

**Professional Standards: State-Recognized Certificate****NSLP 2016-01****July 2016**

The USDA established minimum professional standards requirements for school nutrition professionals who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The final rule created minimum hiring standards for new School Food Authority Directors based on the school district's size. One of these criteria is to have a State Recognized Certificate.

USDA minimum education standards for new School Nutrition Program Directors hired on or after July 1, 2015:

1. Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a specific area (food related); or
2. Any bachelor's degree and a state recognized school nutrition director certificate.

Kentucky Standards:

1. KRS 158.852 sets forth the requirements for a school food service director as someone that is:
  - a. Credentialed as a "school food service and nutrition specialist", or
  - b. Holds a Level 2 certificate issued by the American School Food Service Association (currently School Nutrition Association [SNA])
2. 702 KAR 6:020, Section 2
  - a. A person appointed as a school food service director or a person otherwise responsible for menu planning shall obtain the credentials required by KRS158.852(2) from the School Nutrition Association (SNA), which was formerly the American School Food Service Association.

In order to comply with federal rules, new hires after July 1, 2015, must possess a bachelor's degree (in food related or any other); and to comply with KRS, school nutrition directors will have to hold a Level 2 or "SNS" certificate (as this is a higher certificate level which includes Level 2).

---

Approved Date: 07-11-2016 Director's Signature: Deana J. Kett