

LET'S CONNECT

**SCHOOL
NUTRITION
ASSOCIATION**

2026 NSNA SPRING NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow NSNA members, future members and **School Nutrition Hero's**. This year's theme, School Nutrition Hero's, solving nutrition one bite at a time, is para phasing what we do every day! I hope that your school year has been going smoothly with just a few more weeks until summer break is here. With thoughts of summer, NSNA conference comes to mind. Conference begins June 28 ending July 1, 2026.

Pre-con sessions will be offered again. ServSafe being offered Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, with a cost of \$160.00. Once again this year CashWa is offering a tour of it's facility Sunday afternoon from 1:30-3:00, free of charge. On Monday there will be a session on Bean - Tastic, a session that will be hands on about dried beans at Kearney High School, from 8am - 11am. This session will also be offered free of charge but is limited to 25 people.

I also wanted to let you know that we did take note of suggestions from last years conference. The first timers meeting will be held on Monday before opening ceremonies, from 10:45-11:15. Dinners on Tuesday and Wednesday will begin at 6:30 rather than 7 as in previous years. And while we are talking about meals the conference will no longer be offering breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and the first session of the day will begin at 8 am on Tuesday and Wednesday. You will also find that most sessions are repeated so that you will have the opportunity to attend them all and not have to choose which to attend. There has also been added a session on Tuesday when all of the commodity sessions are going on so that those that do not do the ordering have an option.

We have two main speakers coming to do opening and closing sessions. They are Jarrett J Krosoczka and Jeff Joiner in that order. I think that the conference will be great, but we get out of it what we put into it. I hope that you will all come to conference, a time to learn, meet up with friends and to build new friendships. Conference can also be a time to spread your wings, become the Hero that you are meant to be! Think of taking a position on the board, running for office or assisting on a committee, we are always looking!

See you at conference
Johnny Ahlers



BE THE HERO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE!!!

AT CONFERENCE

**2026 NSNA CONFERENCE IN KEARNEY, NE
JUNE 28TH - JULY 1ST**



JARRETT J. KROSOCZKA Monday, June 29th

Jarrett J. Krosoczka is a renowned New York Times bestselling author and illustrator of over 40 books for young readers, known for *Hey, Kiddo* (a National Book Award finalist) and the *Lunch Lady* series. His work often blends humor, heart, and personal experiences, including his upbringing by his grandparents in Worcester, MA. He is also a TED speaker and advocate for children's arts education.

JEFF JOINER Wednesday, July 1st

Child Nutrition professionals are the superheroes of the school district! In this fun seminar, Child Nutrition speaker and consultant Jeff Joiner covers characteristics of superheroes and how you can fight the forces of evil and save the day in your community! Attendees will learn how to work as a team, handle negativity, and make an **AMAZING** difference in the lives of children!



67th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE NEBRASKA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

“School Nutrition Hero’s (one bite at a time)”

Sunday, June 28, 2026

10:30a – 5:00p

Registration

1:00p – 5:00p

Stateroom F

ServSafe Certification

Cindy Brison - Extension Educator, UNL Extension

Consumer concerns about food safety are at an all-time high. The SERV Safe course provides up-to-date information on food microbiology, sanitary food handling and storage, personal health and hygiene, housekeeping, and the HACCP food safety program and pest control.

1:30p-3:00p

Cash-Wa Facility

Pre-Con Session Cash-Wa Tour-Southeast Door (401 West 4th Street)

Attendees need to wear closed-toed shoes & we suggest that they bring a jacket as we will be touring the cooler/freezer and the dry warehouse.

6:30p – 9:00p

Loper South

President’s Dinner

Sponsored by Cash-Wa

Cash Bar Available

*** Benefactor Program ***

Have you ever wanted to attend the Nebraska School Nutrition Association State conference, or perhaps a continuing education class such as ServSafe but couldn’t because of the cost? Or maybe you would like to attend ANC in Charlotte, NC this summer. The Nebraska School Nutrition Association offers scholarship assistance to two lucky members who wish to complete one of the above or perhaps another conference offered with our School Nutrition Association. Because of the Benefactor Program we are able to offer such scholarships through donations from our own members. Donations will be accepted at our state conference and can be made in any amount from \$1 to \$50+. Your donations can be dropped off at the Benefactor Table located in the conference registration area. Scholarship applications will also be available at this time. Please consider helping fellow association members who may not be able to achieve their goals if not for your generosity.

Thank you for your past donations and all future donations, they are greatly appreciated!! By working together, we can make NSNA stronger!!

Monday, June 29, 2026

7:00a – 5:00p

Registration

Pre-Function Area

8:00-11:00

Kearney High
Off site

Pre-Con Session-Bean-Tastic

Attendees will get their hands dirty (in the best way!) as they explore new tools, resources, and mouth-watering recipes featuring the mighty bean! The workshop will leave participants with a full belly and a head full of ideas to bring these recipes and resources back to their school cafeteria and classrooms

7:00a – 11:00a

Stateroom F

SERV Safe Certification Continues

Cindy Brison - Extension Educator, UNL Extension

Consumer concerns about foodsafety are at an all-time high. The SERV Safe course provides up-to-date information on food microbiology, sanitary food handling and storage, personal health and hygiene, housekeeping, and the HACCP foodsafety program and pest control

10:45-11:15

1st timers Meeting with Tara and Charleen

Learn the ins and outs of the state conference as they answer your questions

11:30a – 12:30p

Ballroom I & II

Opening Session

- **Flag Presentation**
- **Thought For the Day - Tara Brooking NSNA Vice President**
- **Welcome to State Conference-Johnny Ahlers NSNA President**
- **Presentation by Eric Savaiano Nebraska Appleseed**
- **Lunch**

12:30p – 1:30p

Ballroom I & II

1st General Session: Jarrett Krosoczka

Jarrett J. Krosoczka is an award-winning New York Times bestselling author and Illustrator of more than forty books for young readers, including the graphic Memoir Hey, Kiddo, a finalist for the National Book Award, and its follow-up Sunshine. He also created wildly popular Lunch Lady graphic novels and has written for Spider-Man, Star Wars, and Snoopy. Realizing his books can inspire young readers beyond the page, Krosoczka founded the School Lunch Hero Day campaign and established a scholarship to fund art classes for underprivileged children in his hometown. Krosoczka and his family live in western Massachusetts.

1:45p – 2:45p

Stateroom B

Kayte Partch NDE

Topic of choice

Stateroom C

NDE Beth Haas HACCP Trivia

Test your knowledge of HACCP, How much do you really know??

1:45 - 2:45
Stateroom E & F

Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Lunch Lady Hero Author

3:00p – 4:00p
Stateroom B

NDE Beth Haas HACCP Trivia
Test your knowledge of HACCP. How much do you really know???

Stateroom C

NDE Possible session on Sodium and how to calculate

Stateroom E

Matt Murren, Teacher at Cedar Bluffs; The Power of Positivity
In this session you will learn about the importance of positivity in the workplace and positivity in your life. Making small changes in your mentality will reap big rewards in your life and workplace.

4:15p – 5:15p
Stateroom B

NDE Kayte Partch
Topic of choice

Stateroom C

NDE possible session on Sodium and how to calculate

Stateroom E

Matt Murren, Teacher at Cedar Bluffs; The Power of Positivity
In this session you will learn about the importance of positivity in the workplace and positivity in your life. Making small changes in your mentality will reap big rewards in your life and workplace.

