



ABSTRACT

SNA surveyed its school nutrition director members in November 2022 to evaluate economic, operational and regulatory challenges for school nutrition programs and assess the impact of the loss of federal pandemic waivers.

2023 School Nutrition Trends Report





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Cover photo: Students in Waterford School District in Michigan line up for a healthy school lunch.

Photo credit: Rick Brady/SNA

Learn more about healthy school meals at www.SchoolNutrition.org/SchoolMeals/



Objectives

- Identify the most salient current challenges facing school nutrition programs.
- Track the adequacy of reimbursement rates, trends in school meal prices and the impact of the loss of federal pandemic waivers.
- Evaluate the extent of unpaid meal charges and debt.
- Provide a snapshot of average daily participation (ADP) by comparing October 2022 vs. October 2021 data.
- Examine concerns regarding forthcoming rules to update federal school nutrition standards.

Background and Sample

Figure 1. Background and Sample

Survey open period	November 7 - 21, 2022
Full sample of surveyed school districts	4,084
Total number of unique respondent school districts	1,230
Response rate	30.1%



Executive Summary

Challenges for School Meal Programs

The top 3 challenges for school meal programs are:

- 1) Increasing costs
- 2) Staff shortages
- 3) Menu item shortages

- 99.8% of respondents indicated increasing costs as a challenge for their school nutrition program.
- As district enrollment increases, so does the percentage of school nutrition programs identifying staff shortages as a significant challenge: 43.4% of districts with fewer than 1,000 total students report staff shortages as a significant challenge, while 79.1% of districts with 25,000 or more total students report staff shortages as a significant challenge.

The top 3 most challenging items to procure:

- 1) Breakfast items (e.g. cereals, granola bars, biscuits, pancakes)
- 2) Entrees (e.g. pizza, burritos, chicken, burgers)
- 3) Snacks (e.g. crackers/chips)

School Meal Reimbursements

- Only around a quarter of respondents report the SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates are sufficient to cover costs of producing a reimbursable meal (breakfast: 27.2%, n = 299; lunch: 24.9%, n = 273). Over half of respondents reported SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP were **not** sufficient to cover the cost of producing a reimbursable meal (breakfast: 54.7%, n = 601; lunch: 56.6%, n = 620).
- 99.2% (n = 1,094) of respondents indicate moderate or serious concern regarding the adequacy of the NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates when the additional [Keep Kids Fed Act](#) reimbursements expire at the end of SY 2022/2023. Districts with enrollment of 25,000 or more students report the highest level of serious concern.



Loss of Waiver Allowing Free Meals

- Of the districts that indicated they charge for meals, a majority reported that the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students had caused an increase in unpaid meal charges/debt (96.3%, n = 680), concerns/complaints from families (86.8%, n = 610), paperwork/administrative burden (86.5%, n = 610) and stigma for low-income students (66.8%, n = 471).
- 50.0% (n = 614) of responding school nutrition programs are offering free breakfast to all students district-wide, and 39.3% (n = 481) of responding school nutrition programs are offering free lunch to all students district-wide.

Unpaid Meal Debt

- Total accumulated debt for all respondents reporting unpaid meal debt (n = 847) was \$19.2 million. Per district debt varies widely, from a low of \$15 to \$1.7 million.
- The overall reported median unpaid meal debt was \$5,164.00 (n = 847). For districts that do not offer free meals to all students, median unpaid meal debt was \$6,000 (n = 698).
- 97.9% (697) of programs not offering free meals to all students district-wide reported unpaid meal debt, while only 33.0% (149) of programs offering free meals to all students district-wide reported unpaid meal debt.
- Respondent school nutrition programs in the Midwest (88.1%, n = 247), the Mountain Plains (95.5%, n = 102), and those with lower free and reduced rates (<26%: 87.8%, n = 158; 26 – 50%: 87.5%, n = 343) reported the presence of unpaid meal debt at the highest rates.

