



NEA PreK-12 Members A CLOSER LOOK AT SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

FOOD SERVICE MEMBERS

We ensure that students have access to safe and nutritious meals, which impacts their behavior, energy levels, thinking, physical health, overall well-being, and ability to learn. Some of the important aspects of our careers include proper food handling, adapting recipes for children with special dietary needs, and nutrition education and practice. The meals that food service education support professionals (ESPs) provide meet recommended dietary guidelines and help students develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

We help students grow and stay healthy

We provide nourishing meals so students are ready to learn

We keep meal preparation and serving areas safe and clean

FOOD SERVICE CAREERS

- COOKS
- FOOD AND PREPARATION WORKERS
- DIETITIANS AND DIETARY TECHNICIANS
- CASHIERS
- NON-MANAGERIAL SUPERVISORS

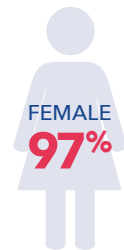
“ When the menu changes, you have to execute preparation differently, and what some people don't think about is how that impacts the dietician or the school nurse who will call to ask what the carb and calorie count is for the new meals... We provide all of that nutrition information for students and families.

- Food Services Professional ”

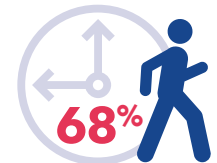
Food services is one of the nine education support professional (ESP) career families. NEA ESPs make up nearly a half million of NEA's 3 million members. More than 2.2 million K-12 ESPs work in public schools across the country. As a critical part of the education workforce, NEA food service members meet the needs of the whole student, ensuring students and schools succeed.



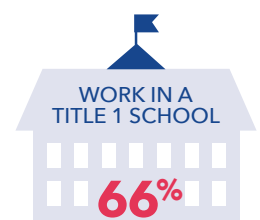
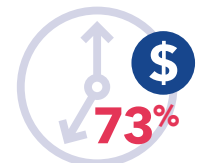
FAST FACTS



WORK FULL-TIME



HOURLY WORKERS





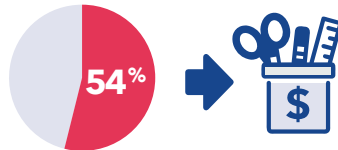
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FOOD SERVICE MEMBERS

We are...

Committed to Public Education and Students

- Nearly all (**92%**) plan to stay in public education, and **71%** plan to stay in their current position until retirement.
- Nearly all (**90%**) are satisfied with their job.
- A majority (**68%**) have responsibilities promoting school safety.
- More than half (**54%**) have spent their own money to purchase food or school supplies for students at an average of **\$256**.



Experienced and Educated

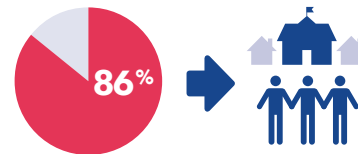
- On average, an NEA food service member has been employed as an ESP for **12** years.
- Half (**50%**) are required to have special certificates, and **54%** require special classes or exams.



Engaged with Families and Community

- Half (**48%**) have volunteered time to support a wide range of educational activities that assist students and benefit the community, such as reading books to students or lobbying for the benefit of education.
- More than 1 out of 5 (**22%**) have volunteered time to support a parent organization and **17%** have coached or supported a sports program.

- Nearly all (**86%**) live in the communities where they work.



We deserve...

Better Wages and Salaries

Nearly 6 out of 10 (**59%**) indicated a problem with making a **living wage**.

Average annual salary for food services members:

\$25,740



Job Security

1 out of 5 (**20%**) are traditionally laid off at the end of the academic year and rehired at the beginning of the academic year.

And **14%** are eligible for unemployment while laid off.



Better Benefits

Over 1 out of 10 (**15%**) are not offered health insurance benefits.



Quality Professional Development

Only **37%** are very satisfied with professional development opportunities; **63%** are not.



Source: NEA PreK-12 ESP Membership Survey, 2022

NEA | Education Support Professional Quality | 1201 16th St, NW | Washington, DC 20036
esp.program@nea.org | www.nea.org/esp

