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# POLICY UPDATE



## 10.07.2015 Information Collection for USDA Foods Study

This new [Federal Register Notice](#) announces comment collection on a USDA study of SFA costs related to the USDA Foods purchase and procurement process. The proposed study will examine the variety of factors that determine the cost and value of USDA Foods to local school and school district food programs. The objectives of the study are to identify distribution models used by 49 states and the District of Columbia, identify 4-10 procurement and distribution models representing SY2015-16, and develop complete cost estimates for a group of USDA Foods, full processed products made from USDA Foods, and comparable commercial products. Respondents to the study will include State officials with responsibility for USDA Food provision and directors of School Food Authorities.

Comments are invited on whether the proposed information collection is necessary and efficient and in order to provide ways to enhance quality and minimize burden. Comments are due by 12/07/2015 and may be submitted to Dennis Ranalli at [dennis.ranalli@fns.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.ranalli@fns.usda.gov) or on the online portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

## 09.18.2015 Review of Special Provisions 2 and 3 Base Year

Since School Year (SY) 2013 -2014, State agencies have been required to conduct a review of base year certification and benefit issuance documentation for any school food authority requesting approval to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP) using Special Provisions 2 or 3. State agencies must also review the documentation of any school food authority with a base year that was established prior to SY 2013-2014 before the end of the school food authority's current approved cycle. [This memorandum](#) provides further information on these reviews.

## 09.14.2015 CEP Guidance and Updated Q&As

[This memorandum](#) provides updated guidance and Questions and Answers (Q&As) (attached) that address common questions that Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has received in the first year of CEP's nationwide implementation. In the document containing all questions and answers (new and old), new and updated questions are noted with three asterisks (\*\*\*)

## 09.11.2015 Administrative Review Compliance for State Agencies

State agencies that received a waiver for SY 2013-2014 or SY 2014-2015 that wish to continue using the updated administrative review process in SY 2015-2016 must notify their Regional Office. These State agencies would continue to operate under the same terms and conditions as in SY 2013-2014 or SY 2014-2015, and may continue using the process outlined in the Administrative Review Manual until such time as a final administrative review regulation is promulgated or as otherwise determined by Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). These State agencies will not be required to submit a new waiver request. State agencies that did not request a waiver in SY 2013-2014 or SY 2014- 2015, and wish to do so in SY 2015-2016, should follow the procedures in this [memo](#).



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Questions about SNA's Policy Update can be sent to SNA's Government Relations Coordinator, Nadia Egziabher, at [negziabher@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:negziabher@schoolnutrition.org)