

# Guide to Professional Standards for School Nutrition Programs

**Table 3: Minimum Hiring Standards for New School Food Authority (SFA) Nutrition Directors**

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Student Enrollment Categories	Category 1 2,499 or less	Category 2 2,500-9,999	Category 3 10,000 or more
	Bachelor's Degree In specific/related major** (experience preferred, not required)  _____ OR _____  Bachelor's Degree* in any major <i>AND</i> State-recognized certificate for school nutrition program directors  _____ OR _____  Bachelor's Degree* in any major <i>AND</i> <b>1 year</b> of relevant school nutrition experience  _____ OR _____  Associate's Degree* in specific/related major** <i>AND</i> <b>1 year</b> of relevant school nutrition experience  _____ OR _____  High School Diploma (or GED) <i>AND</i> 3 years *** of relevant school nutrition experience	Bachelor's Degree In specific/related major** (experience preferred, not required)  _____ OR _____  Bachelor's Degree* in any major <i>AND</i> State-recognized certificate for school nutrition program directors  _____ OR _____  Bachelor's Degree* in any major <i>AND</i> <b>2 years</b> of relevant school nutrition experience  _____ OR _____  Associate's Degree* in specific/related major** <i>AND</i> <b>2 years</b> of relevant school nutrition experience	Bachelor's Degree In specific/related major** (experience preferred, not required)  _____ OR _____  Bachelor's Degree* in any major <i>AND</i> State-recognized certificate for school nutrition program directors  _____ OR _____  Bachelor's Degree* in any major <i>AND</i> <b>5 years</b> of relevant school nutrition experience
Food Safety Training	At least 8 hours within 5 years prior to or within 30 days of start date		

\* Or equivalent educational experience; consult your State agency for more information.

\*\* Specific/related major: Academic major or concentration in food and nutrition, foodservice management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field.

\*\*\* For LEA enrollments less than 500, the State agency may approve the hire of a candidate with a high school diploma (or GED) and less than the required years of experience, if the best qualified candidate.