Average Daily Participation (ADP)

- Both breakfast and lunch average daily participation (ADP) in Oct. of 2022 were lower than ADP in Oct. 2021. On average, reported breakfast ADP was 10.8% lower in Oct. 2022, as compared to Oct. 2021. Lunch ADP was 5.7% lower in Oct. 2022 as compared to Oct. 2021.
- Programs that offer free meals to all students district-wide reported an increase in ADP for both breakfast (8.9% increase in Oct. 2022 compared to Oct. 2021) and lunch (6.4% increase in Oct. 2022 compared to Oct. 2021). Meanwhile, programs that did not offer free meals to all students district-wide reported lower ADP for both breakfast (23.1% decrease in Oct. 2022 compared to Oct. 2021) and lunch (13.2% decrease).



Updates to School Nutrition Standards

- 97.8% (n = 1,078) of respondents are moderately or seriously concerned regarding the availability of foods that will meet target 1A sodium limits and are well accepted by students.
- 88.4% (n = 972) of respondents are moderately or seriously concerned about a mandate that all grains offered with school meals be whole grain rich is being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards.
- 94.4% (n = 1,020) of respondents are moderately or seriously concerned about new limits on added sugar being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards.



Respondent Characteristics

Figure 2. [USDA FNS Region](#)

	n	%
Midwest	337	27.4
Mid-Atlantic	118	9.6
Mountain Plains	119	9.7
Northeast	124	10.1
Southeast	243	19.8
Southwest	128	10.4
Western	160	13.0
Total	1,229	100.0

Figure 3. District Enrollment

	n	%
<1,000	169	13.7
1,000 - 2,499	274	22.3
2,500 - 4,999	281	22.8
5,000 - 9,999	216	17.6
10,000 - 24,999	176	14.3
25,000+	114	9.3
Total	1,230	100.0

Figure 4. Free and Reduced Rate Percentage

	n	%
<26%	219	17.8
26 - 50%	473	38.5
51 - 65%	272	22.1
>65%	266	21.6
Total	1,230	100.0



Figure 5. Do any of the schools in your district currently participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

	n	%
Yes	548	44.6
No	656	53.3
Don't know/Not sure	26	2.1
Total	1,230	100.0

Figure 6. What percentage of the schools in your district currently participate in the Community Eligibility Provision?

Table 6. What percentage of the schools in your district currently participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?		
	n	%
1 - 25%	74	13.5
26 - 50%	54	9.9
51 - 75%	58	10.6
76 - 99%	41	7.5
100%	321	58.6
Total	548	100.0
Note: Only respondents who answered 'Yes' to "Do any of the schools in your district currently participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?" were asked this question.		



Results

Challenges for School Meal Programs

The top 3 challenges for school meal programs are:

