

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

### **Food Service**

#### **School Lunch Service**

#### **Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel**

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn and maintain good health. Therefore the Board provides a food service program for school breakfasts and school lunches that meet the dietary specifications in accordance with the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, as periodically amended, and applicable state laws and regulations.

This service shall be under the supervision of the Food Services Director who shall be responsible to the Business Manager/Director of Finance. The Food Services Director shall be hired under specific job specifications and approved by the Board.

The Board shall comply with the minimum professional standards for school nutrition personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs which are contained in the regulations to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), Public Law 111-296. These regulations, effective July 1, 2015, as amended, effective April 30, 2019, establish hiring standards for the selection of State and local school nutrition program directors, and requires all personnel in the school nutrition programs to complete annual continuing education/training.

The Board believes that the fulfillment of these professional standards for food service personnel will result in consistent, national professional standards that strengthen the ability of school nutrition professionals and staff to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. Requiring proper qualifications to serve in the District's Child Nutrition Programs is expected to improve the quality of school meals, reduce errors, and enhance Program integrity.

Flexibility for districts with 2,499 students or less, subject to the prior approval of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), allows such districts to accept food service experience as a substitute for school nutrition experience when hiring new school nutrition program directors. This shall include volunteer or unpaid work as relevant food service experience.

The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative regulations which detail the required hiring standards and continuing education training for all District food service personnel.

(cf. 3542.31 – Participation in the Nutritional School Lunch Program)

(cf. 3542.33 – Food Sales Other Than National School Lunch Program)

(cf. 3542.34 – Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3542.43 – Charging Policy)

(cf. 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Wellness, School Wellness)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-215 Lunches, breakfasts and other feeding programs for public school children and employees.  
10-215a Nonpublic school and nonprofit agency participation in feeding programs.  
10-215b Duties of State Board of Education re feeding programs.  
10-216 Payment of expenses.  
10-217 State Board of Education Regulations.  
10-215b-1 School lunch and nutrition programs.  
10-215b-11 Requirement for meals.  
10-215b-12 Reimbursement payments. (including free and reduced price meals)  
Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, 42 U.S.C. Section 1751.  
School Lunch and Breakfast Programs 42 U.S.C. Section 1751 et seq.  
National Food Service Programs, Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations, 7 CFR Part 210, Part 220, Part 215, Part 245.  
42 U.S.C. Sec. 1758(h)/7 CFR Sect 210.13, 220.7 (School Food Safety Inspections).  
Federal Register (74 Fed. Reg. 66213) amending federal regulations (7CFR Part 210 and 220).  
Federal Register (80 Fed No 40) Professional Standards for State and Local Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, as amended effective 4/30/19.  
P.L. 111-296 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), 42 U.S.C. 1751.  
7 CFR Parts 210 & 220 – Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch & School Breakfast Programs.  
Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance, 7 C.F.R. Part 15b (2001).  
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Final Rule 84 FR6953

Policy adopted: June 19, 2023

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 14  
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut

## **Business/Non-Instructional Operations**

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#### **Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), Public Law 111-296 requires significant changes in the Child Nutrition Programs to prevent and reduce childhood obesity, give eligible children access to nutrition benefits, and enhance the ability of nutrition professionals to operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) efficiently. Section 306 of the HHFKA amended section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA) (42 U.S.C. 1776) by adding “Professional Standards for School Food Service.” This provision is intended to ensure that school nutrition professionals that manage and operate the NSLP and SBP have adequate knowledge and training to meet Program requirements. Requiring proper qualifications to serve in the Child Nutrition Programs is expected to improve the quality of school meals, reduce errors, and enhance Program integrity.

#### **Definitions:**

*School food authority (SFA)* is the local governing body that has the legal authority to operate the school meal programs.

*School nutrition program directors* are those individuals directly responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of school food service for all participating schools under the jurisdiction of the school food authority.

*School nutrition program managers* are those individuals directly responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of school food service for a participating school(s).

*School nutrition program staffs* are those individuals, without managerial responsibilities, involved in day-to-day operations of school food service for a participating school(s).

#### **School Nutrition Program Professional Standards**

School food authorities that operate the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program must establish and implement professional standards for school nutrition program directors, managers, and staff.

#### **Minimum Standards for All School Nutrition Program Directors**

Each school food authority must ensure that all newly hired school nutrition program directors meet minimum hiring standards and ensure that all new and existing directors have completed the minimum annual training/education requirements for school nutrition program directors, as set forth below:

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#### **Minimum Standards for All School Nutrition Program Directors (continued)**

**Hiring standards:** All school nutrition program directors hired on or after July 1, 2015, must meet the following minimum educational requirements, as applicable:

1. ***School nutrition program directors with local educational agency enrollment of 2,499 students or fewer. Directors must meet the following requirements:***
  - a. A Bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field; **or**
  - b. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent educational experience with any academic major or area of concentration, *and* either a State-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors or at least one year of relevant food service experience; **or**
  - c. An Associate's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field *and* at least one year of relevant school nutrition program experience; **or**
  - d. A high school diploma or equivalency (such as the general educational development diploma), *and* at least three years of relevant food service experience.
  - e. Subject to the prior approval of the CSDE, the district may accept relevant food service experience as a substitute for school nutrition program experience when hiring new school nutrition program directors. (The CSDE may consider volunteer or unpaid work as relevant food service experience.)
  - f. A local educational agency with less than 500 students may accept less than the required years of food service experience when an applicant for a new school nutrition program director position has the minimum required educational requirement.