6:00p –6:30p
Ballroom I &II

Social Hour
CashBarAvailable 6:30 - 9:00

6:30p – 7:30p
Ballroom I &II

Dinner: Grand Buffet

7:30p – 8:30p
Ballroom I &II

Entertainment: Music Bingo

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

6:00a –7:00a	Early Morning Walk with Kayte Partch See you in the front lobby at 6:00 sharp!
7:00a –1:00p	Registration Pre-Function Area
6:30a – 7:45a Stateroom B	Board Meeting (All Board members) John Ahlers – NSNA President
8:00a –9:00a Stateroom C	<u>NOI Commodity Questions</u> US Foods-Eric Sweeney What is NOI? What is PTV? What is a Single Bank and how does it work? Who funds the single banks? How do you use those funds? What happens when the bank is empty? How do I keep track of a single bank for funding? What products qualify as NOI? Where do I find a listing of those products (which will also be covered in the ordering class). How do I know what discounts I have received on my order? Where can I spend my entitlement dollars? Can I “overspend” my entitlement dollars?
Stateroom E	<u>US Foods Online/US Foods Moxe App for the Seasoned User</u> US Foods -Erin Makshantsev We will take a deeper look at some of the features of the US Foods ordering that you didn’t know about! We will also look at the Moxe App for your phone that makes life a little easier right at your fingertips! There are many features that are added monthly that you didn’t know about!
Stateroom F	<u>Brown Box Commodity Questions</u> Brian Gerkenmeyer Learn about ordering your commodity items at this session and come with your questions. Bring your computer if you would like, for hands-on assistance.
Stateroom D	<u>NDE Ali Lampman Measuring & Knife Skills in School Nutrition</u> This session focuses on practical techniques that improve consistency, safety, and compliance in school kitchens. Topics included- Proper measuring: volume vs weight in school recipes; Portion accuracy and standardized recipes; Knife safety and consistent cutting techniques; Reducing waste and improving efficiency.

9:15a – 10:00a
Stateroom C

NOI Commodity Questions

US Foods-Eric Sweeney

What is NOI? What is PTV? What is a Single Bank and how does it work? Who funds the single banks? How do you use those funds? What happens when the bank is empty? How do I keep track of a single bank for funding? What products qualify as NOI? Where do I find a listing of those products(which will also be covered in the ordering class). How do I know what discounts I have received on my order? Where can I spend my entitlement dollars? Can I “overspend” my entitlement dollars?

Stateroom E

US Foods Basics for Beginners

UsFoods-Erin Makshantsev

We will go over the basics of US Foods online platform and how to navigate through placing an order, finding invoices, requesting credits, etc. If you are new to US Foods or interested in using NOI dollars through US Foods, please come ready with questions!

Stateroom F

Brown Box Commodity Questions

Brian Gerkenmeyer

Learn about ordering your commodity items at this session and come with your questions. Bring your computer if you would like to as well for hands-on assistance..

Stateroom D

NDE Ali Lampman Measuring & Knife skills in School Nutrition

This session focuses on practical techniques that improve consistency, safety, and compliance in school kitchens. Topics included- Proper measuring: volume vs weight in school recipes; Portion accuracy and standardized recipes; Knife safety and consistent cutting techniques; Reducing waste and improving efficiency.

10:00a – 1:00p

Vendor Food Show at the Younes South Center

Doors Will Not Open Before 10:00!!!! Donations will be going to a Homeless Shelter this year, please be respectful when taking samples. Vendors that process commodities will be identified at their booths.

1:30p – 2:30p
Ballroom I & II

2nd General Session: NDE Updates and regulations

Kayte Partch: Director, Child Nutrition Programs, NDE

Learn about the new updates for the new school year.

2:45p-3:45p
Stateroom B

NDE Farm to Schools
More information to come

Stateroom C

NSNA Sharing & Idea Group for New Ideas in School Menu
NDE Shawn Vondracek RD, & John Ahlers, NSNA President
Share your favorite recipes with your fellow members and discuss your favorite food ideas. Even come with your questions which you need answered.

Stateroom E

NDE Beth Haas, Communicating with the School Community
Effective communication is one of the most powerful tools in school nutrition programs. This session explores practical, high-impact strategies to build trust, increase participation, and create a welcoming dining experience for students and families. SFS Directors will learn how to communicate clearly, consistently, and creatively with their entire school community-from parents and students to teachers and administrators.

Stateroom F

Brock Kaupp; Understanding the Webpage - it is User Friendly!
We have a new website, have you seen it? It was updated recently to help move NSNA into the modern world of technology. If you are wondering “What does it do for me?” This session will be the one to come to as Brock will show you how to use it to help you run a better day. He will cover how to ask questions that other people can answer, share recipes, update your information if you move and other things that you might have questions about the website. Come with your questions and curiosity ready to go.

4:00p – 4:45p

District Meetings
District 1-----Stateroom B
District 2-----Stateroom C
District 3-----Stateroom E
District 4-----Stateroom F
District 5-----Executive Room, 2nd Floor
District 6/8-----Conference Room 173

5:00p – 5:30p
Stateroom C

House of Delegates
John Ahlers, NSNA President
Annual Meeting of the Nebraska School Nutrition Association Learn what’s going on with YOUR association. All conference attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend.

6:00p – 6:30p
Ballroom I & II

Social Hour
(Cash Bar Available 6:30 – 9:00)

6:30p – 8:30p
Ballroom I & II

***Dinner Banquet: followed with Art Contest Winner Awards
Installation of 2026-27 Officers***

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

6:30a – 8:00a
Stateroom E

Executive Board Meeting
Tara Brooking, NSNA President

8:00a - 9:00a
Ballroom I & II

4th General Session: Jeff Joiner Be a School Nutrition Superhero!
Child Nutrition professionals are the superheroes of the school district! In this fun seminar, Child Nutrition speaker and consultant Jeff Joiner covers characteristics of superheroes and how you can fight the forces of evil and save the day in your community! Attendees will learn how to work as a team, handle negativity and make an AMAZING difference in the lives of children!

9:15a - 10:00a
Stateroom B

Jeff Joiner, I think I'm Allergic to Nuts! Learning to Work Productively With the people Who Drive You Crazy
Do you ever find yourself working with difficult people? In this powerful and funny session, attendees will learn how to develop productive relationships with the most challenging types of personalities in the workplace. The seminar includes training on why people behave the way they do, and how you can work with them more effectively.

Stateroom C

Legislation...for School Nutrition Karee Nielsen
Learn how to reach out to your local and federal lawmakers and how to get them involved in your community/school.

Stateroom F

NDE Beth Haas; Communicating with the School Community
Effective communication is one of the most powerful tools in school nutrition programs. This session explores practical, high-impact strategies to build trust, increase participation, and create a welcoming dining experience for students and families. SFS Directors will learn how to communicate clearly, consistently, and creatively with their entire school community—from parents and students to teachers and administrators.