- 1) Increasing costs
- 2) Staff shortages
- 3) Menu item shortages

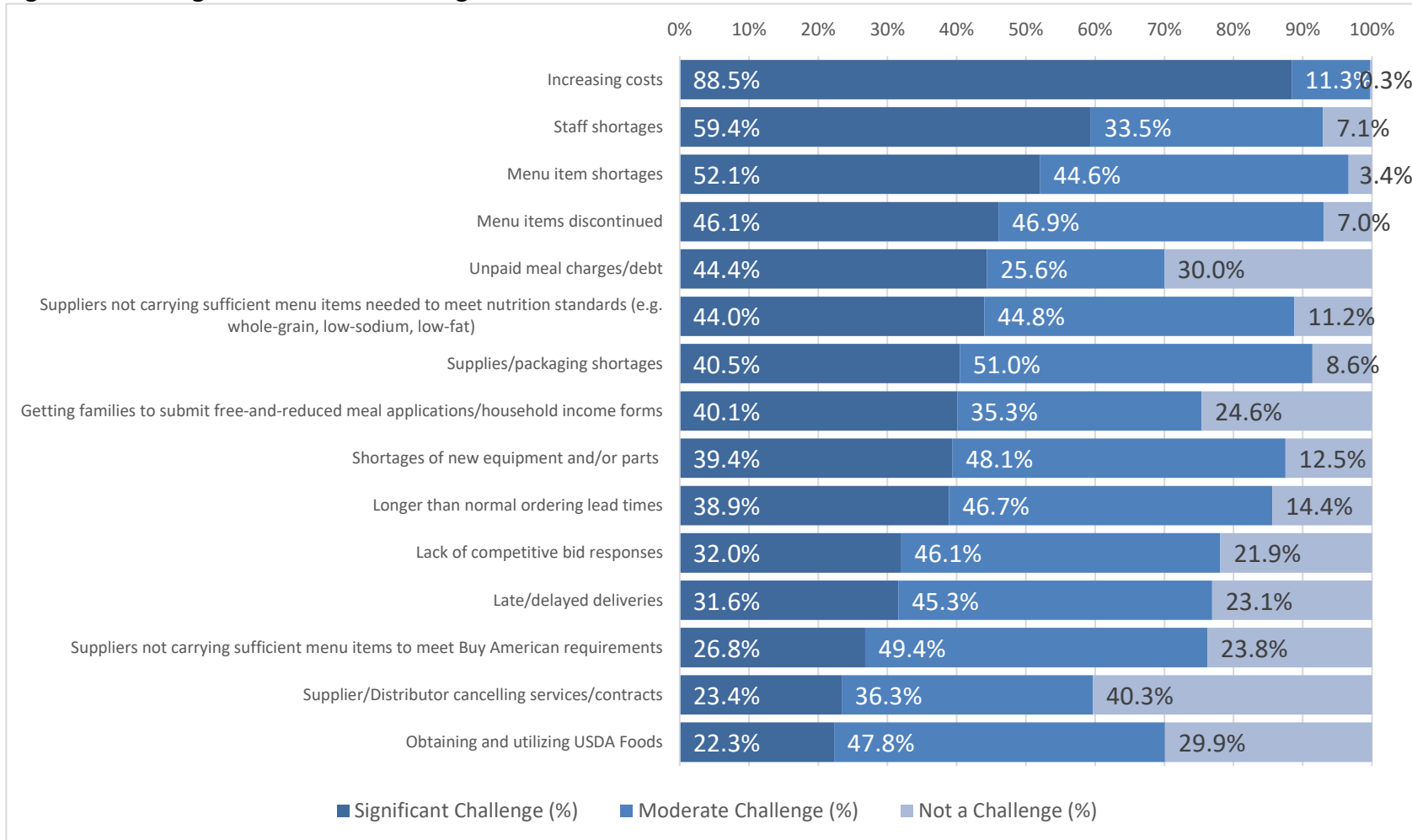
Refer to Appendix A for response summary tables on each challenge, disaggregated by USDA FNS region, free-and-reduced percentage rate, district enrollment and other selected variables.

Several statistically significant associations were identified, including:

- As district enrollment increases, so does the percentage of school nutrition programs identifying staff shortages as a significant challenge: 43.4% (n = 69) of districts with fewer than 1,000 total students report staff shortages as a significant challenge, while 79.1% (n = 87) of districts with 25,000 or more total students report staff shortages as a significant challenge.
- Only 12.6% (n = 39) of school nutrition programs that are Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district-wide identified getting families to submit free-and-reduced meal applications/household income forms as a significant challenge, while almost half (49.8%, n = 438) of school nutrition programs that are **not** CEP district-wide identified getting families to submit free-and-reduced meal applications/household income forms as a significant challenge.
- 65.4% (n = 477) of school nutrition programs that do not offer free meals to all students district-wide identified unpaid meal debt as a serious challenge, compared to only 10.9% (n = 50) school nutrition programs that do offer free meals to all students district-wide. 71.8% (n = 329) of programs that offer free meals to all students district-wide reported that unpaid meal debt was not a challenge.



