

USDA has sought the input of many school nutrition professionals throughout the process of developing the professional standards:

- ▶ State Agency Directors
- ▶ Local school nutrition directors
- ▶ Government agencies
- ▶ School Nutrition Association and other associations



Watch for the proposed rule

# Professional Standards for all School Nutrition Employees

## As a part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA), USDA is developing professional standards for all school nutrition employees.

Professional standards will:

- ▶ Enhance the image of school nutrition professionals
- ▶ Communicate clearly that individuals working in school nutrition meet national requirements.



## What are the requirements and who does it affect?

The HHFKA specifies the following:

- ▶ District directors will have minimum requirements for education, training and certification
- ▶ Managers and other staff will have annual training requirements (The specific details of the requirements for various categories of employees are still being determined.)
- ▶ State Agency Directors will have hiring and training requirements

## How will individuals achieve the new standards?

Many people working in school nutrition already complete annual training. For others, the requirements may be new.

There are a variety of ways child nutrition professionals will be able to achieve the training requirements, such as online courses, association meetings, and in-person training.

Numerous courses are free of charge.



## How can child nutrition professionals prepare?

- ▶ **Watch for the proposed rule, read it and submit your comments.**

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

- ▶ Start keeping track of any training you take. It will be helpful for you to have a record of your recent past training in order to prepare for any future requirements.