10:15a – 11:00a
Ballroom I & II

Leadership Roundtable
Come and learn what leadership is all about. Are you leadership material? We are looking for YOU - **the new leaders of tomorrow!**

Stateroom B

1st Timers Digesting All This Information
If you are a first-time attendee, come tell us what you thought of conference. Give us some tips on what we could change. Do you have more questions for us? Your feedback is wanted.

Stateroom E

Jeff Joiner, I think I'm Allergic to Nuts! Learning to Work Productively With the people Who Drive You Crazy Do you ever find yourself working with difficult people? In this powerful and funny session, attendees will learn how to develop productive relationships with the most challenging types of personalities in the workplace. The seminar includes training on why people behave the way they do, and how you can work with them more effectively.

11:15a -1:00p
Ballroom I & II

Closing Session

Lunch

Thought for the Day – Charlene Henry Vice President

President’s Message - Tara Brooking NSNA President

Free Conference Registration Drawing

Benefactor Program – Charlene Henry

Introduction of 2025-2026 Executive Board

Invitation to SNA Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC July 11-15, 2026

Goods & Gifts

Retiring of Flags -Past NSNA Presidents

Adjourn

Important Dates to Remember: NSNA

Commodity Show Food Show

October 8th, 2026 Holiday Inn Kearney

NSNA Annual Conferences: Holiday Inn Kearney NE

Kearney, NE June 27-30th 2027

Kearney, NE June 25-28th 2028

Kearney, NE June 24-27th 2029

SNA National Conference Location and Dates

Charlotte, NC July 12-14th, 2026

Phoenix, AZ July 11-13th, 2027

Nashville, TN July 9-11th, 2028

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

Conference Meals			
<i>(Please mark all the meals you will be attending. (Lunch and Dinner are in the price of registration) Please attend all the meals you sign up for.</i>			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Breakfast	Breakfast on your own	Breakfast on your own	Breakfast on your own
Lunch	•	N/A Vendor Show	•
Dinner	•	•	N/A

Extra Meals (Fill out if you are bringing a guest)			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Breakfast	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lunch \$35	•	N/A	•
Dinner \$45	•	•	N/A

Looking forward to seeing you at Conference

Any questions please feel free to reach out to: Mary Pat Vacek execdirectornsna@gmail.com

Superhero Sponsors

PLATINUM

Conagra Midwest Restaurant Supply CWD General Mills
 Tasty Brand Creative Hospitality Solutions
 Cool Tropics Peterson Farms National Food Group Rich's
 Nardones Bros. Pizza Red Gold Sysco

GOLD

Burlis-Lawson Los Cabo's ES Foods J&J Snacks
 Wild Mike's Domino's Pizza J.T.M. Foods Group
 McCain Kain McArthur Schwan's Pizza Pepsico
 Accu Temp Tyson Midweek Professional Reps
 Foster Farms US Foods





JOIN US FOR THIS FREE "BEAN-TASTIC" NSNA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP!

WHEN & WHERE:

June 29th from 8:00 to 11:00 AM CT
Kearney High School
2702 West 11th St. Kearney, NE 68845

WHAT:

Attendees will get their hands dirty (in the best way!) as they explore new tools, resources, and *mouth-watering recipes* featuring the mighty bean! The workshop will leave participants with a full belly and a head full of ideas to bring these recipes and resources back to their school cafeteria and classrooms.

WHY:

Farm to School efforts enrich the connections that staff and students have to fresh, healthy food by changing food purchasing and practices in education settings. Beanstock aims to encourage students, teachers, and school nutrition professionals to expand their knowledge of beans and other plant-based proteins, and increase their use in the cafeteria, classroom, and home kitchen.

Connecting Ag & Nutrition: Among all the things to love about beans – they're delicious, affordable, and packed with protein. They're also important to the state's economy. Nebraska is one of the top producers of beans in the country!

Register today to learn more about bean cookery, nutrition, & agriculture.

REGISTER HERE

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 25 SPOTS!

(3 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS HOURS FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS)

Questions? Contact Emily Hulse at emily.hulse@nebraska.gov

Proudly Supported by:



This project was partially funded using U.S. Department of Agriculture grant funds.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





NATIONAL AND STATE NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Member ID _____

- ① Have you ever been a SNA member? Yes No
- ② First Name _____ Last Name _____
- ③ Email _____ Job Title _____
- ④ School District _____ ⑤ School Name _____ ⑥ Chapter No. _____
- ⑦ Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____
- ⑧ Work Mailing Address (Please indicate preferred mailing address Work Home)
- Address _____ Suite _____
- City _____ State _____ Zip _____
- ⑨ Home Mailing Address
- Address _____ Suite/Apt _____
- City _____ State _____ Zip _____
- ⑩ Who referred you to SNA? First Name _____ Last Name _____ (Optional) Member ID: _____
- ⑪ Membership Category (Check either individual membership or school district/state agency membership (SDM). See back for description)

National Dues

Member Categories	Individual Membership	School District/State Agency Membership
SN Employee	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>
Student	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Retired	\$40 <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
SN Manager	\$42 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$42 <input type="checkbox"/>
District Director/Supv/Spec	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>
Major City Director/Supv/Spec	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>
State Agency Director and Staff	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrition Educator	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>
Other	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$143 <input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliate Employee	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Affiliate Retired	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

- ⑫ Employed by? Public School Private Management Company
 Private School CACFP
- ⑬ Does your employer pay your dues? Yes No
- ⑭ Are you responsible for school nutrition operations in your school district? Yes No

National, State Dues and Processing Fee are required.

⑮ NATIONAL DUES	\$	_____	.	_____
⑯ STATE DUES*	\$	_____	.	_____
⑰ PROCESSING FEE	\$	_____	.	3 0 0
⑱ TOTAL DUES	\$	_____	.	_____
⑲ Tax-deductible contribution to SN Foundation	\$	_____	.	_____
		___\$10 ___\$25 ___\$50 ___Other		
⑳ TOTAL PAYMENT	\$	_____	.	_____

⑩ Your STATE DUES are: (Record state dues in the space provided on right) * Select one.

⑲ Tax-deductible contribution to SN Foundation

⑳ For credit card payment, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org

㉑ Individual Membership Signature _____ Date _____

For SDM multiple applicants, you may use a spreadsheet found at www.schoolnutrition.org/sdm.

See reverse side for important information.

Dues subject to change.

㉒ FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP (SDM) ONLY

SDM Main Contact Name _____

(Optional) SDM Main Contact Member ID _____

Email _____

Business Phone Number _____

Return this form with your check or money order made payable to SNA.
Mail application to SNA Depository PO Box 719297, Philadelphia, PA 19171-9297

SNA National and State Membership Application Guidelines

Membership Application for Individual and School District Memberships.

