



**SNAC Bites**  
**August 2020 Edition**

*Welcome to the August 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. Meet the New President: A Video Interview with Reggie Ross**

SNA CEO Patti Montague interviews Reggie Ross, SNS, President of the 2020-21 Board of Directors, in a new video in which he shares his inspiring story and priorities for the Association. Reggie is a School Nutrition Consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC-DPI) who began his career in school nutrition in 2006 as a cafeteria manager for Coulwood Middle School in Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District. Read the [press release](#) and [watch and share the video](#).

**2. 2021 Election Nominations**

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 the following positions:



### Board of Directors

- Vice President
- Southeast Regional Director
- West Regional Director
- At Large Director

### Leadership Development Committee

- Northeast Region Representative
- Northwest Region Representative
- Southwest Region Representative

### Industry Advisory Council

- Industry Advisory Council Chair

### Nomination Process

Submit a nomination for one or two of the open positions or nominate yourself. You'll find everything you need to know on the SNA website at [www.schoolnutrition.org/LeadershipOpp](http://www.schoolnutrition.org/LeadershipOpp) including the digital nomination form.

**All paperwork is due Wednesday, September 30, 2020**, so get your form in early! The Leadership Development Committee will meet in October to select the candidate slate for the 2021 election. The selected candidates will be announced in November and the election will be February 15-28, 2021.

### 3. Congratulations SNA Award Winners!

Check out the special *School Nutrition* digital supplement, "[Spotlight On!](#)", which profiles SNA's national award winners and includes recognition of many individual members and state associations for leadership, innovation and service. [Read it here.](#)

### 4. USDA Issues State Guidance and Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities

On July 2, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a nationwide [waiver to allow Offer Versus Serve \(OVS\) Flexibilities](#) for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). FNS recognizes that continuing to waive restrictions on the use of OVS in SFSP would reduce the administrative burden on State agencies and sponsors in this public health emergency. This waiver helps support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. This waiver is currently in effect and expires on September 30, 2020.

### 5. House Appropriations Committee Pushes for USDA to Issue Nationwide Waivers

On July 9, the full House Appropriations Committee met to markup the 2021 Appropriations bill. During this meeting, the committee included a Manager's Amendment that urges the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a nationwide waiver as soon as possible to extend the current Area Eligibility and Non-Congregate Feeding waivers. Also, this amendment calls for USDA to allow school districts to use the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) regulations for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year.

### 6. SNA Urges USDA to Keep School Meals Safe and Accessible for ALL Students

On July 10, SNA sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to request that USDA take swift action to guarantee safe and reliable access to healthy school meals and ensure school meal programs can remain fiscally sustainable. SNA urges USDA to allow school meal programs to continue serving students through



the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and to immediately extend all SFSP/SSO COVID-19 waivers, including Area Eligibility waivers, through the end of SY2020-21. Due to current obstacles and the enormous financial impacts of the pandemic on families and school meal programs, SNA is requesting that all schools be allowed to serve meals to all students at no charge. This change will significantly speed up service, reduce the risk of disease exposure and ensure eligible students have consistent access to free meals without being overtly identified as needy in front of their peers. Read the [full press release](#).

### **7. USDA Publishes Final Report from the 2020 Dietary Guideline Advisory Committee**

USDA posted the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's [final report](#). This report is an overview of the latest scientific information on specific topics such as infant and child nutrition, and dietary habits to promote health and the prevention of chronic diseases. This report's findings will provide recommendations and serve to inform USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) officials as they develop the 2020-25 Dietary Guidelines. All [comments](#) regarding the committee's final report must be submitted by August 11, 2020.

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

All school nutrition-related bills and legislation can be found on SNA's [Action Network](#). Three (3) new Federal bills impacting school nutrition programs were introduced in July 2020:

- Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07) introduced [H.R.7764](#), the Child Nutrition Relief Act of 2020. The legislation would allow USDA to extend all COVID-19 emergency school feeding waivers through June 30, 2021.
- Rep. Antonio Delgado (NY-19) and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (WI-5) introduced [H.R. 7831](#), the *Small Farm to School Act of 2020*.
- Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA-03) introduced [H.R.7887](#), the *Pandemic Child Hunger Prevention Act*.

