



June 26, 2015

Mr. John Endahl  
Senior Program Analyst  
Office of Policy Support  
Food and Nutrition Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1004  
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Mr. Endahl:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA), representing 55,000 school nutrition professionals welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on the *Proposed Collection for the Child Nutrition Program Operations Study II*. While SNA has not seen the survey as proposed, we fully support the goal of gathering data from School Food Authorities (SFAs) on the wide variety of complex issues that impact child nutrition programs and the health and well-being of students. As always, SNA stands ready to assist USDA with promoting this survey to ensure maximum participation.

SNA supports the Child Nutrition Program Operations Study II as critical to understanding the reality of operating school meal programs. We concur that a multiple modal (online, paper, phone calls) approach to reaching School Food Authorities' directors is essential, and encourage USDA to utilize similar formats for the state agencies versus relying solely on a paper survey. To assist in easing the burden of completing the survey, we recommend that any online modal provide the opportunity for the saving of information by SFA directors in order to complete as their job duties permit. Finally, we urge USDA to streamline questions to minimize redundancy and maximize results.

As the stated goal of the study is to better understand the policy and operational issues in preparation for Child Nutrition Reauthorization, SNA makes the following recommendations for inclusion in the study. These are based on SNA surveys and outreach to SNA members over various platforms:

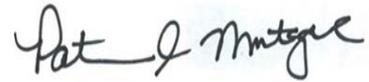
- Possible reasons for increased food costs including, availability of items, new nutrition standards and the impact of weather.
- Overall financial health of programs, including food costs, labor and benefit costs, equipment, etc.
- Possible reasons for changes in student participation – whether increased or decreased.
- Ways to streamline the administrative burden at the district and state levels.
- Ways where USDA can provide flexibility to better reflect the different needs of SFAs based on student population, percentage of free/reduced, and location (urban, rural, etc.).

Again, SNA is pleased to offer USDA any assistance in reaching SFAs to ensure the most complete and robust data as possible. The results of the study are critical to understanding the needs and concerns of directors operating school meal programs across the country. We are proud of the accomplishments of SNA members and look forward to the results of the study.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Julia Bauscher in black ink.

Julia Bauscher, SNS  
President

Handwritten signature of Patricia Montague in black ink.

Patricia Montague, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer