



Monday Morning



ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE NEWS!

Check out this excerpt from an article honoring Gina Giarratana's contributions towards nutritious and tasty school meals:

To bolster student interest in school meals, Giarratana increased the availability of culturally diverse dishes on ASD's monthly menus and added more variety.

Items added since 2023 include chicken drumsticks, chicken broccoli Alfredo, yogurt parfaits and pupusas – a Central American food consisting of tortillas that can be stuffed with meat, beans, cheese and vegetables.

"Recently, we've been getting tacos – really good quality tacos with sour cream and everything," Adrianna said.

Giarratana launched both a taco salad and walking taco offering in ASD cafeterias that have been big hits, she said.

They're options with vegetables that kids also enjoy, she said.



"Everybody knows that hungry kids can't learn. That's why we feel it's so, so important to make sure that we're giving them good options."

-Gina Giarratana

**Allentown School District
Quick Stats:**

**982,714 breakfast meals served
in 2022-23**

**Breakfast program participation
increased 28.3% in 2022-23**

**2,022,124 lunches served in
2023-24**

[View Full Article Here](#)

SNAPA RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!

As the calendar turns to 2025, SNAPA is poised to advance its mission of promoting healthy eating habits for students nationwide. With a renewed focus on innovation and inclusivity, the organization plans to roll out initiatives that address key challenges in school meal programs, such as food insecurity, rising costs, and evolving dietary preferences. By leveraging cutting-edge nutritional research and fostering collaborations with educators, policymakers, and food industry leaders, SNAPA aims to create a transformative impact on the well-being of Pennsylvania children. Happy New Year and thank you for your continued commitment to feeding bodies and fueling minds.

JANUARY AT-A-GLANCE

Submit proposals to speak at SNAPA's 2025 Annual Conference

Deadline: February 14, 2025

Submit your proposal [HERE](#) and encourage others to do the same.

Governor's School Breakfast Challenge Begins

January - March, 2025

School food leaders can use this [Breakfast Challenge checklist](#) to track their completion of the requirements for each month to ensure they meet all criteria.

January Checklist

- Promote breakfast to families and students (parent flyer, social media messages, etc) by using the [Breakfast Toolkit](#) or other creative ways.
 - Provide at least one breakfast promotion activity. See examples at: [No Kid Hungry List of Breakfast Promotion Strategies](#)
 - Formulate a plan with school administration to implement an alternative serving method.*
 - Not applicable if the building already offers an alternative breakfast serving method.
 - Serve at least one local food (milk excluded) a week at breakfast.
- Local is PA Agriculture (grown or raised-must be minimally processed per USDA definition**). PA Harvest of Month can be incorporated.
 - paharvestofthemonth.org
 - Offer a hot breakfast (main item/entrée) choice a minimum of two times/week
 - Offer high sugar items at breakfast no more than three times a week. High sugar items include: toaster pastries, sweet rolls, fruit turnovers, cereal bars, breakfast bars, granola bars, doughnuts, funnel cakes, coffee cakes, and cereals with more than 6 grams of sugar per dry ounce.
 - Upload one new picture of a healthy student breakfast to the LEA's/SFA's social media or website platform(s). Can include students if parental consent was obtained.

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SCHOOL NUTRITION LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

SNA's new SY 2024/25 School Nutrition Trends Report reveals high costs, rising unpaid school meal debt and insufficient funding threaten the sustainability of school meal programs and efforts to implement forthcoming nutrition standards.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is inviting School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the National School Lunch Program to provide voluntary feedback on the USDA Foods in Schools Product Information Sheets and the USDA Foods Database.

Anyone can get involved and informed by registering for the virtual public meeting to hear feedback on the Scientific Report of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC).



SNA Releases 2025 Position Paper

SNA's 2025 Position Paper urges Congress to:

- Increase school meal reimbursements by 40 cents per lunch and 15 cents per breakfast
- Protect Community Eligibility Provision and expand access to school meals for all students
- Address unpaid school meal debt

Review Paper Here

**SNAPA'S
DIRECTOR WORKSHOP
MARCH 17-18, 2025
@SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT**



FEATURING



ELEVATING SCHOOL MEALS

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MORE INFO :



<https://www.snapa.org/meetings-and-events>

