



National Conference & Exhibits Tout School Meal Solutions

SNA's Annual National Conference comes to Charlotte, July 12-14

ARLINGTON, VA – More than 6,000 school nutrition professionals from across the country will gather in Charlotte, NC, for School Nutrition Association's (SNA) Annual National Conference (ANC), July 12-14. ANC allows school menu planners to sample healthy menu options for their students, preview new equipment and products for kitchens and cafeterias and share best practices to overcome financial and operational challenges. The conference comes as school meal programs prepare for forthcoming federal rules to align [current school nutrition standards](#) with the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Media wishing to attend ANC must contact Diane Pratt-Heavner at media@schoolnutrition.org to register for the conference. Eligible media guests must follow the [Press Registration Policies](#).

ANC highlights include:

- **Largest exhibit hall in school nutrition** where attendees will taste test foods and beverages, preview equipment, supplies and technologies and discuss pricing and product availability with nearly 360 exhibitors. Sampling will include clean label, sous vide proteins for use in speed scratch recipes; whole grain breakfast options, made with less added sugar and no artificial dyes; and reduced sodium versions of student favorites.
- **More than 130 education sessions** on a variety of topics, from strategies for expanding scratch cooking with limited staff resources and managing tight budgets to boosting student consumption of fruits and vegetables and diversifying menus with culturally relevant dishes and allergen free alternatives.
 - Pre-conference sessions on July 11 include a tour of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) warehouse and chef-led school demo featuring NC Farm to School Program menu items.
- **Culinary Demonstrations** featuring innovative school recipes such as Korean BBQ Beef Dumplings and Creamy Tomatillo Dressing.

As attendees share ideas on increasing fresh school menu options, SNA's [SY 2025-26 School Nutrition Trends Survey](#) revealed widespread needs for increased funds, staffing, culinary training, equipment and infrastructure to help school meal programs expand scratch cooking and reduce reliance on ultra-processed foods. In the [2026 Position Paper](#), SNA urges Congress to increase school meal funding, protect and expand access to healthy school meals for all students and ensure updates to school nutrition standards are operationally feasible for schools.

About the School Nutrition Association:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 50,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. For more information about ANC, visit www.SchoolNutrition.org/ANC.