Instructions for completing the front of this application:

1. Please indicate if you have ever been a SNA member.
2. Print your full name as you would like it to appear in your membership record and on your membership card.
3. Print your email address and job title. **All SNA members automatically receive e-mailed information related to the organization.**
4. Print your current school district.
5. Print your current school name.
6. If you know your local chapter number, please fill in.
7. Print your work and home phone number.
8. Print your work mailing address.
9. Print your home mailing address.
10. Print full name of member referrer who introduced you to SNA (only needed for new members). This will give the person credits for Star Club and annual membership campaign drives. Optional: Include referrer's SNA member ID.
11. Please review the membership categories listed. Check one that best describes your position. School District/State Agency Membership (SDM) is a membership managed or coordinated by the school district/state agency and can be transferred to another individual in the same membership category. Please check with your district to see if you are eligible for SDM.
12. Please check if you are employed by public school, private school, or private management company.
13. Please indicate if your employer pays your dues.
14. Please indicate if you are responsible for school nutrition operations in your school district.
15. Record your national dues based on membership category checked.
16. Record your state dues based on the dues listed on left side of application under "Your state dues are:"
17. All applications must include the processing fee.
18. Please add national, state dues and processing fee amounts. This is the total dues amount to be paid. Applications with incorrect total amount will be returned resulting in a delay of member benefits.
19. Record your optional contribution to the School Nutrition Foundation. The School Nutrition Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. Your contribution of \$10 or more will be acknowledged by the School Nutrition Foundation.
20. Add national dues, state dues, processing fee and any optional contributions. This is the total payment.
21. If paying by credit card, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org.
22. This box must be completed for SDM applicants.
23. Please sign and date your completed application. Required for individual membership only. Mail your application and payment to SNA, SNA Depository PO Box 719297, Philadelphia, PA 19171-9297

Membership dues cover a full year of member benefits. Processing of application takes approximately two to four weeks from receipt of payment.

Once application is processed, new members will be able to access and print their membership card by logging in at www.schoolnutrition.org

Dues Category	Membership Category	Description	Individual Membership	School District/State Agency Membership
SNE	School Nutrition Employee	Cooks, chefs, bakers, bookkeepers, technicians, assistants, etc.	\$40	\$40
STU	Student	Full-time students enrolled in post-secondary nutrition, health or other food related program. Does not include right to vote.	\$40	N/A
RET	Retired	Retired Members.	\$40	N/A
SNM	School Nutrition Manager	Managers, head cooks, head chefs, assistant managers.	\$42	\$42
DDS	School Nutrition Director, Supervisors, Specialist, Executive Chefs	Working in a school nutrition program at the school district level.	\$143	\$143
MCD	School Nutrition Director, Supervisor, Specialist (Major City)	Working in a school nutrition program where the school district enrollment is 40,000 or more or city population is 200,000 or more.	\$143	\$143
SDS	State Agency Director, Supervisor, Specialist	Working in state office for child nutrition programs, including nutrition education.	\$143	\$143
EDU	School Nutrition Educator	Faculty working in a college/university setting.	\$143	\$143
OTH	Other	Principals, Superintendents, Teachers, etc. Does not include right to vote.	\$143	\$143
AFE	Affiliate Part-Time Staff (less than 4 hours daily)	Optional membership category for retired or part-time school nutrition staff. Does not include a subscription to SN magazine or the right to vote in the annual SNA election.	\$20	N/A
AFR	Affiliate Retired		\$20	N/A

Note: Contributions or gifts to SNA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to the Foundation are deductible for IRS purposes. \$2.00 of your national dues is used for your subscription to the SN magazine.

School Nutrition Association * 2900 S Quincy Street, Suite 700 * Arlington, VA 22206
Phone: 800-877-8822 * Web site: www.schoolnutrition.org * E-mail: membership@schoolnutrition.org

SNA MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Enhance and further your career through SNA Certification and Credentialing
- Network with industry peers, share information and discover best practices to apply in your programs at SNA conferences and through the Online Communities
- Increase your wealth of knowledge with professional development materials and up-to-date industry news
- Access to member only information at state and national level
- Receive a subscription to SNA's award-winning publication *School Nutrition* magazine
- Take advantage of scholarship and grant opportunities
- Enjoy a variety of members-only discounts on products and programs, including Emporium purchases, conference registrations, latest research findings, SNA Certification and insurance plans
- Access members-only information on the SNA website including additional news and talking points, Online Communities, archives of *School Foodservice & Nutrition*, *Tuesday Morning* and several "Tools You Can Use" such as the Promotional Calendar

BENEFACTOR PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to attend the Nebraska School Nutrition Association State Conference or perhaps a continuing education class but affordability is a problem? You will be glad to know there are scholarship funds available for you through our benefactor program. For several years, the NSNA benefactor program has been raising funds to provide scholarships to NSNA members for conference registration and other educational funding. At the NSNA 2025 State Conference, approximately \$660 was raised towards the Benefactor Program. Contact Tara Brooking if you are interested in receiving a scholarship application. All applications must be approved by the Executive Board before money can be awarded.

Donations range from \$10 - \$50+. You can contact Tara Brooking at: tbrooking@gpsne.org for more information. Donations from members such as you and I help our members achieve their educational dreams.

