



## SNAC Bites July 2020 Edition

Welcome to the July 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.

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### 1. SNA Outgoing President Shares Inspiring Message

Noting the many accomplishments achieved by the SNA and its members throughout the 2019-2020 school year, and during the #covid 19 pandemic, Gay Anderson, SNS, Child Nutrition Director for the Brandon Valley School District in South Dakota, shared her inspiring outgoing message in a [new video](#).

### 2. SNA Thanks School Nutrition Heroes in New Video

As SY2019-2020 comes to an end, the School Nutrition Association and the School Nutrition Foundation are taking a moment to celebrate the extraordinary and heroic work school nutrition professionals have done during the #covid19 pandemic to keep America's children fed during school closures. Take a look at some of our favorite moments that we've captured in this new [video](#). Here's to you!

### 3. USDA Releases New COVID-19 School Nutrition Guidance

During the month of June, U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) has released new waivers and guidance for school meal service during COVID-19 school closures.

- [Food Entitlement Calculations for SY2020-21](#) under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) would allow state agencies participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to use data from the 2018-2019 SY when calculating their 2020-2021 SY Food Entitlement.
- [Offer Versus Serve Flexibility](#) to provide flexibilities and address offer versus serve requirements at the high school level.



#### **4. SNA Calls for Quick Action to Keep School Meal Programs Viable**

SNA sent a [letter](#) to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue urging the immediate extension of COVID-19 emergency feeding waivers through the end of the SY2020-21. This letter has been sent to all of Congress and contains a request that school meals be provided for all students at no charge. This letter also includes essential information regarding ongoing financial and operational barriers as schools work to continue providing critical meals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the full [press release](#).

#### **5. USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue Addresses SNA Patrons**

On Friday, June 26, 2020, Secretary Perdue [virtually addressed](#) the SNA Board of Directors, the Public Policy and Legislation Committee, the State Agency Advisory Council and industry members during the School Nutrition Association's Patron Forum. The Secretary began his remarks by thanking all members for their "remarkable ability to adjust during the pandemic and keep kids fed." Perdue noted that the number of feeding sites has almost tripled since COVID-19, going from 20,000 locations to 60,000 sites nationwide. "USDA is dedicated to ensuring that schools have the flexibility to continue to feed kids in the coming school year," said Perdue. The Secretary reiterated that USDA remains a willing partner to all in the school foodservice sector and remains open to hearing about challenges and accommodations needed to continue to feed kids through this pandemic and beyond.

#### **6. USDA Extends Three Nationwide Waivers for School Nutrition Programs**

On June 10, 2020, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) Sonny Perdue announced the extension of federal waivers for child nutrition programs, including [Nationwide Area Eligibility Waiver](#), which is in effect until August 31, 2020. Also, [Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver](#) and [Onsite Monitoring and Oversight Requirements](#) for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), which are both effective until July 31, 2020. Check out SNA's [Summary of USDA FNS Waivers and Guidance](#) for full details on waivers and extensions.

#### **7. USDA Extends Specific COVID-19 Waivers for SY2020-21**

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the extension of multiple COVID-19 emergency feeding waivers to last through the end of SY2020-21. The extension of these waivers will allow school meal programs to continue grab-and-go meal pick up for distance learners, serve meals to students in the classroom or adjust meal service in the event of sudden COVID-19 school closures. The waivers that have been extended include:

- [Nationwide Meal Times Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Non-congregate Feeding Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver](#)

Read more in SNA's [press release](#). For up to date information, check out [SNA's Action Network page](#) on USDA FNS Waivers and Guidance for full details on waivers and extensions.

#### **8. SNA Joins 84 Allied Organizations in Letter to USDA**

SNA joined 84 national partners in a letter to USDA requesting the extension of all COVID-19 child nutrition waivers through September 30, 2020. The letter stresses that schools, local government agencies and private nonprofits are making decisions today about whether they will continue to operate feeding programs this summer. [Read the full letter](#).



### 9. 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 June 2020:

- Rep. Rodney Davis (R-ILL) introduced [H.R. 6968](#), the *Meals on Wheels for Kids Act*. Establishes a pilot grant program to deliver healthy meals to children in rural areas who rely on school meals during the school year but are unable to get to summer meal sites.

### 10. U.S. Representatives Perlmutter and Neguse Request Waiver Extensions

U.S. Representatives Ed Perlmutter (D-CO7) and Joe Neguse (D-CO2) sent a letter to Secretary Sonny Perdue requesting the extension of several waivers through the end of SY2020-21. In their letter, the congressmen stress that school districts need certainty and flexibility as they continue to navigate this crisis and prepare for changes to school programming. [Read the letter](#).

