



The Dish | October 2025

The Dish is SNA of Ohio's bi-monthly electronic newsletter.



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Save the Date!

SNA of Ohio 2026 Annual Conference
June 9-11, 2026
Cleveland Marriott East



Check Our Annual Conference Page for Updates!

President's Message

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your SNA of Ohio President this year. It was so wonderful to see so many familiar faces—and new ones—at Expo! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a success. A special



SNA President 2025-2026
Megan Grippa

thank-you goes out to our partners at the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce for their continued support and collaboration.

I'm excited for all that's ahead this year for our association. With the passion, innovation, and dedication of our members, I know we will continue to grow and elevate the work we do for Ohio's students.

With gratitude,
Megan Grippa

Did you know there are local SNA of Ohio chapters in your area?

Joining a local SNA chapter offers a ton of benefits that can really elevate your career and your school nutrition program. It's all about the connections----you'll have access to unparalleled networking opportunities with like-minded professionals who share your passion for feeding kids nutritious meals. These connections often lead to sharing ideas, best practices, and even solution to challenges you might face in your program.

If you're looking for a way to stay inspired and connected while making a tangible difference in your student's lives, joining a local SNA chapter is a no-brainer!

The School Nutrition Association's Annual Awards & Scholarship Applications are now open!

Applications can be found through the link below. We are looking forward to receiving your submission and presenting these awards!

[Visit our Website for More Information](#)



Thank you to all of our school and industry

2025 SNA of Ohio Expo & Education Event

September 30-October 1, 2025

Cherry Valley Lodge
Newark, OH

colleagues for your participation at the 2025 SNA of Ohio Expo & Education Event!

We want to express our gratitude to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for their partnership.

Stay tuned for more details for 2026!



Read our Expo Recap
[HERE!](#)

Need to Know

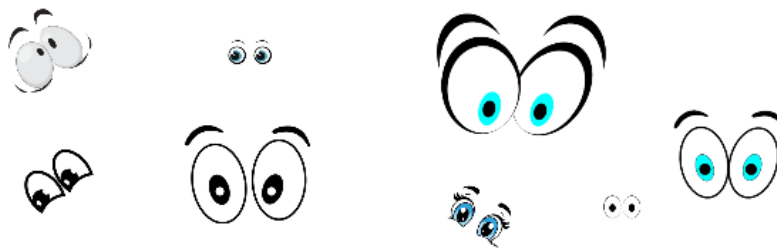
It's Verification Time Once More!

Each year, school districts are required to complete the verification process for free and reduced-price meal applications. This important step helps ensure that all meal benefits are issued accurately and fairly. Verification involves reviewing a small sample—typically 3% of approved income-based applications—to confirm eligibility.

Districts can also use direct verification, which checks eligibility through approved programs like SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid, reducing the need to contact families directly. In some cases, verification for cause may also be completed if an application appears incorrect or incomplete.

All documentation and results are reported to the state agency and kept on file for compliance. While the rules may sound technical, the goal is simple: to make sure our meal programs stay accurate, transparent, and supportive of the families we serve.

Reminder: Be sure to double-check your verification timeline and sample size by October 31 to stay in compliance and keep the process running smoothly!



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Something new is headed our way!

Are you ready to get **HEALTHY??**

If you are...stay tuned...

Keep an **EYE** on your inbox and the
SNA Ohio Website for more details!



Krys Hess, BS Nutrition Science, SNS
Nutrition & Wellness Chair

Leadership Spotlight

Central Ohio Regional Director: Bethany Lenko



This month, we're excited to shine the spotlight on Bethany Lenko, Food Service Director for Olentangy Schools and a dedicated member of the SNA of Ohio Executive Board, serving as Central Ohio Regional Director. With 12 years of service in her district, Bethany has been a driving force in fostering strong, student-focused nutrition programs and meals—her favorite being her school's Asian Grill Bar, a delicious take on Bibibop. Bethany is passionate about expanding professional connections across the region and hopes to launch an SNA chapter in Central Ohio to bring even more food service professionals together. She values the relationships and shared experiences that come from being part of SNA of Ohio, noting how members can celebrate successes and navigate challenges as one community. Her favorite event each year is the SNA of Ohio Expo, where she enjoys connecting with vendors and colleagues from across the state. Thank you, Bethany, for your leadership, creativity, and dedication to school nutrition!

Do you want to be our next Member Spotlight on SNA of Ohio Social Media? Fill out the survey below for your chance to be featured on our socials!

[Click Here to complete the Member Survey!](#)

The Dish Newsletter

We would love to share your news and successes! If you would like to submit an article for consideration for an upcoming 2025-2026 Dish Newsletter, please email SNA of Ohio Marketing Chairperson, Kayte Lozier, at lozierk@cpsboe.k12.oh.us.

Please be sure that your email subject line is: "Article submission for upcoming SNA of Ohio e-newsletter"

- Bi-Monthly – December 2025, February 2026, April 2026, June 2026
 - Deadlines for articles – 2nd Weds of each month (bi-monthly)
 - E-newsletter distribution dates – 3rd Weds of each month (bi-monthly)

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