*Date:* September 12, 2016

*To:* Authorized Representatives and Food Service Directors of School Food Authorities (SFAs) Participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs (CNPs)

*From:* Jessica Sharkus, RDN, CD  
Director-School Nutrition Team

*Subject:* Training Opportunities for school year (SY) 2016-17

We hope you enjoyed your summer and are having a smooth transition into a new school year. **What’s New with School Nutrition**, **Small Victories,** and **Great Beginnings Academy,** three popular training opportunities for school nutrition program professionals, will be offered during SY 2016-17. **Pre-Review Workshops** are also scheduled to assist SFAs in preparing for their upcoming Administrative Review (AR). Please support and encourage your school nutrition staff to register for the training(s) that best meet their needs. Information on Small Victories will be sent in a separate mailing later this month.

****What’s New with School Nutrition –** September 13 marks our first *What’s New with School Nutrition* webinar for SY 2016-17. Join the School Nutrition Team (SNT) on the second Tuesday of every month from 2-3 PM via web conferencing to receive the latest updates on the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and other hot topics pertaining to the exciting world of school nutrition. No registration is required to participate. Monthly discussions are archived on the website for viewing 24/7 at <http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training/whats-new>. This is also the location where you can access the presentation for live viewing on Tuesday afternoons.

Target Participants: School administrators, school nutrition managers/directors, and anyone with responsibilities for operating/administering school nutrition programs are encouraged to participate.

If you have questions regarding *What’s New with School Nutrition*, please contact Molly Gregory at [molly.gregory@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:molly.gregory@dpi.wi.gov) or 608-267-9276.



**The Small Victories (SV) Series –** Dates and locations are not yet finalized; this information will be made available when the schedule is confirmed.

Target Participants:Anyone currently working in a small school environment is encouraged to attend including administrative staff, school nutrition managers, directors, and line staff.

If you have questions regarding the SV Series or would like to host a session at your school, please contact Loriann Knapton at [loriann.knapton@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:loriann.knapton@dpi.wi.gov) or 608-266-1046.

**MCBL00699_0000[1]Great Beginnings Academy (GBA) –** GBAis a one-year training experience developed for School District/School Managers/Directors who are **new** to school nutrition programs. By attending classes in Madison throughout the school year and participating in additional training sessions via technology, participants will receive training and support to better understand program regulations, identify existing resources, and create a network of peers to transition into a successful school nutrition program. Class size is limited.

Target Participants: Managers/Directors new to school nutrition with 2 years or less experience are encouraged to attend and will be given preference to attend GBA. If space is still available, site managers for school districts may be accepted. Due to limited class size, no more than two participants from the same school district/private school will be accepted. This series is not intended for general staff training.

Participants interested in becoming School Nutrition Association (SNA) Certified at Level 2 can receive Specialized Training Hours towards certification at the end of the GBA trainings. SNA Certification adds credibility to your school nutrition program, recognizes professional achievement, and demonstrates commitment to the school nutrition profession.

If you have questions regarding GBA, please contact Cindy Loechler at [cynthia.loechler@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:cynthia.loechler@dpi.wi.gov) or 608-266-5185. To register for GBA, please complete the application included with the enclosed flyer and fax it to Cindy Loechler at 608-267-0363.

**Pre-Review Workshops** – These three-hour workshops include a general session detailing the changes to school meals programs in recent years and three breakout sessions led by the SNT staff who will be involved in this year’s reviews. We hope staff who attend a workshop will feel more comfortable with the school meals regulations and what they can expect when the SNT staff perform a review.

Target Participants:Administrative and food service staff expecting an AR in SY 2016-17. A list of all SFAs due for an AR can be found online <http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/national-school-lunch-program/administrative-review>.

Registration for the Pre-Review Workshops will be handled online and the registration link can be found on our Upcoming Training webpage [http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training#up](http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training%23up). The SNT will be travelling to areas in Wisconsin where the majority of ARs are taking place. We will be in Osseo, Wisconsin on Tuesday, September 27, and Plymouth, Wisconsin on Wednesday, September 28, with both sessions occurring from 4-7 PM.

If you have questions regarding Pre-Review Workshops, please contact Molly Gregory at [molly.gregory@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:molly.gregory@dpi.wi.gov) or 608-267-9276.

**Additional Information**

**Training Request Form –** To better assess and meet the numerous requests for trainings from SFAs across Wisconsin, the SNT handles all requests for training via the Training Request Form. While attempts will be made to honor each request, it may not be possible to accommodate all that we receive. Training Request Forms should be submitted at least 6-8 weeks prior to the proposed date of training to allow time to review the request and to make necessary arrangements. Forms can be found at the top of this webpage: <http://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/training>.