Figure 7. Challenges for School Meal Programs

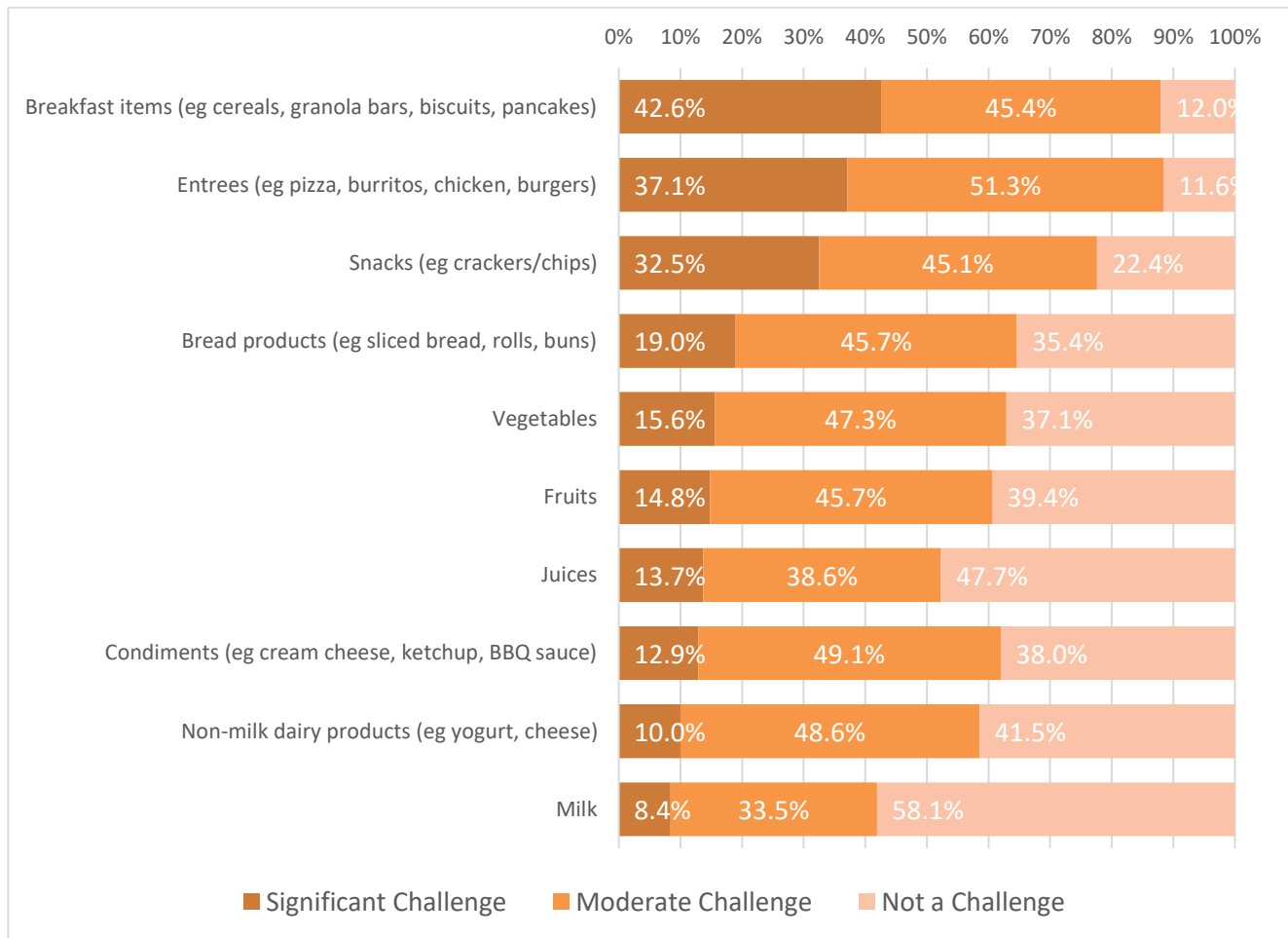


Note: Number of responses varies by item, with minimum n = 1,187 and maximum n = 1,193. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



Figure 8. Most challenging items to procure

Refer to Appendix B for response summary tables on each challenge, disaggregated by USDA FNS region, free-and-reduced percentage rate, district enrollment, and other selected variables.