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#### **Minimum Standards for All School Nutrition Program Directors (continued)**

2. ***School nutrition program directors with local educational agency enrollment of 2,500 to 9,999 students. Directors must meet the following requirements:***
  - a. A Bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field; **or**
  - b. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent educational experience, with any academic major or area of concentration, *and* a State-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors; **or**
  - c. A Bachelor's degree in any academic major *and* at least two years of relevant experience in school nutrition programs; **or**
  - d. An Associate's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or area of concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field *and* at least two years of relevant school nutrition program experience.
  
3. ***School nutrition program directors with local educational agency enrollment of 10,000 or more students. Directors must meet the following requirements:***
  - a. A Bachelor's degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or area of concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field; **or**
  - b. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent educational experience, with any academic major or area of concentration, *and* a State-recognized certificate for school nutrition directors; **or**
  - c. A Bachelor's degree in any major *and* at least five years' experience in management of school nutrition programs.

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#### **Minimum Standards for All School Nutrition Program Directors (continued)**

- d. School food authorities are strongly encouraged to seek out individuals who possess a master's degree or are willing to work toward a master's degree in the fields listed in this section. [At least one year of management experience, preferably in school nutrition, is strongly recommended. It is also strongly recommended that directors have at least three credit hours at the university level in food service management and at least three credit hours in nutritional sciences at the time of hire.]

***Food safety training for school nutrition program directors for districts of all sizes:*** All school nutrition program directors must have completed at least eight hours of food safety training within five years prior to their starting date or completed eight hours of food safety training within 30 calendar days of their starting date. [At the discretion of the State agency, all school nutrition program directors, regardless of their starting date, may be required to complete eight hours of food safety training every five years.]

#### **Continuing Education/Training Standards for All School Nutrition Program Directors**

Each school year, the school food authority must ensure that all school nutrition program directors, (including acting directors, at the discretion of the State agency) complete annual continuing education/training. Twelve hours of annual training are required for Program Directors. The annual training must cover administrative practices (including training in application, certification, verification, meal counting, and meal claiming procedures), as applicable, and any other specific topics identified by FNS, as needed, to address Program integrity or other critical issues. Continuing education/training required is in addition to the food safety training required in the first year of employment.

#### **Continuing Education/Training Standards for All School Nutrition Program Managers**

Each school year, the school food authority must ensure that all school nutrition program managers have completed annual continuing education/training. Program managers must complete ten hours of annual training. The annual training must include, but is not limited to, the following topics, as applicable:

- Administrative practices (including training in application, certification, verification, meal counting, and meal claiming procedures);
- The identification of reimbursable meals at the point of service;
- Nutrition;
- Health and safety standards; and
- Any specific topics identified by FNS, as needed, to address Program integrity or other critical issues.

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#### **Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel (continued)**

#### **Continuing Education/Training Standards for All Staff with Responsibility for School Nutrition Programs**

Each school year, the school food authority must ensure that all staff with responsibility for school nutrition programs that work an average of at least 20 hours per week, other than school nutrition program directors and managers, completes annual training in areas applicable to their job. Staff must complete six hours of annual training. Part-time staff working an average of less than 20 hours per week must complete four hours of annual training. The annual training must include, but is not limited to, the following topics, as applicable to their position and responsibilities:

- Free and reduced price eligibility;
- Application, certification, and verification procedures;
- The identification of reimbursable meals at the point of service;
- Nutrition;
- Health and safety standards; and
- Any specific topics identified by FNS, as needed, to address Program integrity or other critical issues.

The annual training requirements for school nutrition program managers, directors, and staff became effective July 1, 2015. Program managers, directors, and staff hired on or after January 1 of each school year must complete half of their required annual training hours before the end of the school year. At the discretion of the State agency:

- Acting and temporary staff, substitutes, and volunteers must complete training in one or more of the topics listed in this section, as applicable, within 30 calendar days of their start date; and
- School nutrition program personnel may carry over excess annual training hours to an immediately previous or subsequent school year and demonstrate compliance with the training requirements over a period of two school years, provided that some training hours are completed each school year.

#### **Use of Food Service Funds for Training Costs**

Costs associated with the required annual continuing education/training are allowed provided they are reasonable, allocable, and necessary in accordance with the cost principles set forth in 2 CFR part 225, Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments (OMB Circular A-87). However, food service funds must not be used to pay for the cost of college credits incurred by an individual to meet hiring requirements.

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#### **Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel (continued)**

#### **School Food Authority Oversight**

Each school year, the school food authority director must document compliance with the training requirements for all staff with responsibility for school nutrition programs, including directors, managers, and staff. Documentation must be adequate to establish, to the State's satisfaction during administrative reviews, that employees are meeting the minimum professional standards. The school food authority must certify that:

- The school nutrition program director meets the hiring standards and training requirements; and
- Each employee has completed the applicable training requirements no later than the end of each school year.

