



Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™

November 12, 2021

Ms. Stephanie Valentine
PRA Coordinator
Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division
Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development
U.S. Department of Education
550 12th Street SW, PCP, Room 9089
Washington, DC 20202-0023

RE: Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0149

Dear Ms. Valentine:

On behalf of the 50,000 members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA), 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; Title of Collection: School Pulse Panel Data Collection; OMB Control Number: 1850-0963; Docket No.: ED-2021-SCC-0149* published in the Federal Register of October 27, 2021. SNA's membership includes school nutrition professionals across the country serving K-12 schools, college level academic instructors/professors in related fields, State agency personnel administering Federal child nutrition programs and other related professionals.

This study is a revision of a currently approved collection with the School Pulse Panel. The study design focus is to review the many facets of the education system operating through the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize this study has an emergency clearance designation, yet there are areas of interest to our members including, but not limited to, the safe and healthy mitigation strategies. Throughout the pandemic, the school nutrition professionals have been committed and taken initiative to provide meals to students and families across the nation. Collaborating with school-based leaders, they have provided support and nutrition resources to students in various settings and adjusted as needed.

As the School Pulse Study will be one of the few sources of reliable data looking at staff and student services during the pandemic, it is important that school nutrition programs be included in the study because they are an integral part of school operations and administration. Hopefully, the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development will include school nutrition programs at the start of the survey or as noted in the Federal Register notice as content changes are made on a quarterly basis.

Including school nutrition related areas will further contribute to a comprehensive evaluation of the School Pulse Study. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Beth Wallace, SNS
President

Patricia Montague, CAE
Chief Executive Officer