

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2025–26
CHILD NUTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL
STUDENT MEMBER APPLICATION Instructions**

Please be concise as you complete this application. Observe the limits of your responses as indicated. All applications, including letters of recommendation, are considered public records and will be available for public inspection.

Written Responses: The completed application must be included with supporting documents and submitted via email to the Child Nutrition Advisory Council (CNAC) team at CNAC@cde.ca.gov. Hard copy applications will not be accepted.

Letter of Recommendation: Submit one letter of recommendation from a teacher (current or previous year) with the application.

Grades: Submit a copy of your most recent semester report card or semester transcript with the application. Please remove any personal identifiers such as student identification number, social security number, and date of birth.

Optional Items: You may enclose supporting documents about yourself no earlier than the seventh grade (e.g., newspaper clippings, articles, etc.). Items from earlier years will not be reviewed.

Reasonable Accommodation for Any Individual with a Disability: Pursuant to the **Rehabilitation Act of 1973** and the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Child Nutrition Advisory Council (CNAC) may request assistance by contacting the Nutrition Services Division at:

Nutrition Services Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 4503
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
Phone: 916-322-1566 / 916-445-0850 ext. 5
Fax: 916-445-5731

Application Submission

Applications must be submitted by Monday, April 21, 2025, via email to the Child Nutrition Advisory Council (CNAC) team at CNAC@cde.ca.gov. Hard copy and late applications will not be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact the CNAC team by phone at 916-323-2473 or by email at CNAC@cde.ca.gov.

CNAC Background Information

Mission

The CNAC's mission is to provide input the California Department of Education (CDE) in areas of health, wellness, and nutrition for all students in California's public schools. Additional information about the CNAC can be found on the CDE CNAC web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/cnac.asp>.

Areas of focus

As noted in the CNAC Bylaws, which can be found on the CDE CNAC web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/he/cnacbylaws.asp>, the CNAC is committed to:

- Ensuring that all youth in California have access to nutritious and appealing meals, and that Child Nutrition Programs promote students' involvement.
- Promoting a plentiful supply of healthful, high-quality food for California's youth in its role as monitor of the distribution of donated food commodities.
- Promoting the inclusion of nutrition as a strong component of a comprehensive integrated school health program.
- Maintaining a communication network among allied organizations.
- Monitoring federal and state laws and regulations and promoting changes when appropriate.

Topics

Discussion topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Effective food service management techniques and practices which will ensure the quality of child nutrition programs, including, but not limited to:
 - Food production
 - Nutrition and health expertise
 - Communication systems
 - Policies
 - Facilities
- Effective nutrition education programs, including, but not limited to:

- Curriculum
- Framework and guidelines
- Policies
- Techniques and practices
- Assessment and evaluation

Student Member Overview

Eligibility

Any public school student who is a California resident, a junior or senior in School Year 2025–26, with a minimum of 3.0 grade point average, may apply.

Term of office

The student member serves a one-year term from September 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Meetings usually occur in the months of April, August, and October. The student may be accompanied to the meetings by an adult chaperone.

Time requirements

The estimated time commitment required for the student member is at least one school day three times per year, to attend the CNAC meeting in Sacramento; and sufficient time to study the agenda and materials in advance of the meetings, which may include consultation with CDE staff for background information related to agenda issues.

Expenses Paid

Transportation, lodging, and meal costs for the student and their chaperone will be reimbursed by the CDE following expenditure limits and cost allowances per state regulations.

Selection and Appointment Process

Initial screening

Immediately after the application deadline, an ad-hoc CDE screening committee considers all applications received. The committee reviews each application holistically, selecting the candidate who reflects the best cross-section of the many outstanding students who apply. The decision of the ad-hoc screening committee is final.

Interview

The CDE screening committee will interview the top candidates and make recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for appointment.

Appointment

The top candidate from the interview process will be appointed as the 2025–26 student member of the CNAC.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2025–26

CHILD NUTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL

STUDENT MEMBER APPLICATION

Contact Information

Student Name:

Email address:

City:

Parent or guardian name:

Parent or guardian phone:

Name of school district:

Name of school:

Name of principal:

School phone:

Applicant Statement of Understanding

I have read the information about the 2025–26 student member and the description of the selection process for the 2025–26 student member, both of which appear in the Background Section of this application.

I understand and agree to participate in the selection process. If successful in the selection process and later appointed to the position of student member, I will pledge an oath of allegiance to the state, I will complete the mandatory online trainings required of this position and perform the responsibilities of the student member to the best of my ability.

Signature of Applicant:

Signature of Parent or Guardian:

Applicant Questions

Please respond to the following prompts, adhering to the response limit for each question.

- 1. Please describe what makes you a good candidate for the student position and discuss how you will contribute your perspective to the CNAC? Limit your response to 450 words.**

- 2. Keeping in mind the focus areas of the CNAC as described above, identify and discuss what you consider to be one of the most difficult health and wellness problems affecting pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students in public education. Indicate the steps you feel should be taken to address the problem. Limit your response to 350 words.**

- 3. Describe why you think it is important that the CNAC have a student representative as a member? Limit your response to 250 words.**