(cf. 3542.31 – Participation in the Nutritional School Lunch Program)

(cf. 3542.33 – Food Sales Other Than National School Lunch Program)

(cf. 3542.34 – Nutrition Program)

(cf. 3542.43 – Charging Policy)

(cf. 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Wellness, School Wellness)

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Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Assistance, 7 C.F.R. Part 15b (2001)

Regulation approved:

June 19, 2023

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 14  
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut

**SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE**  
**District School Nutrition Directors/Supervisors**

**General Function and Scope**

The District School Nutrition Director/Supervisor will oversee all aspects of the district Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operation. The job functions include administrating, planning, directing, assessing, implementing, and evaluating the program in order to meet the nutritional and educational needs of children, as they relate to the CNP. The school nutrition professional shall partner with others in the school district and community to solicit support for the development of a sound nutrition assistance food program while following federal, state, and local guidelines. The CNP is to provide an environment that supports healthy food habits while maintaining program integrity and customer satisfaction.

**Essential Functional Areas of Responsibilities**

**Customer Service**

- Establishes quality standards for the presentation and service of food.
- Implements a district-wide customer service driven philosophy that focuses on value and satisfaction.

**Sanitation, Food Safety, and Employee Safety**

- Establishes procedures to ensure that food is prepared and served in a sanitary and safe environment.
- Develops and integrates employee safety regulations into all phases of the school foodservice operation.
- Establishes procedures and policies for risk management.

**Financial Management and Recordkeeping**

- Establishes measurable financial objectives and goals for the CNP.
- Manages the CNP using appropriate financial management techniques.
- Implements efficient management techniques to ensure all records and supporting documentation are maintained in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and policies.

**Food Production**

- Develops procedures to ensure the food production system provides safe nutritious food of high quality.
- Ensures operational procedures for efficient and effective food production and distribution.
- Implements a cost-effective procurement system.
- Develops purchasing guidelines to ensure purchased food and supplies reflect product knowledge, customer preferences, district needs, policies, and nutrition objectives.
- Establishes standards for receiving storing, and inventorying food and non-food supplies based on sound principles of management.

### **Program Accountability**

- Ensures CNP compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and policies.
- Provides technical assistance and training for school foodservice personnel, school administrators, and other school support staff.
- Develops guidelines for providing services in response to disaster or emergency situations.

### **Nutrition and Menu Planning**

- Develops cost-effective menus that maintain nutrition integrity and meet all local, state, and federal guidelines and regulations.
- Assesses customer preferences, industry trends, and current research to plan menus that encourage participation in the CNP.
- Works with school staff, teachers, parents, and physicians to plan menus for children with special nutrition needs.

### **General Management**

- Employs management techniques to maintain an effective and efficient CNP.
- Develops short and long term goals through strategic planning for the district school foodservice program that supports the philosophy and policies of the Board of Education.
- Implements policies and procedures to ensure the effective operations of CNPs.
- Develops a long-range program for establishing professional status for the CNP's role in the education community.
- Reviews current research information to determine health and nutrition-related trends and foodservice management developments; and develops innovative program changes and expansions based on this information.

### **Personnel Management**

- Implements personnel policies and procedures for the CNP according to local, state, and federal regulations and laws.
- Develops job performance standards that provide for performance improvement.
- Develops methods for hiring, training, and evaluating personnel that recognize education, experience, performance, and certification.
- Establishes procedures to implement employee contract agreements, progressive discipline, and formal grievances.
- Establishes standards for the professional development of the district's CNP personnel.

### **Facility Layout and Design and Equipment Selection**

- Assists with designing and planning facilities that ensure high quality customer service, wholesome food production, and efficient workflow.
- Determines equipment needs and specifications consistent with program needs and budget.

### **Environmental Management**

- Develops and implements policies and procedures to ensure environmental responsibility.
- Establishes a waste management system for the CNP that is effective, economical, and environmentally safe.

### **Marketing**

- Develops a marketing plan to attract students, parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, and community.
- Conducts an on-going evaluation of the marketing plan.
- Communicates program information to encourage and secure support for the school food and nutrition program from the Board of Education, administrators, faculty, students, parents, and community.
- Implements a plan for providing foodservice for special functions consistent with Board of Education policies.

### **Computer Technology**

- Implements management information systems that increase the productivity and efficiency of the school food and nutrition operation.
- Trains staff to use computer technology in individual school sites to improve management techniques.

### **Nutrition Education**

- Develops and implements a comprehensive nutrition education program using school cafeterias as learning laboratories.
- Establishes role of the CNP as a resource for expertise in the development and presentation of nutrition education materials and activities.

### **Other**

- Performs and directs job related proficiency with the highest ethical integrity.
- Performs and directs with a commitment to promote a quality CNP that meets the nutritional needs of the customers served.
- Performs and directs with an overall nature that is committed to the goals and visions of the school district.
- Performs and directs appropriate communication skills with the customers served.