors' Best Practices Conference**

SNA's recent virtual [Director's Best Practices Conference](#) was a resounding success! Now, with the on-demand edition, you can take advantage of all the amazing learning opportunities and helpful resources, too.

The conference agenda focuses on the best ideas to feed kids in response to virtual and blended learning environments and staggered academic schedules—all while using classroom, curbside and other service models. Discover what's working to feed kids right now with information about financial sustainability, safety, sanitation and other critical issues.

Here's what some participants had to say:

- “Thank you so much for this excellent conference! Over the last three days, so much valuable information has been shared. The resources provided will be used to bring new ideas to practice. It was so timely as well as energizing and inspiring!”
- “SNA has blown me away with the quality and content of both the June and October conferences—thank you to everyone who made it possible!”
- “I've learned so much!! As a new director, I am very happy for all this information!!”

Get inspired with practical solutions to complex challenges. Visit <https://www.pathlms.com/sna/courses/21487> to purchase this one-of-kind on-demand training.

#### **5. School Nutrition Foundation Professional Development Scholarships**

*Want to earn your degree?* SNF is accepting applications for [Professional Development Scholarships](#) to help cover the costs of tuition and books for a degree in a school nutrition related field. The common application opened on October 1, 2020 and the deadline is January 31, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST. Check out the [SNF website](#) for more information!

#### **6. Take Action: Urge the Senate to Pass HEROES 2!**

Since COVID disruptions began in the spring, we've seen school nutrition advocates like you speak up to ask for the necessary funding and provisions to keep programs running and children fed. Because of powerful and engaged citizens like yourself, Congress and the USDA have provided some helpful measures – but our work is not done. We need you to [raise your voice](#) once again!

On October 1, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an updated HEROES Act. Among other provisions, the bill provides “as much funding as necessary” to help offset operating-cost deficits due to the pandemic. The bill also provides increased flexibility for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), ensures that commodity allocations and other child nutrition program calculations are held harmless during months of severe impact, and requires the Secretary of Agriculture to make waiver applications, approvals, and denials public in a timely manner.

Please [write your Senators today](#) and urge for the swift passage of this updated HEROES Act. School nutrition programs need you to speak up!



## 7. USDA Extends SFSP/SSO Waivers Through SY2020-21

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the extension of all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) waivers, allowing schools to offer meals to all children at no charge through the end of the 2020-21 school year. [View USDA's guidance on the waiver extensions.](#)

[USDA's press release](#) included a quote from SNA President Reggie Ross, SNS. SNA has [consistently advocated](#) for these critical waivers to ensure school meal programs have the flexibility to adapt meal service in the event of unanticipated school closures or changes in learning models during the pandemic. This announcement comes after passage of the [Continuing Resolution by Congress](#), granting authority and funding to extend school meal waivers. These waivers also permit schools to allow parents to collect multiple days' worth of grab-and-go meals at curbside pick-up locations, so distance learners can safely and conveniently access meals for the week. [Read SNA's press release.](#)

## 8. USDA Publishes Q & A for SFSP and SSO Extended Waivers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published "[Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through School Year 2020-2021.](#)" This memorandum includes questions and answers intended to provide clarification to State Agencies and Program operators on issues related to [recently published waivers](#) for SFSP and SSO during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read SNA's full press release for more information.](#)

## 9. SNA Survey Reveals School Meal Programs' Mounting Losses

SNA published "[Impact of COVID-19 on School Nutrition Programs - Back to School 2020](#)," the results of a survey of school nutrition directors in 1,614 school districts nationwide. The report highlights the severe financial toll that school meal programs have incurred as they adapt to safely meet the nutritional needs of students during the pandemic. SNA's survey found that 54% of responding school districts reported a financial loss in School Year (SY) 2019/20 and a harrowing 62% anticipate a loss this school year, with an additional 28% of respondents unsure of what to expect. Among the 844 school districts that reported their SY 2019-20 losses, the median loss was \$150,000. However, districts with an enrollment of 25,000+ saw a median net loss of \$2.3 million. Total combined losses exceeded \$483.5 million. [Read SNA's full press release.](#)

## 10. School Nutrition Foundation Equipment Grants

New this year, eligible applicants have the opportunity to win **one of four equipment grants!** These grants are the Winston Equipment Grant, the Vulcan Equipment Grant, the Hobart Equipment Grant, and the Collection Grant. SNF is now accepting applications for the [SNF Equipment Grants](#). If your kitchen needs new equipment, consider applying today! For questions, please contact [scholarships@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:scholarships@schoolnutrition.org).

## 11. New School Meal Bills Introduced

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

- Reps. Susan Davis (CA-53) and Mike Levin (CA-49) introduced [H.R. 8534](#), the *Military Dependents School Meal Eligibility Act*.



### 12. Read the October 2020 Issue of *Foundation Focus*

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced school nutrition teams to pivot to continue to serve throughout emergency feeding. Since early-March, the School Nutrition Foundation created the GoFundMe initiative *Help Feed School Kids Now!* We have watched as school nutrition teams handle challenge after challenge and we have provided over 200 grants ranging between \$1,500 - \$5,000 to districts to help offset their emergency feeding needs. The October 2020 issue of [Foundation Focus](#) celebrates these grant recipients, thanks the many donors who made this possible and announces other opportunities the Foundation has to offer you!

### 13. 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: Information Collection for the Child Nutrition Database.** The USDA published the [Federal Register notice](#), "Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request- Child Nutrition (CN) Database."
- **Agency Information Collection Activities: FNS Information Collection Needs due to COVID-19.** [SNA submitted its comments](#) to the USDA FNS for the [Federal Register notice](#).
- **Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request.** The USDA published the [Federal Register notice](#) "Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request", requesting comments for the Child Nutrition Labeling Program.

### 14. Farm to School in the Age of COVID-19 Subject of *SN Digital Extra*

Although many students across the country have yet to return to school buildings and classrooms, districts with a commitment to farm-to-school initiatives are finding inventive ways to ensure these programs continue to grow and thrive. *School Nutrition* puts these efforts into the spotlight in the magazine's ongoing COVID-19 digital supplement series. [Read the digital edition](#).