

Georgia DOE Board Rule Comparison to USDA Professional Standards

Hiring Requirements for New School Nutrition Directors

This summary describes the changes to the **minimum** hiring requirements for new School Nutrition Program (SNP) Directors. To ensure that Georgia LEAs are compliant when hiring new SNP Directors, the chart compares *both* the State of Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-6-.22: Personnel Required and the USDA Professional Standards Hiring Requirements (effective July 1, 2015). New *Hiring Flexibility Under Professional Standards* became effective April 30, 2019 to address hiring challenges for small LEAs.

No Change in Hiring	
LEA size: 3,300 students or greater (unweighted FTE)	A School Nutrition Director is required. SN directors must hold a Georgia Clear Renewable School Nutrition Director certificate issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GPSC) (Master’s Degree or higher) or be issued an Induction Certificate (Bachelor’s Degree or higher) and convert to a Clear Renewable certificate (Master’s Degree or higher) within 3 years.
LEA size: less than 3,300 students with five (5) or more schools	A School Nutrition Director-Trainee is required on a part-time or full-time basis. SN Director-Trainees must hold a certificate (Induction or other) issued by the GPSC (Bachelor’s Degree or higher) and complete 6 semester hours annually toward the requirement for a School Nutrition Director certificate (Master’s Degree or higher).

Change in Hiring		
	Hired prior to July 1, 2015	Hired on or after July 1, 2015
LEA size: less than 3,300 students with four (4) or fewer schools NOTE: As of 4/30/19, State agencies have the discretion to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider documented volunteer or unpaid work as relevant food service experience • accept less than the required years of food service experience for a new director in LEA with fewer than 500 students when applicant has the minimum required education. 	A Manager/Supervisor is required. A Manager/Supervisor holds a high school diploma or GED or was employed as a Manager/Supervisor prior to September 1, 1988.	A Nutrition Manager/Supervisor is required. A Manager/Supervisor holds either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Associate Degree in a specific major (food and nutrition, food service management, dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business or a related field) with two years of relevant food service experience, OR • a Bachelor’s degree in any academic major with two years or relevant food service experience, OR • a Bachelor’s degree with any academic major and a school nutrition director induction certificate issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, OR • a Bachelor’s degree with academic major in food and nutrition, food service management dietetics, family and consumer sciences, nutrition education, culinary arts, business, or a related field.
Prior Training Standards for New SNP Directors	As of July 1, 2015, all new directors must have completed 8 hours of food safety training within 5 years prior to the starting date (or complete it within 30 days of the starting date).	