Tara Brooking – President-Elect & Benefactor Chair

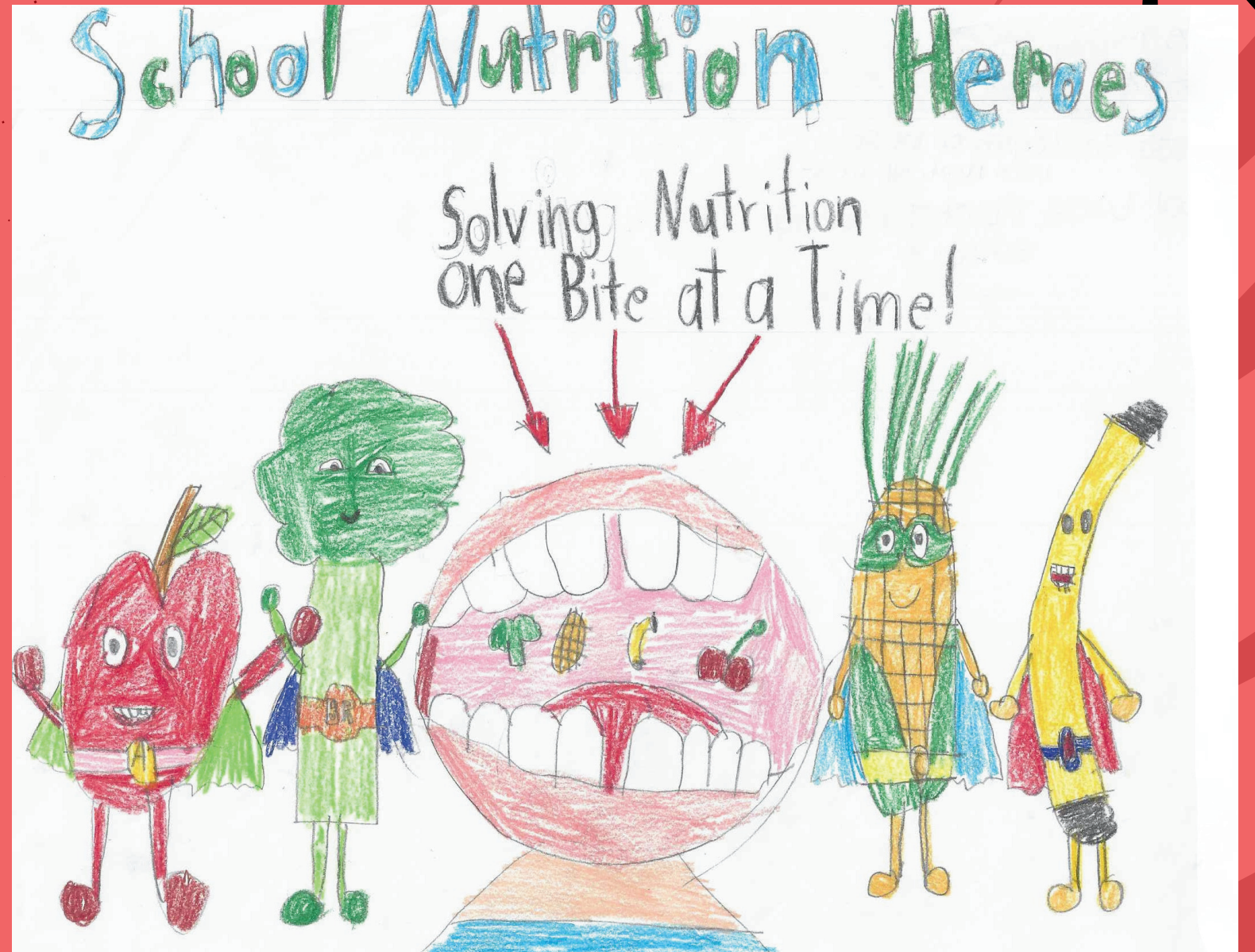
SCHOOL NUTRITION HEROES

SOLVING NUTRITION - ONE BITE AT A TIME



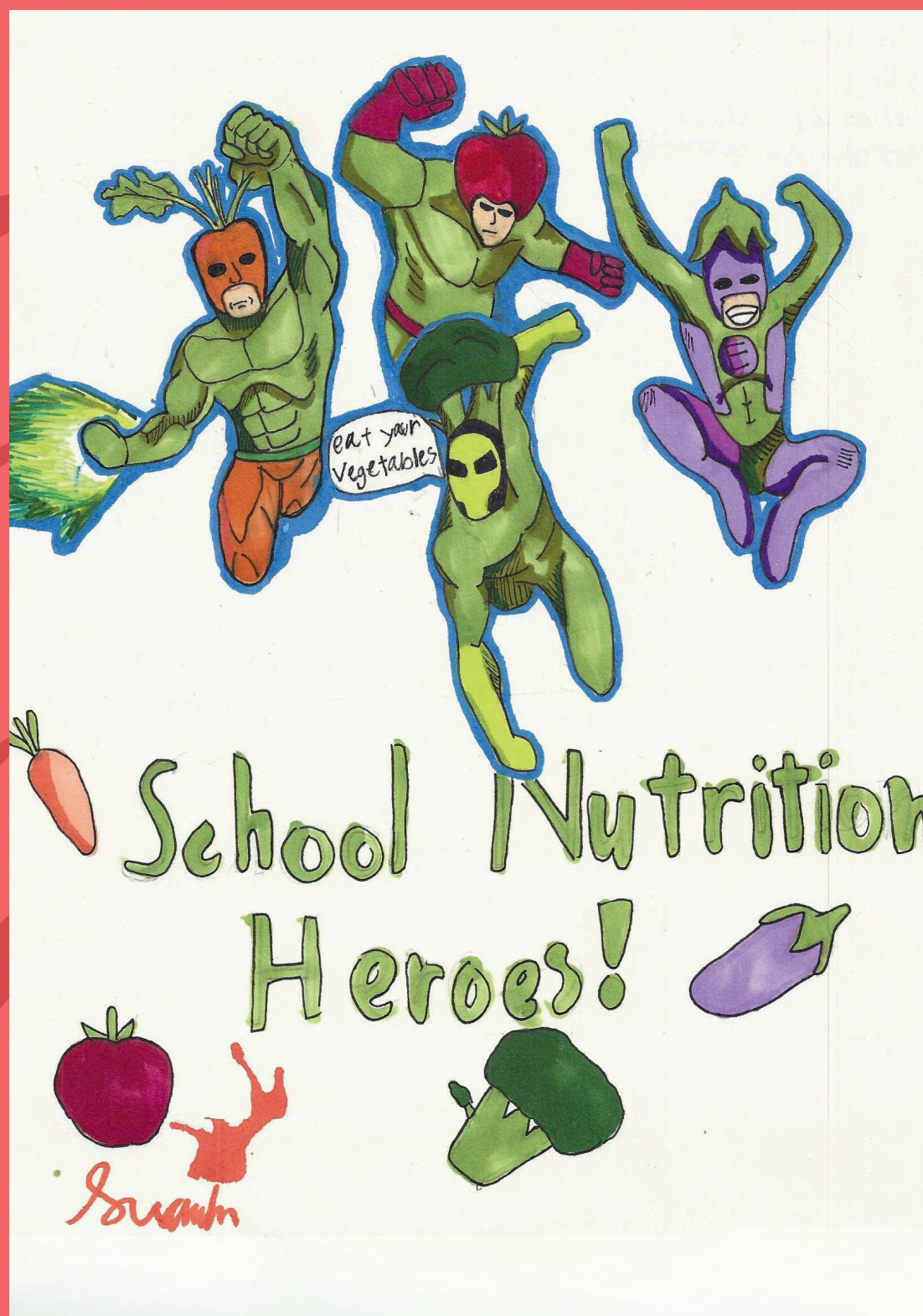
LEAH BARNES

1st Grade - Johnson County Central



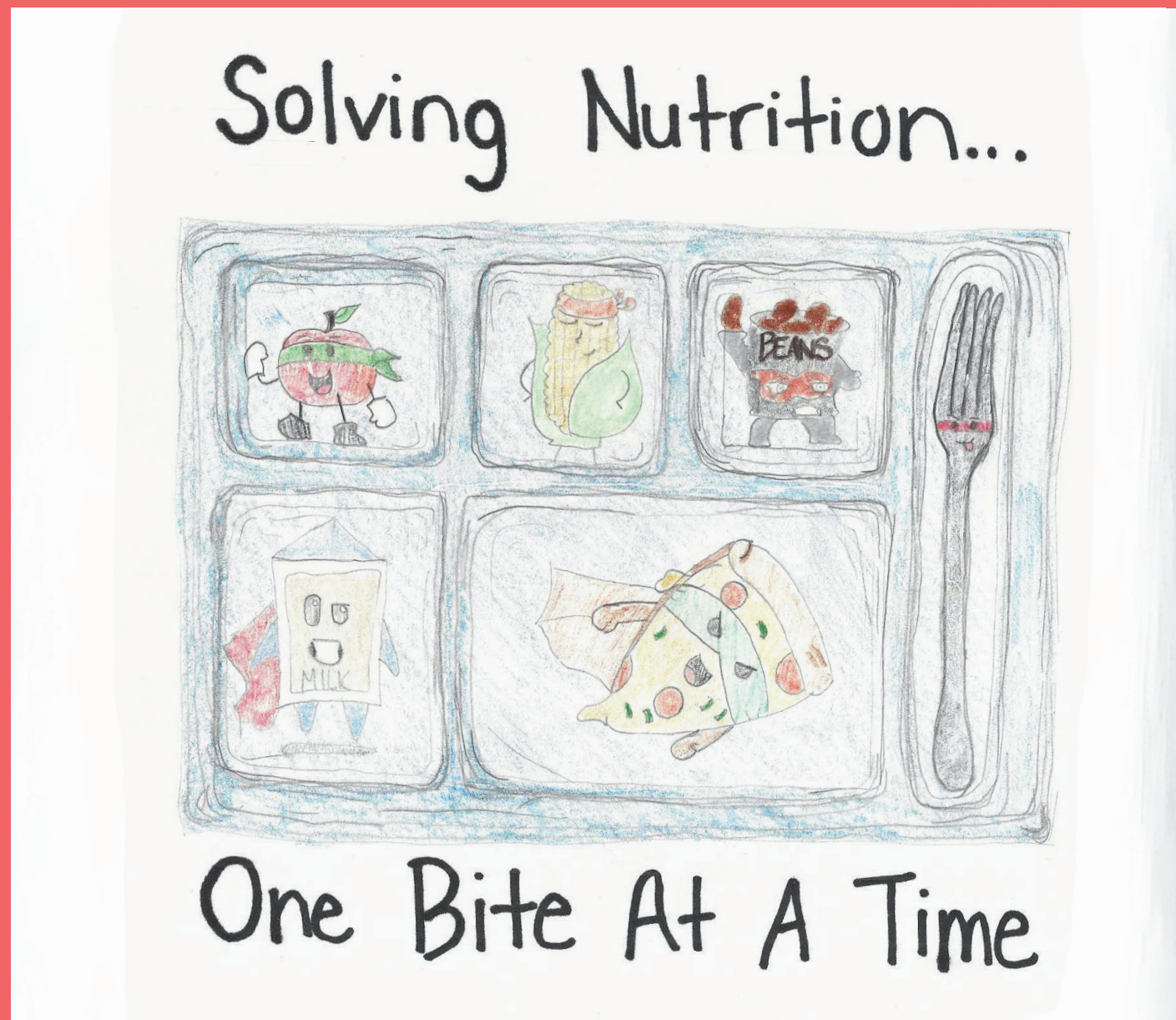
MIGUEL PEREZ

2nd Grade - West Point Elementary



GRACIN MAYNARD

6th Grade - Sutton Public School



KAILYNN MILLER

10th Grade - Walthill Public School

ART CONTEST WINNERS

CHILD NUTRITION TRAINING ACADEMY

The 2026 Child Nutrition Training Academy will be held June 8-12, 2026.

Mission: To provide training for school nutrition professionals to build accountable, healthy school nutrition environments that promote students' nutritional well-being and academic achievement. For 57 years, the Nebraska Department of Education and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln have delivered quality educational experiences for school nutrition professionals. This tradition continues to address professional standards and education requirements through the Child Nutrition Training Academy.

The Training Academy is designed to fit the needs of new and experienced school nutrition professionals and provides a learning environment that strengthens professionalism, builds confidence, inspires critical thinking, and cultivates creativity through experiential learning. Your district will benefit from a better

