



Kansas Karrier

Your Source for Kansas School Nutrition News

We are excited to share the first edition of the Kansas Karrier! This bi-monthly newsletter is your source for updates, inspiration, and highlights from across the Sunflower State. Throughout, you'll find stories celebrating the incredible work happening in Kansas school nutrition, important association news, and opportunities to stay connected and engaged. Thank you for all you do to fuel success—one tray at a time!

#ANC25 *Feedback*

We asked our members who attended the School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference this year for feedback, here's what they said!

The 2025 School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference (ANC), held July 13-15 in San Antonio, gathered more than 6,000 school nutrition professionals under the theme "It's Your Moment." The event celebrated growth, innovation, and connection, with attendees highlighting the joy of networking, learning, and professional recognition. "Meeting new people, old friends, and since this was my first time attending ANC, just the size of it, the classes, the industry show. So much to do," shared Margery Erckert. Others echoed the same sentiment—catching up with friends, making new connections, and taking in the excitement of the sessions and industry show.

Conference education focused on innovation, equity, and leadership, from creative menu design and student engagement to new technologies and inclusive meal programs. Attendees encouraged newcomers to plan ahead, wear comfortable shoes, and take advantage of every networking opportunity. As Laura Fails advised, "Don't be afraid to say yes. Start small—volunteer, attend a meeting, or join a committee. Your biggest cheerleaders are waiting for you."

How will you bring your moment home?

2025 Annual Conference

Thank you to those who attended our conference in Wichita!



Check out what our attendees thought of the conference!

The 2025 SNA-KS Annual Conference, held October 3-5 in Wichita, brought together school nutrition professionals from across the state for three inspiring days of learning, networking, and collaboration. First-time attendee and new SNA-KS member Brandi Camden shared that the information presented was "amazing, helpful, and insightful." She noted that learning about the back side of ordering and paperwork was "jaw-dropping," especially realizing how something as simple as the unavailability of foil lids from overseas can prevent certain products from being ordered. Brandi also praised the food show, calling it "amazing" and appreciating the chance to sample new products, meet vendors, and gather information to bring back to her district.

A highlight of the event was the Silent Auction, which raised funds to support future professional development and scholarship initiatives. Items available for bidding included a collection of school nutrition books gathered over the years by longtime SNA member Barb Depew, signed sports memorabilia, and numerous self-care gift baskets—each contributing to a lively, community-spirited auction. Brandi shared that meeting new people and realizing there's a network to "bounce info and questions off of" made the experience even more rewarding. She also joined the Publications and Communications Committee, eager to deepen her involvement in school nutrition. "I'll definitely be attending again," she said—a perfect reflection of the connection and enthusiasm that defined this year's conference.

District of the Month

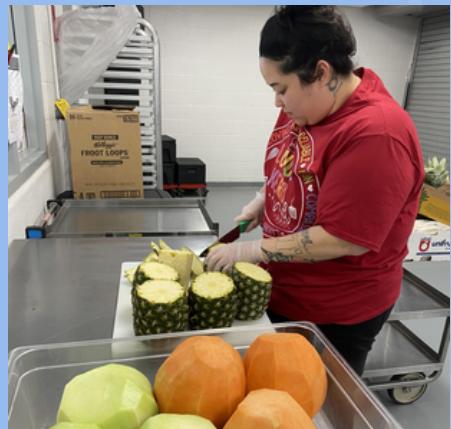
August

Osawatomie USD
367 Food Service



Wamego USD 320
Food Service

May



Post your photos to social media and use the hashtag
#KansasSchoolMeals for a chance to be featured next!

We want to hear from you!



Please take a few moments to let us know what you feel are the top 3 issues the Kansas State Legislature needs to address in relation to child nutrition. We appreciate your feedback!



Building Connections and Growing Together!

On October 16th, local chapter members came together for a meeting filled with learning, connection, and professional growth.

President-Elect Beth Courtney shared insights on the many benefits of being part of the School Nutrition Association and how

membership has supported her career in school nutrition. The discussion sparked great conversation about the power of staying engaged and connected through SNA. We also celebrated a special

moment as Southeast Area Representative Terri Jo Markham welcomed a new SNA member during the meeting—proof that when we come together, great things happen!



KANSAS SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

LUNCH AMONG THE STARS

We're excited for another amazing Kansas School Lunch Week! Celebrate the power of school lunch with us on January 26–30, 2026. [Click here](#) to learn more about how you can bring the celebration to your cafeterias.

Want to be featured on our social media?

We want to tell the stories of our members! Scan the QR code to fill out our Member Spotlight form.



Follow us on social media to stay up to date on all things Kansas Nutrition!

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