

FOOD FOR THOUGHT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

ISNA/SNA Award Nominations Open Through March 1st!

ISNA Awards

ISNA values the opportunity to honor its members who have gone "above and beyond" in different aspects of their career but may not have met the criteria set forth for the State SNA Awards. Members are encouraged to nominate for the awards listed below. Awards will be presented at the Annual Conference in November 2025. Nominations are due March 1, 2025.

- [Super Star Service Award](#)
- [Assistant Director/Supervisor of the Year](#)
- [Office Assistant of the Year](#)

SNA Awards

SNA celebrates members who work every day to ensure well-nourished students across the country are prepared for success. Nominate an employee, manager, and/or director you know to be recognized for all of their great contributions!

Individuals may be nominated by peers, staff, colleagues, or supervisors for these awards. SNA is also now accepting self-nominations! All nominees must be SNA members throughout the entire awards nomination and judging process. Click on the icons to the right to read more about the nominee criteria. The awards are listed below.

- [Employee of the Year](#)
- [Manager of the Year](#)
- [Director of the Year](#)





Why You Can't Afford to Miss the 2025 ISNA Director Retreat!

Are you a school nutrition director looking for inspiration, networking, and actionable strategies to elevate your career and well-being? Look no further than the 2025 ISNA Director Retreat, happening April 14th-15th in Indianapolis, IN! This highly anticipated event, hosted by the Indiana School Nutrition Association (ISNA), promises a perfect blend of professional development, insightful discussions, and interactive entertainment—all designed to empower YOU.

A Retreat Designed for Growth & Balance

This year's retreat is centered around happiness, goal-setting, and professional success, with renowned speaker Kim Hodus leading two powerful sessions:

- ✓ "Be Happy. Live Happy." – Learn how to balance priorities, minimize stress, and develop habits of happiness that will help you thrive in a demanding role.
- ✓ "Ready, Set, Goal." – Discover the key to transforming goals into achievable action steps, eliminating to-do list overwhelm, and making real progress where it matters most.

Engaging Networking & Entertainment

Beyond the learning sessions, the retreat offers exceptional networking opportunities to connect with fellow directors, share best practices, and engage in meaningful conversations. From the Evening Networking Reception to the Interactive Q&A with IDOE, this is your chance to collaborate with industry peers in a relaxed and engaging environment. And let's not forget the Game Show Battle Rooms—an innovative, team-based competition where attendees face off in a fun, high-energy experience!

A Perfect Balance of Learning & Fun

The retreat also features:

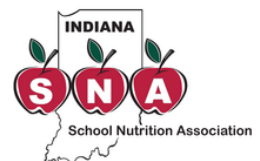
- ♦ Partner Roundtables – Gain insights from industry experts and explore new solutions.
- ♦ District Best Practices Spotlights – Learn from the successes of others and take home actionable ideas.

Make 2025 the Year of Professional & Personal Growth!

This retreat isn't just another conference—it's an investment in your happiness, career, and overall well-being. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, connect with like-minded professionals, and walk away with fresh motivation to lead with impact.

We can't wait to see you in Indianapolis!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT:
WWW.INDIANASNA.ORG/DIRECTOR-RETREAT**



Members on the Move: Making an Impact at SNA's School Nutrition Industry Conference!

The School Nutrition Industry Conference (SNIC25), held from January 19 to 21, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona, brought together leaders in school nutrition to explore the latest trends and innovations. The conference theme, "Reflect, Lead," emphasized the importance of self-reflection and wellness as foundations for effective leadership. Attendees benefited from expert insights, thought-provoking discussions, dynamic workshops, and networking opportunities with industry partners. By focusing on personal well-being and professional development, SNIC25 empowered members to inspire and support their teams, fostering growth and resilience within their organizations.



“Attending the School Nutrition Industry Conference in January was an energetic and insightful experience. Over the three days, I had the opportunity to network with top industry leaders, engage with colleagues around the country, explore innovative solutions, and gain valuable insights into the future of school nutrition. Phoenix didn't disappoint, and I look forward to using the professional development I received to enhance the meal service for students in my district.”

Kurt Bodell, Food Service Director - MSD of Martinsville

“Attending SNIC in Arizona was invaluable! I gained fresh insights into innovative solutions and leadership strategies to better support my staff. The intimate setting and interactive roundtables fostered meaningful conversations with fellow directors and industry leaders. Networking, exploring new products, and engaging in inspiring workshops made it a standout event by the School Nutrition Association.”

Daniel Williams, Food Service Director - Mooresville Consolidated Schools

“For me, SNIC was an opportunity to network with fellow operators, State Representatives, and industry partners.”

