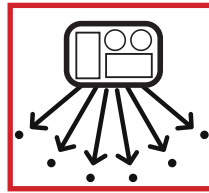
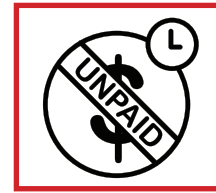


# School Nutrition Association 2020 Research Agenda

## 5 Research Priorities



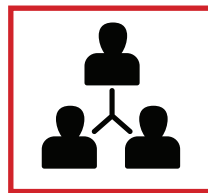
Meal  
Participation



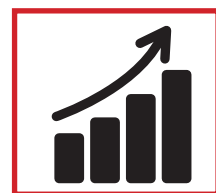
Unpaid  
Meals



Rural  
Districts



Mentorship & Staff  
Development



Value & Outcomes  
of School Nutrition  
Programs

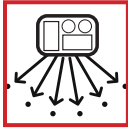




## Purpose:

The School Nutrition Association is a national, nonprofit professional organization representing more than 55,000 members who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to students across the country. SNA empowers and supports school nutrition professionals in advancing the accessibility, quality and integrity of school nutrition programs.

SNA outlines **5 research priority topics** for school nutrition research, identifying specific sub-topics and areas of focus, as well as recommended research strategies to strengthen the base of knowledge in each priority topic area.

Equal access for every student to nutritious meals at school, ensuring their optimal health and well-being is SNA's vision, and serves as a guiding principle of our research agenda. All of these topics may not be new to the field of school nutrition; however, each of them is of importance to school nutrition professionals and requires research to be better understood.

# School Nutrition Association – 2020 Research Agenda

AREA	FOCUS	STRATEGIES
	<b>Meal Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges, drivers</li> <li>Technology integration</li> <li>Marketing strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess pre-/post-impacts of USDA school meal flexibilities</li> <li>Analyze student satisfaction</li> <li>Assess impact of digital signage, apps, and other technologies on the SN landscape</li> <li>Describe effective marketing for different stakeholders</li> <li>Describe best practices related to seat time considering recess time before and after lunch periods, regional trends, and cafeteria/serving line layout and design</li> </ul>
	<b>Unpaid Meals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive evaluation of impact across multiple sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify differences in regions, demographics, state laws</li> <li>Detail stakeholder impacts</li> <li>Assess the impact of Universal Free Meals</li> <li>Describe best practices and strategies for overcoming unpaid meal debt</li> <li>Describe impact of charge policies and assess pre-/post-impact</li> </ul>
	<b>Rural Districts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive assessment and audit of characteristics defining rural districts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess impact of professional standards on recruitment/retention of qualified employees</li> <li>Describe oversight and management of meal programs including characteristics of those charged with day to day responsibilities</li> <li>Identify procurement challenges and best practices</li> </ul>
	<b>Mentorship &amp; Staff Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote school nutrition professionals as experts in the field</li> <li>Build a cadre of qualified personnel to lead the next generation of school nutrition professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess impact of professional standards on recruitment/retention of qualified employees</li> <li>Assess the current use of mentorship</li> <li>Describe perceived current education needs</li> </ul>
	<b>Value &amp; Outcomes of School Nutrition Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the impact of school meal participation on attendance, educational performance, behavioral outcomes, nurses visits, and dietary intake</li> <li>School meals vs. meals from home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze links between educational, behavioral, and attendance variables</li> <li>Analyze data assessing the impact of Universal Free Meals on attendance and educational performance</li> <li>Assess impact of competitive foods and delivery meals</li> </ul>