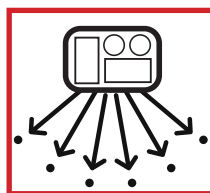


# School Nutrition Association 2022 Research Agenda

## 5 Research Priorities



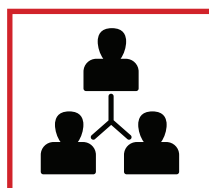
Meal  
Participation



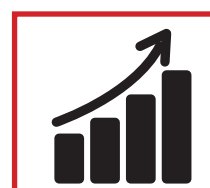
Emergency  
Preparedness &  
Feeding Strategies



Rural  
Districts



Mentorship & Staff  
Development



Value & Outcomes  
of School Nutrition  
Programs

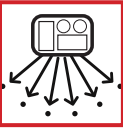




## Purpose:

The School Nutrition Association is a national, nonprofit professional organization representing 50,000 members who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to students across the country. SNA empowers and supports school nutrition professionals in advancing the accessibility, quality and integrity of school nutrition programs.

SNA outlines **5 research priority topics** for school nutrition research, identifying specific sub-topics and areas of focus, as well as recommended research strategies to strengthen the base of knowledge in each priority topic area.

Equal access for every student to nutritious meals at school, ensuring their optimal health and well-being is SNA's vision, and serves as a guiding principle of our research agenda. All of these topics may not be new to the field of school nutrition; however, each of them is of importance to school nutrition professionals and requires research to be better understood.

# School Nutrition Association – 2022 Research Agenda

AREA	FOCUS	STRATEGIES
	<b>Meal Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges, drivers</li> <li>Technology integration</li> <li>Marketing strategies</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess pre-/post-impacts of USDA school meal flexibilities</li> <li>Analyze student satisfaction</li> <li>Assess impact of digital signage, apps, and other technologies on the SN landscape</li> <li>Describe best practices related to seat time considering recess time before and after lunch periods, regional trends, and cafeteria/serving line layout and design</li> <li>Describe how alternative meal delivery systems have impacted participation</li> <li>Describe best practices for marketing and serving meals in non-traditional ways (hybrid or virtual)</li> </ul>
	<b>Emergency Preparedness &amp; Feeding Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive evaluation of impact across multiple sectors</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess impacts of emergency situations (including COVID-19) on school meal programs</li> <li>Identify procurement challenges due to supply chain issues</li> <li>Describe best practices for menu adaptation during emergencies</li> <li>Identify labor issues and adaptations during unexpected occurrences</li> </ul>
	<b>Rural Districts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive assessment and audit of characteristics defining rural districts</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate ability for SN professionals in rural districts to meet and maintain professional standards</li> <li>Identify drivers and challenges to training rural SN staff in a virtual environment</li> <li>Describe oversight and management of meal programs including characteristics of those charged with day to day responsibilities</li> <li>Identify procurement challenges and best practices</li> </ul>
	<b>Mentorship &amp; Staff Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote school nutrition professionals as experts in the field</li> <li>Build a cadre of qualified personnel to lead the next generation of school nutrition professionals</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess impact of professional standards on recruitment/retention of qualified employees</li> <li>Assess the current use of mentorship</li> <li>Describe perceived current education needs</li> <li>Identify procurement challenges and best practices</li> <li>Describe best practices in SN program human resource management, including reducing staff turnover and succession planning</li> </ul>
	<b>Value &amp; Outcomes of School Nutrition Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the impact of school meal participation on attendance, educational performance, behavioral outcomes, nurses visits and dietary intake</li> <li>School meals vs. meals from home</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze links between educational, behavioral and attendance variables</li> <li>Assess the impact on alternative meal service (meal pick-up, delivery) versus on-site meal consumption on student health outcomes, overall healthy eating habits, combating hunger or food security.</li> <li>Assess financial impacts of competitive foods and alternative delivery methods on SN programs</li> </ul>