Mary Ellen Gilliam, MBA, SNS, Child Nutrition Assistant Director - MSD of Wayne Township



Quick Stats From SY 2024/25 School Nutrition Trends Report:

17. Reported median unpaid charges/debt: spring 2015 – fall 2024

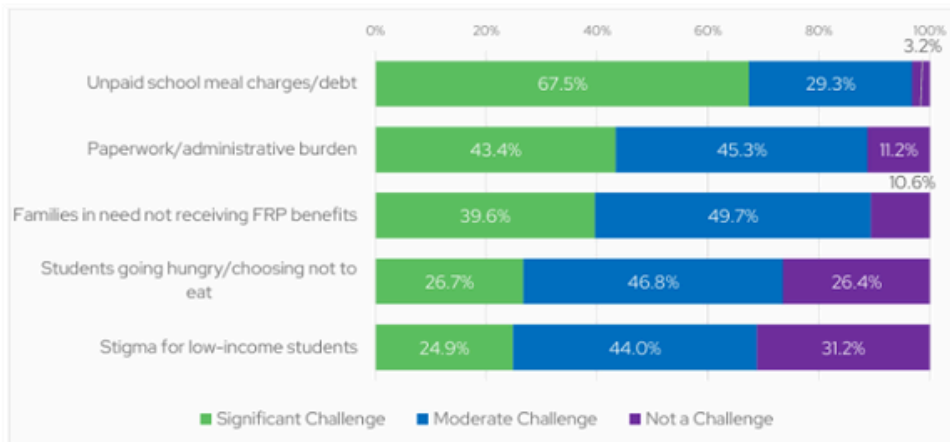


Note: spring 2015 n = 627, spring 2017 n = 897, spring 2018 n = 570, fall 2022 n = 808, fall 2023 n = 847, fall 2024 n = 766.

MEDIAN UNPAID CHARGES/DEBT TREND



22. In your school(s) that do NOT offer free meals to ALL students, to what extent are the following issues a challenge for your program?



Note: This question only asked of those who indicated they were not serving free school breakfasts and/or lunches to all students in their district. n varies by item, minimum n = 583, maximum n = 587.

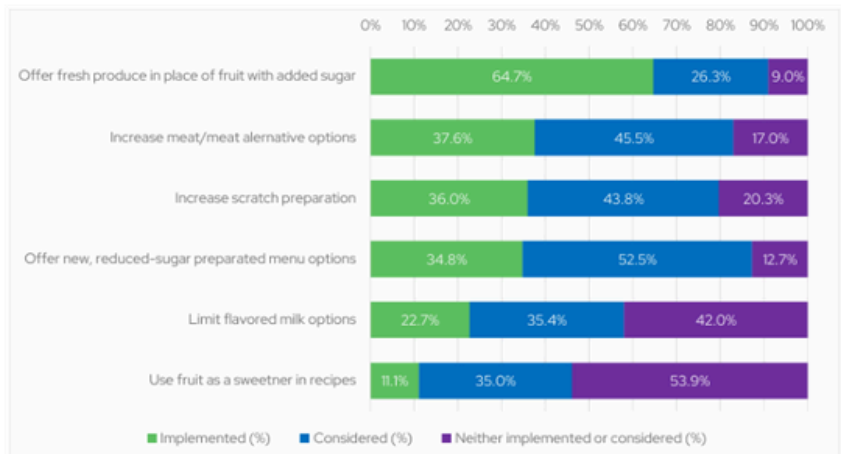
CHALLENGES FOR SCHOOLS WITH NO FREE MEALS



PROGRAMS TO REDUCE ADDED SUGAR IN MEALS



37. Which of the following methods has your program implemented or are being considered to reduce added sugar in school breakfast?



n varies by item: minimum = 1,304 to maximum = 1,316.

Dates to Remember

ISNA/IDOE Certificate Courses

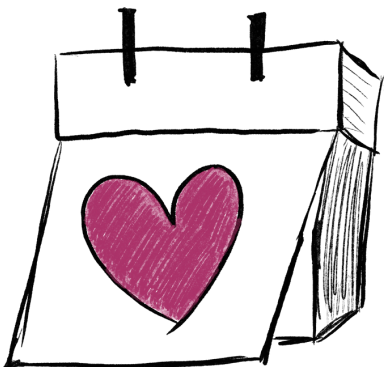
February

- February 12, 12:30 p.m.
School Nutrition Policies & Procedures
Cost: \$90 for members, \$130 for non-members
- February 19, 12:30 p.m.
Marketing Your School Nutrition Program
Cost: \$90 for members, \$130 for non-members

March

- March 26, 9:00 a.m.
Food Production and Operation Management
Cost: \$90 for members, \$130 for non-members
- March 26, 12:30 p.m.
Product and Inventory Management
Cost: \$90 for members, \$130 for non-members

[Click Here to View All Courses](#)



February is American Heart Month!

Check out what the American Heart Association says about your diet and staying heart healthy.

ISNA Annual Conference

November 5-7, 2025
French Lick, IN

Legislative Action Conference

March 9-11, 2025
Washington, D.C.

ISNA Director Retreat

April 14-15, 2025
Indianapolis, IN
\$195 for Director Level Members
\$240 for non-members

Thank You Partners!



Dole
Foster Farms
Hadley Farms

Harvest Hill Beverage
Heartland Food Products Group
High Liner Foods