### 11. USDA Announces \$12.1 Million in Farm to School Grant Awards

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it's awarding \$12.1 Million in [Farm to School Grants](#). These Farm to School Grants will support a wide range of activities that increase the number of local foods served in child nutrition programs and teach children about food and agriculture.

### 12. SNA Monitors Related 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: Micro-Grants for Food Security Program (MGFSP)** USDA Agricultural Marketing Service: [notice](#) of intent to collect information for the Micro-Grants for Food Security Program.
- **Federal Register: Funding Availability; Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Additional Commodities Request for Information.** USDA issued a correction to the Federal Register [notice](#) for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). The CFAP assists those agricultural producers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, and this correction clarifies specific rules regarding specialty crops.

### 13. Meet Us on The Virtual Red Carpet for Upcoming SNA Award Activities

Although SNA's Annual National Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19, we plan on virtually recognizing our award winners! All the state, regional and national award winners along with this year's industry award winner, will be recognized in a special *SN Awards* digital edition to be published July 13—the original date of SNA's traditional Red Carpet Awards ceremony! The winners will also be highlighted on social media later this month.

Are you an award winner or plan on cheering on one of your colleagues as they hit the #virtualredcarpet? Help us create some buzz on social media by taking videos or photos using the hashtag #SNA Awards and tag us on Facebook @schoolnutritionassociation and/or on Instagram @schoolnutritionassoc so that we can keep the celebration going!

### 14. Have You Heard? Stronger Together: Back to School Series is Now Available On-Demand

You don't want to miss Stronger Together, a high-level series now available on-demand, specifically to help you navigate the many uncertainties school nutrition professionals are facing right now in planning for SY2020-21. The on-demand training includes topics such as strategic planning, PPE for staff, procurement, packaging,



implications of social distancing on engagement, menus, sanitation, technology, and more! Days 1-4 are now available on-demand and Day 5 will be available later this month.

More than 700 school nutrition professionals who attended the live series praised the new format. Here is what they are saying:

*"This virtual format is great for those who are unable to travel due to budget restrictions, COVID19 issues and travel time issues."*

*"I learned a lot and it also helped me think about my own planning for the fall. Thank you for your collective thoughts."*

Don't miss out on tools that will help prepare you for the upcoming school year. Take a look at the full course [agenda](#) to see the all the content, and then head to the SNA Training Zone to [make your purchase](#) today! **If you are looking for additional resources for back to school, visit the solutions and resources provided by our Back to School Series Sponsors here <https://www.pathlms.com/sna/courses/20310>**

### **15. The School Nutrition Foundation Needs You Now More Than Ever!**

For more than three months, the School Nutrition Foundation (SNF) paused its traditional fundraising methods due to COVID-19. We concentrated our efforts into building an emergency food relief fund, providing \$1,500 grants that are available to school nutrition professionals who are still feeding children. To date, we have raised over \$300,000 and are adding to that fund each week.

As the country begins to reopen, we are too. We are looking at ways we can assist SNA members to navigate the new path toward feeding children this summer and into the next school year. *In order to do this, **we need your help in 2020**—now more than ever.*

Since school nutrition and industry members have been such important contributors to the Foundation in the past, you know that our Annual Fund is critical to SNF providing resources like the emergency relief grants, scholarships and equipment grants. You can once again be part of building the future of school nutrition by [donating today](#). Your donation can make a difference and build a better future for you and the children you feed.

### **16. Read School Nutrition's Digital Supplements for More Information**

The landscape is ever-changing and for you and your school nutrition program to adapt, you need relevant, up-to-date information from sources you can trust. To fill this need, *School Nutrition* is publishing [digital supplement articles](#) in between print mailings of the magazine. These digital extras are keeping readers in the loop on important topics like mental health, employee safety, community partnerships, financial impacts and more. The next in the series will be available soon, but in the meantime, you can read [great articles here](#).

### **17. Kickstart Brainstorming Sessions with Thought Starters**

When schools reopen, school nutrition departments have *a lot* to consider for SY2020-21—from meal preparation to serving and equipment needs to new marketing materials. To help kickstart these logistical conversations, the recently published [Thought Starters for Reopening Schools for SY2020-21](#), is packed with great information, tips and considerations from school nutrition directors across the country. With these ideas, you'll be able to make great decisions for your program and start this unprecedented school year confidently.