



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**TO:** Sponsors of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs

**FROM:** John Frassinelli, Chief  
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

**DATE:** March 17, 2015

**SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #16-15**  
Final Rule: Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs  
Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued the final rule, [Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#). This final rule outlines new national professional standards for all school nutrition employees who manage and operate the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. The new standards established by the final rule are a key provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). The rule requires a minimum amount of annual training hours for all new and current state directors of child nutrition programs, state distributing agency directors, school nutrition directors, managers, and staff. Required topic areas will vary according to position and job requirements. This rule becomes effective beginning **July 1, 2015**, with several built in flexibilities intended to facilitate the first year of implementation and address the challenges faced by smaller school districts.

In addition, new state directors of child nutrition programs and directors of distributing agencies along with new school nutrition program directors will have to meet hiring standards. In developing the final professional standards rule, the USDA considered input from a variety of sources, including representatives from state agencies, school districts, and school nutrition professional associations. As a result, the final rule establishes reasonable, minimum hiring standards for school nutrition directors based on district size.

Questions may be directed to:

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