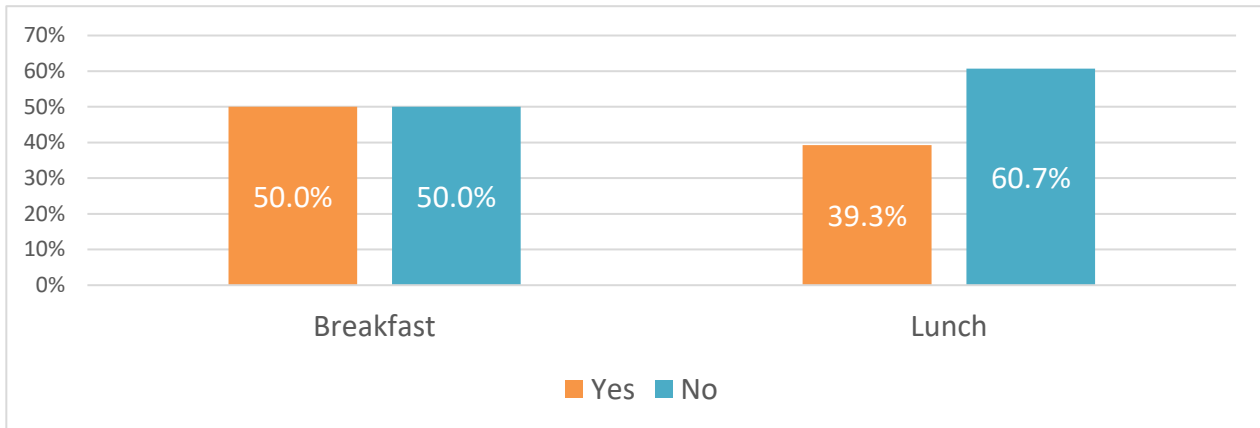


Note: This question was only asked of those who selected 'Menu item shortages' or 'Menu items discontinued' as Moderate or Significant challenges in the prior question from Figure 7. Number of responses varies by item: minimum n = 1,152, maximum n = 1,160. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



School Meal Prices and Reimbursements

Figure 9. Is your program currently offering free school breakfast and/or lunch to ALL students districtwide?



Note: School nutrition programs offering free meals to all students districtwide may do so through several means: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district-wide, local or state provision of free meals for all students, or a combination of the previous. Breakfast n = 1,229, lunch n = 1,224. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



Figure 10. Per meal charge for students who pay full price for reimbursable meals for SY 2022/23

	School Level	10th percentile	25th percentile	50th percentile (median)	75th percentile	90th percentile	Average	n
Breakfast	Elementary	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$1.73	\$2.00	\$2.15	\$1.70	488
	Middle	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$1.79	486
	High	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$1.80	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$1.82	491
Lunch	Elementary	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$2.75	614
	Middle	\$2.40	\$2.70	\$3.00	\$3.20	\$3.50	\$2.94	612
	High	\$2.47	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.25	\$3.60	\$3.01	613

Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.

Figure 11. Median per meal charge for students who pay full price for breakfast for SY 2022/23 - Breakouts

	Overall	Elementary	Middle	High	n
		\$1.73	\$1.75	\$1.80	491
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	\$1.75	\$1.77	\$1.81	185
	Mid-Atlantic	\$1.55	\$1.60	\$1.58	30
	Mountain Plains	\$1.75	\$1.80	\$1.85	88
	Northeast	\$1.50	\$1.70	\$1.83	22
	Southeast	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	72
	Southwest	\$1.50	\$1.60	\$1.70	59
	Western	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.10	40
Free and Reduced %	<26%	\$1.75	\$1.80	\$1.95	118
	26 - 50%	\$1.75	\$1.78	\$1.80	265
	51 - 65%	\$1.55	\$1.65	\$1.65	87
	>65%	\$1.50	\$1.65	\$1.75	30
District Enrollment	<1,000	\$1.75	\$1.78	\$1.83	64
	1,000 - 2,499	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	92
	2,500 - 4,999	\$1.75	\$1.80	\$1.85	106
	5,000 - 9,999	\$1.65	\$1.75	\$1.85	98
	10,000 - 24,999	\$1.65	\$1.75	\$1.75	81
	25,000+	\$1.60	\$1.65	\$1.75	55

Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.

