



## Nutrition & Research Committee Fact Sheet

### What is the Nutrition & Research Committee?

The Nutrition & Research Committee is one of the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) Strategic Committees and supports SNA's mission and vision by evaluating, interpreting, and formulating recommendations relative to initiatives and standards for school nutrition programs. In addition, the committee is responsible for identifying research opportunities, disseminating information on research activities, supporting the Journal of Child Nutrition & Management, and promoting research activities and professional development among members.

### What are the Committee Responsibilities?

- Identify, evaluate, and interpret nutrition and operational trends and developments impacting school nutrition programs in order to:
  - Inform and support advocacy positions for Public Policy & Legislative Committee.
  - Work with Public Policy & Legislative Committee in preparing official responses to USDA/FDA nutrition-related rules and regulations and submits to the Board of Directors for approval.
  - Articulate and translate evidence-based findings about school nutrition and related issues to SNA and practitioners.
  - Recommend applied research and nutrition topics needed to support school nutrition programs for which the School Nutrition Foundation can seek funding.
  - Assist in identifying appropriate nutrition and research related webinars and conference sessions for SNA to host in the coming year.
- Assist with nutrition and research-related grants being drafted by the School Nutrition Foundation by conceptualizing and drafting content and reviewing final documents.
- Advise and promote The Journal of Child Nutrition & Management.
- Identifies opportunities to advance careers in school nutrition on college campuses.
- Advise on relevant resources to include on SNA's website.
- Advise and assist the College Section Chair on SN Showcase and College Section meeting at ANC.

### How is the Committee's work planned each year?

- Every Committee is provided annual committee charge(s) based on the SNA Strategic Plan and the annual Plan of Action as well as other charges identified by the Board.
- The Committee receives the charges every year in mid- to late-September.



## How is the Committee organized?

The committee is led by an appointed chair who serves for a two-year term. Committee members represent nutrition & research expertise. Appointments are staggered and each appointment is a two-year term. The Committee is supported by a SNA staff liaison who works with the Chair and committee members.

## How often does the Committee meet?

SNA committees will hold a combination of in-person and virtual meetings depending on the workload of the committee. SNA Board policy requires committee members to attend all meetings. The Board has made the decision to not hold Fall Committee Days in person this year. Instead, all committees will meet virtually through the end of 2021. No decision has been made regarding whether in-person meetings will resume in 2022.

## Who pays committee member travel expenses?

Should in-person meetings resume, SNA would pay for all the travel, hotel, and meal expenses for operator committee members to attend the meetings. A travel policy will be provided if/when in-person meetings resume. SNA does not cover the airline and hotel costs for industry committee members to attend the in-person meetings. This is a common practice for professional associations.

## General SNA Committee/Council Member Position Description and Responsibilities

### Position Description:

Committee/Council members are appointed by the SNA President-elect, and report to the Committee/Council Chair regarding committee activities. Committee/Council members must actively participate in the work of the committee/council, provide thoughtful input to deliberations, focus on the best interest of SNA and the membership, and work toward the accomplishment of the goals outlined by the committee/council for the year.

### General Responsibilities:

- SNA Board policy requires committee/council members to attend all meetings.
  - The Committee/Council Chair and Staff Liaison must be notified by email if you cannot attend a meeting.
  - The SNA President has the discretion, working with the Chair and the Staff Liaison, to remove committee/council members from the Committee/Council for any reason, including non-attendance.
- Actively participate on the committee/council or work groups within the committee/council.
- Accepts and completes assignments as requested.
- Promotes volunteer involvement.
- Maintain an understanding of activities, discussions, and programs.
- Responds promptly to correspondence and information requests from the Chair, Staff Liaison, or other members within the committee/council.
- Represents SNA in other meetings, as requested.



- Maintain a current “in good standing” membership in SNA, as well as an active certificate or credential during the committee/council term. Only Industry members are not required to have an active certificate or credential.
- Inform the Chair and Staff Liaison if personal or professional circumstances prohibit the completion of the duties and responsibilities listed above.

### What, if any, SNA Policies to I have to adhere to as a Committee/Council member?

Please review the [Standards of Business Conduct/Conflict of Interest Policy](#) and requirements for committee members. If there are any questions, please contact the following SNA staff:

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