understanding of program regulations to ensure integrity. Attendees will create S.M.A.R.T. goals to encourage accountability for changes they would like to implement in their food service operation. CNTA is recommended for school food service personnel, including directors, managers, and staff. Participants must be at least 19 years of age to attend the Child Nutrition Training Academy.

Year 1

Topics include basic culinary math, Buy American Provision, financial management, food allergies, personnel management and a culinary experience.

Provides professional development hours.

Coursework eligible for Level 2 School Nutrition Association (SNA) Certification*

Year 2

Topics include menu development, team building and communication, job descriptions and interviews, food defense, and culinary experience.

Provides professional development hours.

Coursework eligible for Level 3 or 4 SNA Certification *

Registration email will be sent February 27, 2026

Please contact Beth Haas at 402-417-3324 or

beth.haas@nebraska.gov for the 2026 registration



USDA'S LOCAL FOOD FOR SCHOOLS

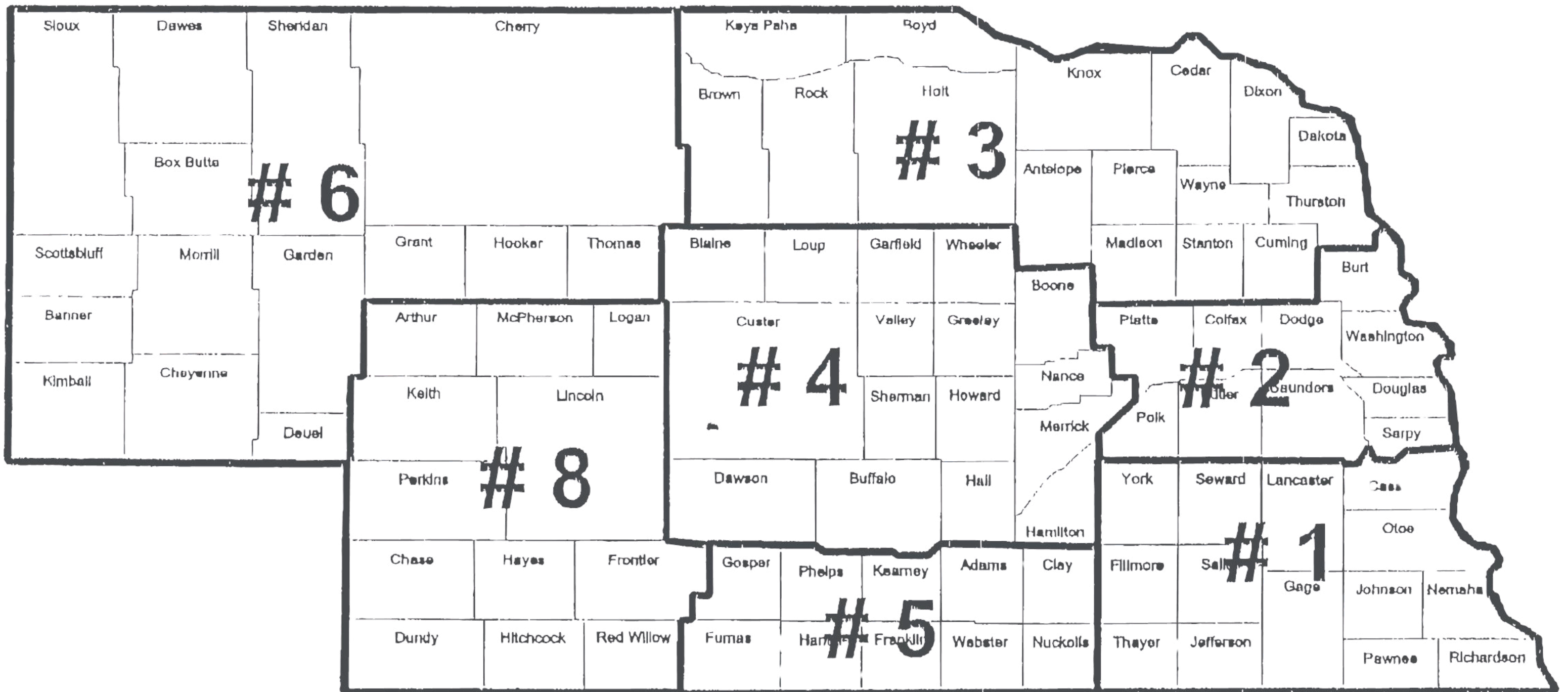
The USDA's Local Food for Schools (LFS) program has officially concluded, and Nebraska schools made strong use of this unique opportunity to bring more local foods into their meal programs. In total, the LFS program awarded \$1,281,367.99 for eligible local food purchases across the state. Two hundred schools participated, supporting Nebraska producers while enriching school meals with high-quality, locally sourced products. The most commonly purchased items were milk, beef, and tomatoes, reflecting both student preferences and the strength of Nebraska's agricultural community. Thank you to all schools and partners who helped make this program a success.

