

## How to Meet Professional Standards Using the Focus on Food Curriculum Questions from Participants

### 1. What if you do all categories?

If a person wears several hats such as they are the director and the kitchen manager and the head cook then they must meet the professional standards annual training hours for the highest role they play.

Training must be based on the individual's learning needs, relevant to their job duties. SFAs are not required to provide a specific number of training hours in each of the four key areas. You should determine the best training for your operations. SFAs can list all the learning codes and have the flexibility to choose which learning objectives/codes covers most of the training.

To assess staff training needs and select training topics, refer to the Learning Objectives and Learning Topics located on the USDA School Meals Professional Standards Web page at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/professional-standards>. Also refer to USDA FAQs 21, 33, 34, 35, and 42.

### 2. Could this webinar count for training hours?

Yes, one hour of continuing education under the Key Area of Nutrition (1300 General Nutrition).

### 3. Must trainings to meet Professional Standards be offered to staff during their working hours?

Staff should be paid to attend the trainings. It is a work requirement and expectation.

### 4. Do you know who comes up with the meal pattern in the USDA program?

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### 5. What would happen if a staff refused to take trainings?

Contact your human resources department to find out what actions you may take if staff refuse to attend training. Consider a training survey to determine the training needs of staff and offer different training options to meet those needs. If staff still refuse to attend training, follow the established personnel procedures in consultation with your human resources department. Food service directors may want to be proactive and work/educate staff and unions of the new requirements and of the new work expectations.

6. I currently work with preschoolers and would like to ask a few questions. We have a three week plan and would love to make suggestions. Ok Thank you gals!!

7. Where can we get the tracking tool that was mentioned

The USDA training tracking tool is available on the USDA Professional Standards Information for School Nutrition Professionals Web page at <http://professionalstandards.nal.usda.gov/content/professional-standards-information>.