

# USDA Professional Standards

## Summary of Hiring Requirements for Colorado School Nutrition Program Directors



The United States Department of Agriculture recently published the final rule *Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*. Effective July 1, 2015, **newly hired** School Nutrition Program Directors (individuals responsible for the operation of school nutrition for all schools under the education agency) are subject to the education requirements outlined below.

Minimum Requirements for Directors	Student Enrollment 2,499 or less	Student Enrollment 2,500 – 9,999	Student Enrollment 10,000 or more
<b>Minimum Education Standards (required) – new directors only</b>	Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business or related field; <b>OR</b> Associate’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or area of concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field <b>and</b> at least <b>1 year</b> of relevant school nutrition program experience; <b>OR</b> A high school diploma or equivalency (i.e. GED), <b>and</b> at least <b>3 years</b> of relevant school nutrition program experience.	Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business or related field; <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s degree in any academic major <b>and</b> at least <b>2 years</b> of relevant school nutrition programs experience <b>OR</b> Associate’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or area of concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field <b>and</b> at least <b>2 years</b> of relevant school nutrition program experience.	Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business or related field; <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s degree in any academic major <b>and</b> at least <b>5 years</b> of experience in management of school nutrition programs
<b>Minimum Prior Training Standards (required) – new directors only</b>	At least 8 hours of food safety training is required either not more than 5 years prior to their starting date or completed within 30 calendar days of the employee’s start date.		

### Where can I learn more?

#### Resource information

- CDE Office of School Nutrition: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition>
- USDA School Meals Programs: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/child-nutrition-programs>
- School Nutrition Association: <http://schoolnutrition.org/>