# SCNP Memo #2023-2024-73


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: April 10, 2024

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Hiring Standards and Professional Development for School Nutrition Directors and the New Director's Academy

### The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school divisions of required hiring standards and professional development for new school nutrition program directors. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SCNP) require that all newly hired school nutrition program directors must meet minimum hiring standards and complete annual training requirements.

### Requirements for New School Nutrition Directors

### A newly hired school nutrition program director is defined as hired on or after July 1, 2023. School food authorities (SFAs) must complete and submit Attachment A to the VDOE-SCNP within 30 days of hiring a new director, along with documentation proving the director meets the minimum hiring standards. The local school nutrition program director is responsible for the operation of the school nutrition program, must be the contact for all VDOE-SCNP communications, and designated as the school nutrition program administrator in the SNPWeb system. The local ERA administrator should assign appropriate permissions in SSWS to grant SNPweb access. The VDOE-SCNP will monitor compliance with the professional standards as part of the administrative review process.

### Hiring Standards for New School Nutrition Directors

Hiring criteria depends on local education agency enrollment size. Demands and complexity of school nutrition programs increases as enrollment increases. Professional standards for directors, including education requirements and annual training requirements, can be found in the [USDA Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-professional-standards-school-nutrition-programs).

The new director must acquire food safety management certification within 30 days of their start date or have existing current certification.

### New Director's Academy

The *New Director's Academy: Introduction to School Nutrition Leadership* is required of all Virginia school nutrition program administrators (directors) to attend at the earliest offering of this course. It is designed for new directors, those aspiring to become directors, and staff responsible for school nutrition programs. Participants attending the Academy will receive 30.5 units of professional development. There is no charge for the course or materials.

The VDOE-SCNP will offer this training in-person at the VDOE on May 20-24, 2024, in Conference Room B located on the first floor of the James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

New this school year, the VDOE-SCNP is offering a mentoring program for all newly appointed school nutrition program administrators. This program will be covered at the New Director Academy in May.

**Action required**: Participants must register for the training by completing the [**online registration form**](https://virginiadoe.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5n4BFh20ru2tHo). Participants must attend all sessions in person to receive credit for the training.

### For more Information

Please direct any questions to the VDOE-SCNP Training, Program Improvement, and Grants Supervisor, Kelly Shomo, via email at Kelly.Shomo@doe.virginia.gov.

SCC/KNS/fd

### Attachments

1. Certification of New School Nutrition Program Director