

**California School Nutrition Association (CSNA)
Strategic Planning**

Goal: Provide education and educational materials to our members

CSNA's Professional Development Committee composed and distributed a survey via e-mail to 1361 members of our Association. The survey was designed to assess what educational programs our members are currently using, what topics our members need additional training on and at what level, and the preferred methods of obtaining these classes. 263 members or 19% of the members completed the survey. Of those who responded, 52 % of the responders were Food Service Directors or Assistant Directors, 32% were site level or operation supervisors, 3% were entry level workers, and 13% were other classifications.

40% of the responded were certified, 26 % planned on becoming certified next year, 36 % were unsure if they would get certified next year and 38% had no desire on becoming certified.

The major means of obtaining Professional Development over the past three years included CSNA's annual conference break out and general sessions, trainings in the members local school district, local chapter meetings, articles in CSNA's Poppyseeds magazine and SNA's School Nutrition magazine, and Regional workshops organized by California Department of Education, CSNA, CASBO, and SHAPE.. The least used means to further our members' education included SNA's annual conference culinary demonstrations and pre and post conference workshops and college or university courses.

The topics requested for Professional Development training varied by the members' current job position. Those involved in the day-to-day preparation of the meals served to students wanted courses that cover food safety, work simplification, record keeping and food preparation. At the site supervision level, employees are more interested in courses on cost control, leadership training, food allergies, food safety and record keeping. Directors and Assistant Directors are more interested in budgeting, cost control, and leadership training.

To obtain this training the majority of the responders would prefer Webinar training. The second most preferred way was at CSNA's annual conference and workshops and trainings held during the work week. The least favorite means of training is weekend workshops. The majority of responders are willing to travel up to 60 miles to attend workshops/trainings. Less than 14 % of the responders are willing to travel over 100miles to attend a workshop.

Recommendation: CSNA should explore ways to develop Webinars that will provide the educational needs of our members since this is the number one training preference. Also when planning CSNA's conference, breakout sessions should focus on those items of interest listed above, offering a combination of sessions geared towards the different work classifications.