

School Nutrition Professional Development 2024

IN-PERSON “summer short courses” will be offered by the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services. All sessions count towards Professional Standards annual required hours.*

June

New Director Meet-up

Pre-conference offered by School Nutrition Association Iowa (SNAI)

June 18, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Description: A pre-conference networking opportunity prior to the 2024 School Nutrition Association Iowa (SNAI) Conference in Davenport. Meet with Bureau of Nutrition Consultants from the state agency and other newer nutrition directors in Iowa.

No Cost: Register at <https://www.snaiowa.org/>

Planning Reimbursable School Meals: Let's Create a Cycle Menu

June 26 – 27, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: **ISU Extension and Outreach Polk County**, 1625 Adventureland Dr Suite A, Altoona, Iowa
New location!

Description: A 2-day workshop ideal for newer directors and those requiring an understanding of the meal pattern with a focus on menu planning and cycle menu development.

Presenter: Donna Becker, a former school nutrition director from Iowa and consultant from the Minnesota Department of Education. Iowa consultants will be in attendance.

Audience: School Nutrition Directors and menu planners for schools

Professional Standards: 12 hours

No Cost: To register, go to: [Registration Planning Reimbursable Meals](#). Space is limited.

July

Back-to-School Nutrition Conference

July 30, 31 and Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: **ISU Alumni Center**, 429 Alumni Lane, Ames, Iowa

Description: The state agency's annual “summer short course” provided in partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach will focus on the new nutrition standards expected to be released by USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) as well as the following highlights:

- July 30: **Nutrition Standards for Healthy Kids** (hear nutrition speakers from ISU and Action for Healthy Kids)
- July 31: **Civil Rights with a focus on Special Diets** (hear speakers from USDA on civil rights and special diets)
- Aug. 1: **Food Safety for Healthy Kids** (hear from Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing) and learn about other Nutrition Programs for Iowa schools

Audience: Directors and Managers

Professional Standards: estimated 18 hours (6 hours/day)

Cost: \$95 per day (A morning snack and lunch is provided)

To register, go to: <https://www.regcytes.extension.iastate.edu/schoolfoods>.

August

Healthy School Meals Workshop New - regional workshops!

Aug. 5, 6 and 8, time and locations to be confirmed

Description: Ensure your school is meeting meal pattern and nutrition standards by attending regional workshops offered around Iowa. Workshops are intended to offer nutrition staff an opportunity to learn, network and work on strategies to ensure school menus meet student expectations and nutrient standards. Discuss menu planning tools and resources for meeting whole grain and sodium challenges.

Presenters: School Consultants

Audience: Nutrition directors, managers and key staff with menu planning responsibilities

Tentative locations:

- Aug. 5: Cedar Rapids, Creston and Storm Lake
- Aug. 6: Mason City and Washington
- Aug. 8: Ames

No cost: Go to: [School Nutrition Resource Site](#) Registration will be opening soon!

VIRTUAL professional development opportunities will be offered by the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services and will be communicated when the school year begins.

***Professional Standards Annual Training and Hiring Requirements**

Directors: 12 hours

Managers: 10 hours

Full-Time Staff: (>20 hours per week): 6 hours

Part-Time Staff: (<20 hours per week): 4 hours

Annual training is required for all school nutrition employees.

Visit [Professional Standards – School Nutrition](#) to review training requirement details and **hiring standards** if your school will be hiring a new director.