Planning is underway for the 2026 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Previous sponsors will receive an intent survey at the end of February to share their plans for participating this summer. If your organization did not participate last year but is interested in joining SFSP in 2026, please contact jessica.furmanski@nebraska.gov for more information. SFSP training will be offered in April, and the application for participation is due the first Friday in May. We look forward to supporting sponsors in providing nutritious meals to children across Nebraska this summer.

Schools are encouraged to consider applying for the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the upcoming school year. Elementary school buildings are eligible, and the program is designed to help students develop healthy eating habits by providing a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day. The FFVP application will be released this spring and emailed directly to all School Nutrition Program contacts. Once available, it will also be posted on our website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/ns/nslp/fresh-fruit-and-vegetable-program/>.

UPCOMING DISTRICT SPRING MEETINGS



District 1 & 2 - Saturday, March 28th - Reg @ 8:30am Start @ 9am
Sysco, 900 Kingbird Road, Lincoln, NE 68521

District 3 - Saturday, April 18th @ Walthill Public School
602 Main Street, Walthill Reg @ 8:30am

District 4 - Saturday, March 7th - Reg @ 8am
Sunrise Middle School, 4611 N Avenue, Kearney

District 5 & 6/8 - Saturday, March 28th - 8am
Silver Lake Elementary, 615 Webster Street
Bladen, NE
Brian from Commodities will be attending

Be on the look out for your invitation to your District Meeting. If you don't receive your invitation please reach out to your District President.

NEBRASKA SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION 100% MEMBERSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

Name of School: _____

District #: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Name of School Nutrition Services Manager: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Number of regular nutrition services employees in the unit: _____

Name of ALL regular members in the unit:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

(for additional names, list on separate sheet & attach)

Signed: _____

Manager, Nutrition Services Date

INSTRUCTIONS: To qualify for the NSNA 100% Membership Award, all regular* nutrition service personnel in the unit must be a current member of the School Nutrition Association. The official SNA membership roster as of June 1st, of current year will be used as proof of membership.

One application per school shall be completed and mailed to the state membership chair:
(postmarked on or before June 1st)

Nebraska SNA
PO Box 45527
Omaha, NE 68145-0527

*regular employment is defined as 20 or more scheduled hours a week.

** please call/ email 402-944-2114/ or email karee.nielsen@agps.org with questions pertaining to this application

Check One:

_____ : Certificate and Seal (if you have not previously received framed certificate)

_____ : Seal Only (to be placed on framed certificate)

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

@ CONFERENCE

SHOW OFF YOUR MENUS

Bring a 3-ring binder with your 2024-25 Monthly Menus in clear sleeves. **On the FRONT of the binder make sure to have**

*Name of your School *What District you are a part of *Note if you use Cycle or Non-Cycle Menus *What grades you serve

*How many building you serve at and if you have any satellite schools *On Average how many students do you serve each day

*Contact info (Business Cards will do)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Calling ALL those who have retired or will be retiring this 2025-2026 school year. Please let us know by sending an email to nebraskasna@gmail.com and execdirectorNSNA@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The Legislative session for Nebraska is currently ongoing with many hearings happening each day. This is a great time to reach out to your Representative while they are in Lincoln. Please go onto the NSNA website, <https://nebraskasna.org/>, to find your Representative on the list under the Legislative tab. Voice how your school is making a difference for our students!!

From March 8-10, 2026 myself, John and Mary Pat will be attending the Legislative Action Conference in Washington DC. We are looking forward to hearing from SNA about some key policy updates, federal budget trends and get some great advice to have successful meetings with elected officials while we are there. We are working on getting as many meetings set up as possible with our Representative while we are in DC. ~Karee

SNA AWARDS SEASON IS HERE

The **SNA Awards** season has arrived! The SNA Awards highlight the outstanding work of SNA members and state affiliates. Employees, Managers, Directors and Industry members are eligible for state, national and regional awards that recognize their achievements in school foodservice, leadership, membership recruitment and professional development.

Go to the SNA website and nominate your favorite person in one of these categories. Remember they have to be a SNA member in the category you are nominating them in!

-  **Employee of the Year Award**
-  **Manager of the Year Award, in Honor of Louise Sublette**
-  **Director of the Year Award**
-  **Industry Member of the Year Award**

What's next: Nominations for all four awards are due March 1 (excluding California and Virginia).

Submit yours today! Let's flood the nominations and have some winners from Nebraska



SUPERHERO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OMAHA, NEBRASKA

OUR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM IS REACHING NEW HEIGHTS THIS YEAR, WITH STUDENT PARTICIPATION CLIMBING TO 74% - A 5% INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR. WE ATTRIBUTE THIS GROWTH TO OUR COMMITMENT TO LISTENING TO OUR STUDENTS. BASED ON THEIR FEEDBACK WE'VE REVAMPED OUR CONDIMENT STATIONS AND INTRODUCED FIVE EXCITING NEW MENU ITEMS, SEVERAL OF WHICH ARE MADE FROM SCRATCH EACH WEEK. THIS DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE EARNED US THE PRESTIGIOUS "INNOVATION IN THE PREPARATION OF SCHOOL MEALS" AWARD FROM THE USDA. SAFETY AND QUALITY REMAIN OUR TOP PRIORITIES, AS WE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAIN AN A+ RATING FROM THE DOUGLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND ENSURE OUR ENTIRE STAFF IS SERVSAFE CERTIFIED. BEYOND OUR MAIN ENTRÉE, STUDENTS ENJOY DAILY ACCESS TO A VIBRANT FRUIT AND VEGGIE BAR, OFFERING A WIDE VARIETY OF FRESH, SEASONAL PRODUCE TO ENSURE EVERY MEAL IS AS NUTRITIOUS AS IT IS DELICIOUS.

**SPOTLIGHT YOUR SCHOOL BY EMAILING
NEBRASKASNA@GMAIL.COM**

**FUTURE SPOTLIGHTS SHOWCASED AT
WWW.NEBRASKASNA.ORG**

Preparation Techniques

Top 5 Prep Techniques

1. Serving fresh, local foods
2. Speed-scratch cooking
3. Heat and Serve
4. Serving regionally inspired foods
5. Scratch cooking

