



**Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™**

March 26, 2019

Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division  
U.S. Department of Education  
550 12th Street SW, PCP  
Room 9089  
Washington, DC 20202-0023

Dear Director:

On behalf of the 58,000 members of the School Nutrition Association, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Department of Education's *Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; State Survey on Activities Supported on Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants* (Title IV, Part A), Docket ID number ED-2018-ICCD-0101 published in the Federal Register of February 25, 2019. SNA's membership includes school nutrition professionals serving K-12 schools, college level academic instructors/professors in related fields, state agency personnel administering Federal child nutrition programs and other related professionals.

One of the key goals of Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants is to improve school conditions for student learning. School nutrition programs are a key component of the Whole Child approach to learning and critical to ensuring every student is well-nourished, focused and ready to learn. As part of this survey, we urge the Department to examine where and how these grants have supported school nutrition programs to improve student academic achievement.

Research demonstrates that school meals play an important role in supporting obesity prevention, overall student health and academic achievement by improving children's diets and combatting hunger. From school breakfast and lunch to after school snacks, suppers and summer meals, these meals and snacks meet federal nutrition standards to ensure they support peak academic performance and cognitive readiness. Through innovative programs, often coordinated with state initiatives, such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Breakfast After the Bell, No One Eats Alone, grab and go meals and student book clubs coordinated with breakfast, schools are working to ensure more students can access healthy school meals while supporting students' social and emotional well-being.

We are hopeful that SSAE integrates school nutrition into activities and initiatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gay Anderson, SNS  
President

Patricia Montague, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer