

USDA Professional Standards

Summary of Hiring Requirements for Colorado School Nutrition Program Directors



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 and experience requirements outlined below.

Minimum Requirements for New Directors	Student Enrollment 2,499 or less	Student Enrollment 2,500 – 9,999	Student Enrollment 10,000 or more
Minimum Education and Experience Standards (required)	<p>Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in specified field*;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Associate’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or area of concentration in specified field* and at least 1 year of relevant food service experience**;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A high school diploma or equivalency (i.e. GED), and at least 3 years of relevant food service experience**.</p> <p><i>Note: LEAs with fewer than 500 students may accept less than 3 years of relevant food service experience when the minimum education requirements are met.</i></p>	<p>Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in specified field*;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Bachelor’s degree in any academic major and at least 2 years of relevant school nutrition programs experience</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Associate’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or area of concentration in specified field* and at least 2 years of relevant school nutrition program experience.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A high school diploma or equivalency (i.e. GED), and at least 10 years of relevant food service experience** at state agencies’ discretion.</p>	<p>Bachelor’s degree, or equivalent educational experience, with an academic major or concentration in specified field*;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Bachelor’s degree in any academic major and at least 5 years of experience in management of school nutrition programs</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A high school diploma or equivalency (i.e. GED), and at least 10 years of relevant food service experience** at state agencies’ discretion.</p>
	<p><i>*Specified fields include food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business or related field.</i></p> <p><i>**Relevant food service experience may include documented volunteer or unpaid work.</i></p>		
Food Safety Training Requirement for New Directors (required)	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?

- CDE School Nutrition Unit: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/nutrition/trainingprofessionalstandards>
- USDA Professional Standards: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/professional-standards>
- School Nutrition Association: <http://schoolnutrition.org/>