

What's New with School Nutrition Questions and Answers March 10, 2015

Professional Standards

Q1: Do you have more specifics as to the training requirements needed under each category of the 4 hrs for staff? E.g. under nutrition.... Will our "Back to School" in-service day cover most of this need?

A1: For staff members working under 20 hours per week, 4 hours of training are required. For any staff working over 20 hours per week, 6 hours is required during school year 2015-16. Back to School in-service training can count towards your training requirement. Annual, job-specific training is the best way to ensure that school nutrition program personnel at all levels maintain and upgrade their skills to meet the needs of students, and to effectively implement Program requirements. The Final Rule calls for continuing training in the areas of 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 other topics, as determined by FNS.

Q2: Isn't the 6 hours phased in over the next year- this year would still be 4?

A2: The Final Rule phases in the required number of annual training hours for all school nutrition personnel (New and Current) at the SFA level in school year 2015-2016 with a minimum of:

- 8 hours for school nutrition program director
- 6 hours for school nutrition program manager
- 4 hours of school nutrition program staff.

However, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the annual training requirements increase to:

- 12 hours for school nutrition program director
- 10 hours for school nutrition program manager
- 6 hours of school nutrition program staff, and
- New and Current Part-time staff, working less than 20 hours per week, must receive at least 4 hours of annual continuing education/training (regardless of the number of part-time hours).

Q3: Does that include subs too, or just permanent employees?

A3: The State Agency (DPI) has the discretion to establish the requirement for annual training for acting personnel, temporary workers and volunteers. This decision will be communicated in a subsequent memo from DPI.

Q4: Is that school year for annually? Or calendar?

A4: The year technically starts on July 1st of the new School Year. The Professional Standards rule becomes effective on July 1, 2015, but training as far back as April 1, 2015 may apply to the annual training requirements for school year 2015-2016.

Community Eligibility Provision

Q1: CEP Question -must the DC run be on April 1 - this is during our district's spring break?

A1: You are able to run your direct certification the week before April 1st; but not after. For example, you can run your direct certification on March 27th.

Q2: We are on spring break over April 1. Could we run the Direct Cert for CEP on April 6th?

A2: No, you must run your Direct Certification before April 1st.