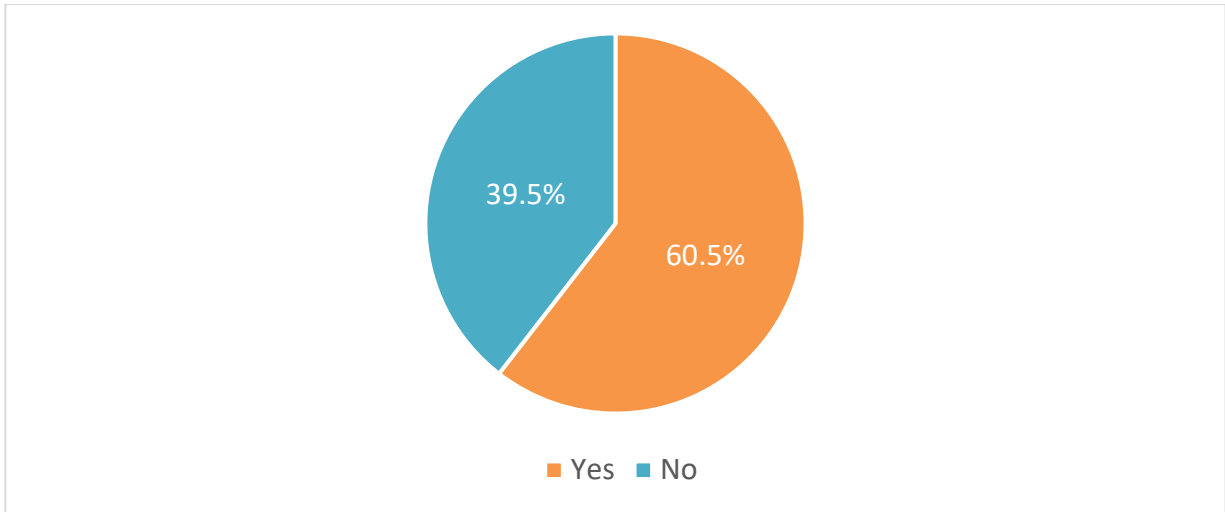


Figure 12. Median per meal charge for students who pay full price for lunch for SY 2022/23 - Breakouts

	Overall	Elementary	Middle	High	n
		\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	614
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	226
	Mid-Atlantic	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	62
	Mountain Plains	\$2.83	\$3.00	\$3.05	96
	Northeast	\$2.80	\$3.00	\$3.00	22
	Southeast	\$2.60	\$2.75	\$2.75	100
	Southwest	\$2.53	\$2.85	\$2.95	70
	Western	\$3.05	\$3.28	\$3.38	46
Free and Reduced %	<26%	\$2.85	\$3.08	\$3.25	142
	26 - 50%	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	314
	51 - 65%	\$2.60	\$2.75	\$2.88	126
	>65%	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$2.75	43
District Enrollment	<1,000	\$2.83	\$3.00	\$3.00	82
	1,000 - 2,499	\$2.80	\$3.00	\$3.00	118
	2,500 - 4,999	\$2.75	\$2.95	\$3.00	149
	5,000 - 9,999	\$2.70	\$2.95	\$3.00	121
	10,000 - 24,999	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	89
	25,000+	\$2.80	\$3.00	\$3.00	62
Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.					



Figure 13. Did your school meal program raise prices for SY 2022/23?



