



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

November 12, 2021

Mr. Levi S. Harrell
Clearance Officer
Departmental Information Collection
Departmental Clearance Office
USDA, OCIO
Mail Stop 7602
Washington, DC 20250-7602

Dear Mr. Harrell:

On behalf of the 50,000 members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Federal Register Notice of October 15, 2021, *Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request, Title: School Meals Operations Study: Evaluation of the COVID-19 Child Nutrition Waivers and Child Nutrition Programs Control Number: 0584-0607*. This study is to assess the child nutrition waivers implemented during the COVID-19 health emergency.

Throughout the pandemic, school nutrition programs have worked harder than ever before and remain committed to providing students and families with access to healthy school meals. As with other industries, school nutrition professionals quickly pivoted to implement operational changes in order to continue to provide access to meals and under conditions that were drastically different from pre-Covid operations. This study has many data collection elements that could be time consuming for respondents to complete. We ask that FNS be mindful of the length of the survey given school nutrition professionals continue to face many operational challenges due to the pandemic as well as staffing shortages and supply chain disruptions. As stated in our previous comments on this matter (copy of letter attached), study activities should not interfere with Local Educational Agency (LEA) operations.

Hopefully, a review of comments provided in SNA's comment letter of June 2021 will guide FNS in study implementation.

We look forward to continued cooperation and collaboration with the Department.

Sincerely,

Beth Wallace, SNS
President

Patricia Montage, CAE
Chief Executive Officer