



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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Alexandria
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August 31, 2018

School Nutrition Association
120 Waterfront St.
Suite 300
National Harbor, MD 20745

Dear Ms. Anderson and Ms. Montague:

Thank you for your response to the Federal Register Notice for the Child Nutrition Program Operations Study II (CN-OPS II).

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service is committed to using timely, useful data on policy, technical, and operational issues within the Child Nutrition (CN) programs. The purpose of this revision is to update the survey instruments for school year (SY) 2018-19 to include topics of current interest and collect data that will help FNS better understand and address current policy issues related to CN program operations. This information will also help FNS improve training and technical assistance to States and local agencies.

FNS is mindful of the burden it places on respondents asked to participate in this study. To minimize burden and facilitate ease of use, the surveys will be conducted electronically. As noted in our previous response to SNA comments in December 2016, the electronic survey format allows respondents to save their work and return to the survey at a later date. It also provides the opportunity for different users to access the survey and complete their assigned sections at convenient times. All districts will also have access to technical assistance through a dedicated email address and toll-free telephone number.

FNS has made significant efforts to improve the surveys from previous data collections. The surveys have been pretested with State CN directors and school food authority (SFA) directors to obtain feedback on the phrasing and structure of survey items as well as the amount of time needed to complete the surveys. We will incorporate pretest participants' suggestions as we move forward to improve the clarity and flow of questions and reduce respondent burden while preserving the value and utility of the data collection effort.

FNS appreciates your comments and interest in its programs and research. Thank you again for your response.

Sincerely,

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