### **9. U.S. Representative Brindisi Letter to USDA Urging the Extension of SFSP and SSO Waivers**

U.S. Representative Anthony Brindisi (NY-22) sent a letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue urging USDA to consider SNA's previous proposals to allow schools to serve meals to all students at no charge through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO). In addition, this letter calls for the extension SFSP/SSO waivers for the 2020-21 school year. Representative Brindisi's letter included the entirety of SNA's letter sent to USDA on July 10, that illustrates these requests. Read the [full letter here](#).

### **10. USDA Responds to SNA's July 10 Waivers Letter**

On July 20, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) responded to SNA's July 10 [letter](#) which raised serious concerns about serving students during the pandemic. SNA asked USDA to immediately extend all Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) COVID-19 waivers, including Area Eligibility, through the end of SY2020-21. USDA's letter states, "The issues you identified in your letter are the ones we are working to understand and find a path forward in the best interest of students and schools."

### **11. SNA Joins Allied Groups on Letter to FNS Requesting Waiver Extensions**

SNA, along with 65 other organizations, signed onto an allied letter by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requesting the extension of vital school nutrition waivers. This letter illustrates that the extension of the non-congregate, meal service time, meal pattern flexibility and parent pick-up waivers will be critical to supporting stakeholders as they plan for providing meals through the federal nutrition programs when school starts in the fall. Read the [full letter here](#).



### 12. U.S. Senators Send Letter to USDA Regarding the Extension of School Meal Waivers

On July 29th, U.S. Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME), and 34 other senators signed onto a [letter](#) sent to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expressing support for the extension of critical COVID-19 school feeding waivers. This letter prominently highlights [SNA's letter](#) sent to USDA on July 10th and calls for continued flexibilities that have allowed students to access much-needed meals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the [full press release here](#).

### 13. 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: USDA Publishes New Reimbursement Rates** USDA announced the annual adjustments to School Year (SY) 2020-21 reimbursement rates for the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#), [Special Milk, School Breakfast Program \(SBP\)](#), and the [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#). USDA also announced the [average value of donated foods](#).
- **Federal Register: FNS Published Final Rule on FDRIP** FNS published its [Final Rule](#) for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR): Two-Year Administrative Funding Availability and Substantial Burden Waiver Signatory Requirement. FDPIR administrative grants now have a performance period of two fiscal years instead of one and provide information on other FDPIR related reporting and financial procedures.

### 14. FNS Announces Recipients for 2020-2021 Farm to School Grants

The Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) Office of Community Food Systems has released its [list of 2020 Farm to School Grant recipients](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. This year the Farm to School Grant Program will provide \$12.1 million in grants to over 150 Farm to School programs and will go on to serve more than 2.5 million students in 7,610 across the country. Farm to School Grants help fund projects that increase the number of local foods served through child nutrition programs, teach children about food and agriculture through garden and classroom education, and develop schools' and farmers' capacities to participate in farm to school projects.

### 15. U.S. House Passes FY 21 Agriculture Funding Bill

On Friday, July 24, the U.S. House of Representatives [passed a minibus](#) for the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills. This minibus combines four bills that include funding for the Agriculture Department, Food and Drug Administration, Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency, among other departments and agencies. The bill provides \$25.131 billion in mandatory funding for child nutrition programs, an increase of \$1.516 billion from the Fiscal year 2020 enacted level. This funding will provide free or reduced-price school lunches and snacks for children who qualify for the program. The bill also provides \$552 million for the Summer Food Service Program to ensure low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals while school is not in session. It also provides \$50 million for the Summer EBT program, \$35 million in school kitchen equipment grants, and \$15 million in grants for the expansion of school breakfast. The final report includes language that urges the Secretary of Agriculture to extend critical nationwide waivers to ensure it is as easy as possible to feed students through the 2020-2021 school year. The Senate has not acted on appropriations bills yet, and it is unclear whether the House and Senate will finish the appropriations process or pass a continuing resolution to fund the government until after the election or next year.



## 16. SNA Training for You and Your Team

Looking for training for you and your team? Sign up for SNA's upcoming Back to School webinars [here](#). SNA has selected top-rated on-demand webinars and online courses to help with your Back to School training plans. Remember, all webinars are free for SNA members so be sure to take advantage of this benefit!

Webinars Recommended for Directors and Managers:

- [Dining Guide for School Meals in the Classroom](#)
- [Motivating Yourself and Your Team When Change is Obvious: Tips to Inspire Success During Uncertain Times](#)
- [Adjusting to Remote Work During COVID-19: Tools for Virtual Conferencing](#)
- [COVID-19 Reality: Leading a Team in a Virtual World](#)
- [Produce in a Pandemic: Providing Children with Fresh Fruits and Vegetables During COVID-19 School Closures](#)
- [Best of #NLC19 Tough Talking: Initiating and Managing Difficult Discussions](#)
- [Take a Fresh Look at Community Eligibility](#)
- [Procurement Do's and Don'ts for Operators](#)

Recommended for the entire team:

- [Building Resilience & Promoting Mental Health During Challenging Times](#)
- [COVID-19 Series: Tips for Effective Communication with Your Community During COVID-19 School Closures](#)
- [In a Crazy World...There are Simple Solutions for Positive Communication](#)
- [Gimme Some Feedback: Preventing Conflicts Through Constructive Feedback](#)
- [Ask the Expert: Food Allergies Edition](#)

SNA series of Food Safety Webinars with experts at Kansas State University's Center for Food Safety in Child Nutrition Programs:

- [Rewind & Repeat: Science-Based Basics to Food Safety: Q&A Session](#)
- [Rewind & Repeat: Science-Based Basics to Food Safety: Part II](#)
- [Rewind & Repeat: Science-Based Basics to Food Safety, Part I](#)

Also, take advantage of great members-only pricing on top sessions from [ANC 2019](#), SNA's [financial management train-the-trainer program](#), [culinary skills programming](#), [ethics training](#) and our [popular back to school virtual series for directors](#).

## 17. Sign up Now for the Innovative Solution Showcase

Wondering how you will determine what new products, service, or pieces of equipment you will need for the upcoming school year in these uncertain times? SNA has you covered! Reserve your spot now for week 2 of the [Innovative Solution Showcase](#), limited capacity virtual sessions that are free for members, where industry reps will demonstrate their new products with time for questions. Sessions are 30 minutes long and take place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons throughout August in three-hour time blocks. [Register now for week two](#) taking place on August 10-11.



### **18. SNF Launches New Operations & Equipment Guide**

The School Nutrition Foundation and Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom are pleased to announce a new guide perfect for back-to-school planning scenarios. Originally designed to assist school nutrition operators plan equipment purchases to implement breakfast in the classroom, this guide is perfect for both school nutrition professionals and industry partners planning for all back-to-school service scenarios in SY2020-21. [Learn more.](#)

### **19. SN Promotion Calendar for 2020 Now Available**

This helpful and free member benefit is packed with fun holidays and events to provide inspiration for your operation. Knowing that the upcoming school year will look different, these ideas and events will provide a little normalcy and inject excitement into what may be a difficult situation for students, school nutrition staff, teachers and school administrators. Brought to you by the editorial staff of [School Nutrition magazine](#), the [calendar](#) includes monthlong, weeklong/multi-day and single-day events—and additional details and ideas for many of the entries.

### **20. New SNA Shop Features NSLW Merchandise**

Have you heard about the opening of the all new [SNA Shop](#), featuring brand new merchandise for [National School Lunch Week](#)? Check out the wide array of new items promoting the 2020 theme of *Now Playing: School Lunch—Your Ticket to Good Nutrition*, including t-shirts, colorful posters, totes and bags—even a golden movie award!

### **21. COVID-19's Impact on Supply Chain Subject of New SN Digital Extra**

As school nutrition operators anxiously await decisions from district administrators about SY2020-21 schedules and their impact on school meal service, vendors serving the K-12 segment anxiously await food and beverage forecasts and product orders from districts. Despite next school year's murkiness, what is clear is that the new school year will not be business as usual. New pressures on the food supply chain likely will complicate the process of getting popular products in sufficient quantities to meet demand. Access this [new digital supplement](#) now. And be sure to read the [other supplements](#) published by *School Nutrition* that cover many relevant topics.