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-26 FLAVOR FORWARD

★ Linked Recipe Available

Breakfast Menu Items

Top 5 Menu Items

1. Cold Cereal
2. Cinnamon Roll
3. Breakfast Pizza ★
4. Donuts
5. French Toast ★

Lunch Menu Items

Top 5 Menu Items

1. Chicken Nuggets/tenders ★
2. Pizza ★
3. Hamburger
4. Nachos ★
5. Tacos ★

Flavor Profiles

Top 5 Flavor Profiles

1. American ★
2. Spicy ★
3. Hispanic ★
4. Italian ★
5. Chinese ★

Breakfast Fruit

Top 5 Fruit Items

1. Bananas
2. Apples
3. Strawberries ★
4. Oranges
5. Applesauce
/Mandarin Oranges

Lunch Fruit

Top 5 Fruit Items

1. Bananas
2. Strawberries ★
3. Apples ★
4. Grapes ★
5. Mandarin Oranges

Seasonings

Top 5 Seasonings

1. Taco ★
2. Ranch ★
3. Garlic Powder ★
4. Italian ★
5. Onion ★

Breakfast Vegetables

Top 5 Vegetable Items

1. Potatoes ★
2. Carrots
3. Salsa ★
4. Corn
5. Cucumbers

Lunch Vegetables

Top 5 Vegetable Items

1. Corn ★
2. Potatoes ★
3. Carrots ★
4. Cucumbers ★
5. Broccoli ★

Sauces

Top 5 Sauces

1. Ranch Dressing ★
2. Ketchup ★
3. BBQ Sauce ★
4. Syrup
5. Mayonnaise ★

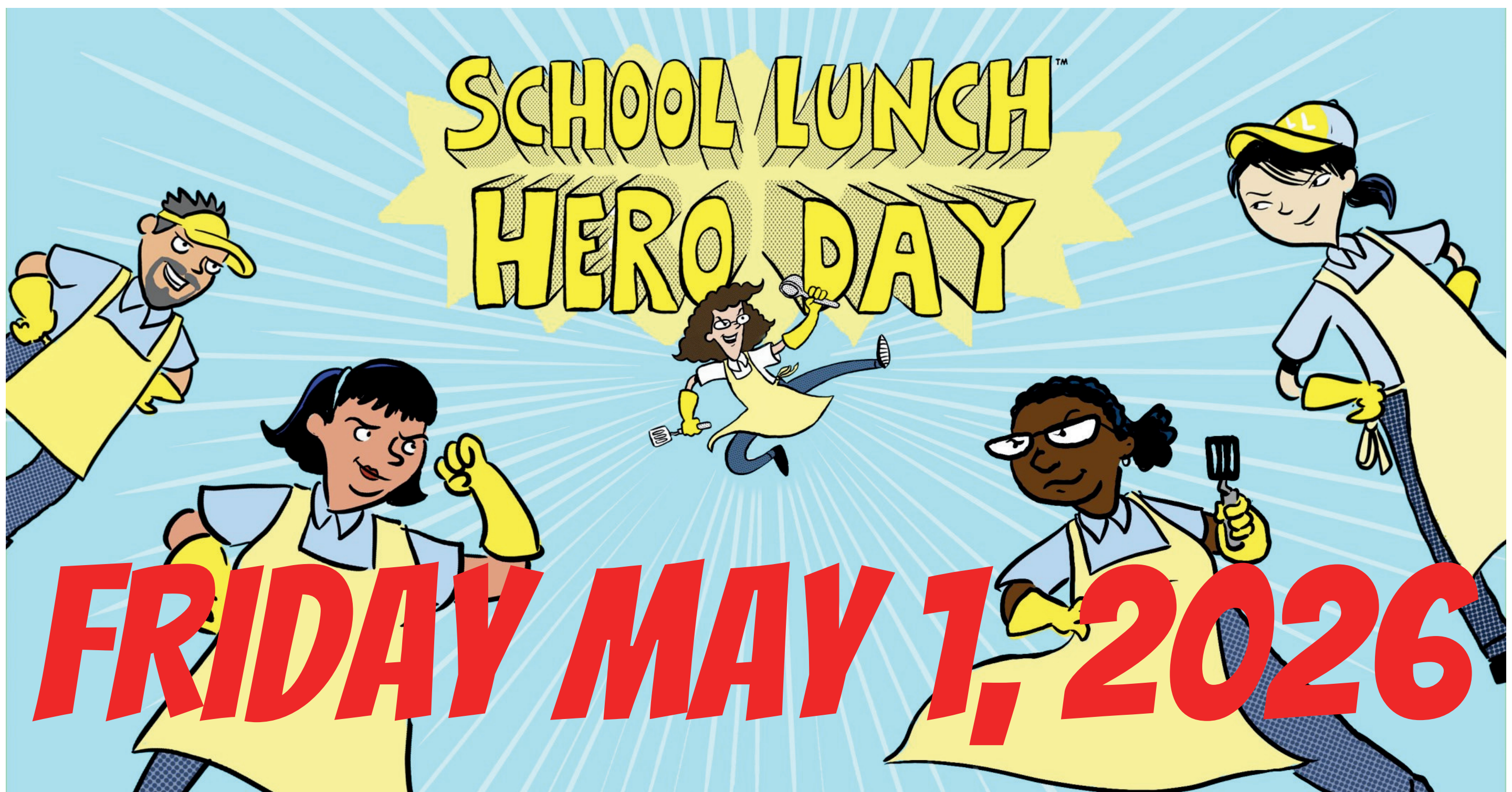
This information was derived from the Food Trends in K-12 Schools Participating in National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs 2025-2026 research project conducted by the Institute of Child Nutrition Applied Research Division at the University of Southern Mississippi. This project was funded using U.S. Department of Agriculture grant funds. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The University of Southern Mississippi IRB Protocol #25-0149.



The Nebraska Farm to School program enriches the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education settings.



There are three core elements of Farm to School: Procurement, Education, and School Gardens. Farm to School works to provide resources to promote local Nebraska grown and raised products in the classroom, cafeteria, and community



Dedicated to those men and women who make the cafeterias and the schools a better place to be! What was your favorite school lunch? Do you remember the smiling face who served it to you?

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SECRETARY

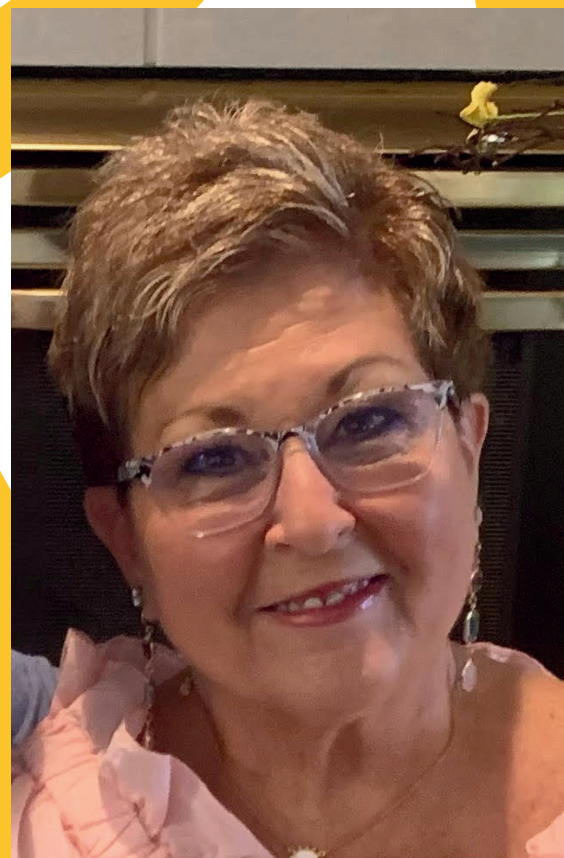
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GOODS & GIFTS

Open

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Mission: To advance good nutrition for all children.

Vision: Healthful meals and nutrition education are available to all children.



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- NEWSLETTER -