n = 665. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

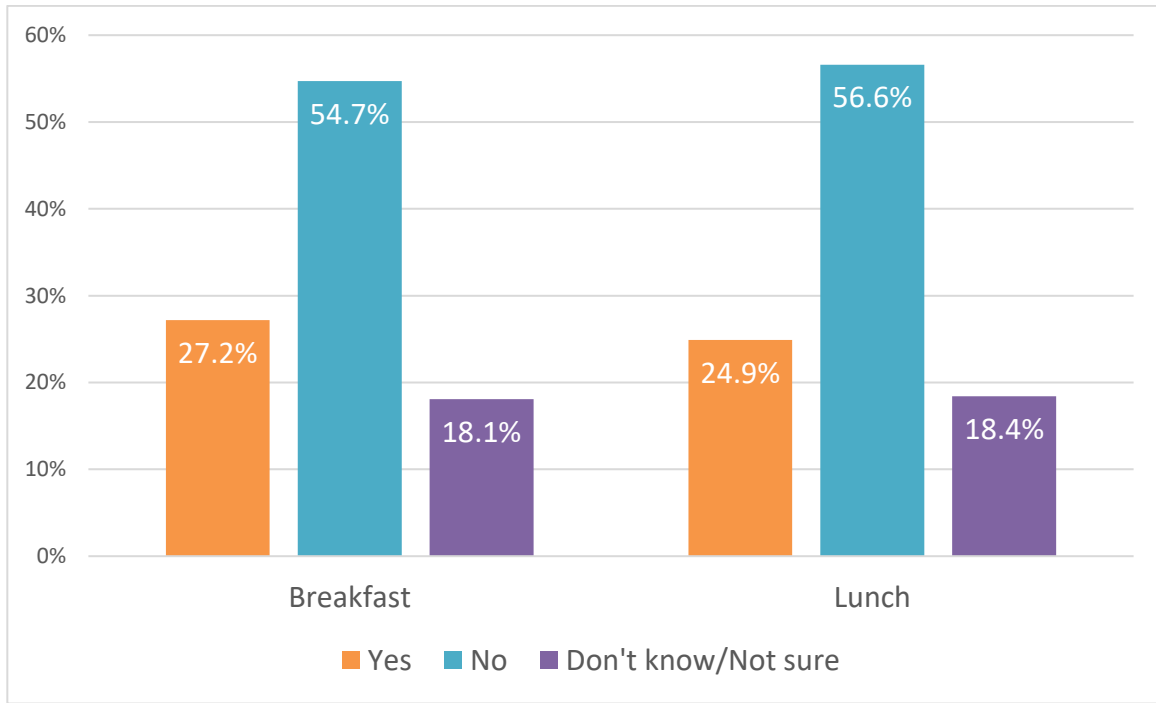


Figure 14. Did your school meal program raise prices for SY 2022/23? - Breakouts

	Overall	Yes	No	n
		60.5%	39.5%	665
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	62.3%	37.7%	244
	Mid-Atlantic	47.0%	53.0%	66
	Mountain Plains	72.9%	27.1%	96
	Northeast	54.2%	45.8%	24
	Southeast	52.2%	47.8%	113
	Southwest	50.7%	49.3%	75
	Western	83.0%	17.0%	47
Free and Reduced %	<26%	65.6%	34.4%	151
	26 - 50%	59.6%	40.4%	332
	51 - 65%	61.5%	38.5%	135
	>65%	46.8%	53.2%	47
District Enrollment*	<1,000	73.6%	26.4%	87
	1,000 - 2,499	59.7%	40.3%	129
	2,500 - 4,999	64.0%	36.0%	161
	5,000 - 9,999	55.2%	44.8%	125
	10,000 - 24,999	58.6%	41.4%	99
	25,000+	48.4%	51.6%	64
<p>*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and District Enrollment, and whether a school meal program raised prices in SY 2022/2023.</p>				
<p>Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.</p>				



Figure 15. At the current time, are the SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates sufficient to cover the cost of producing a reimbursable meal (including food, labor, supplies, and other costs)?



Breakfast n = 1,095, Lunch n = 1,099. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



Figure 16. At the current time, are the SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates sufficient to cover the cost of producing a reimbursable breakfast (including food, labor, supplies, and other costs)? - Breakouts

	Overall	Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n
		27.2%	54.7%	18.1%	1,099
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	28.0%	53.3%	18.8%	304
	Mid-Atlantic	20.8%	58.5%	20.8%	106
	Mountain Plains	20.8%	57.5%	21.7%	106
	Northeast	31.5%	53.7%	14.8%	108
	Southeast	32.9%	54.3%	12.9%	210
	Southwest	27.1%	56.8%	16.1%	118
	Western	23.8%	52.4%	23.8%	147
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	20.6%	61.4%	18.0%	189
	26 - 50%	24.3%	57.7%	18.0%	428
	51 - 65%	30.0%	52.8%	17.2%	250
	>65%	34.8%	45.9%	19.3%	233
District Enrollment	<1,000	23.6%	50.7%	25.7%	148
	1,000 - 2,499	28.2%	53.9%	18.0%	245
	2,500 - 4,999	29.5%	52.7%	17.8%	258
	5,000 - 9,999	26.9%	56.9%	16.2%	197
	10,000 - 24,999	27.5%	56.3%	16.3%	160
	25,000+	23.9%	62.0%	14.1%	92

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between Free and Reduced % and whether the SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates were sufficient for a school meal program to cover the cost of producing a reimbursable breakfast (including food, labor, supplies, and other costs).



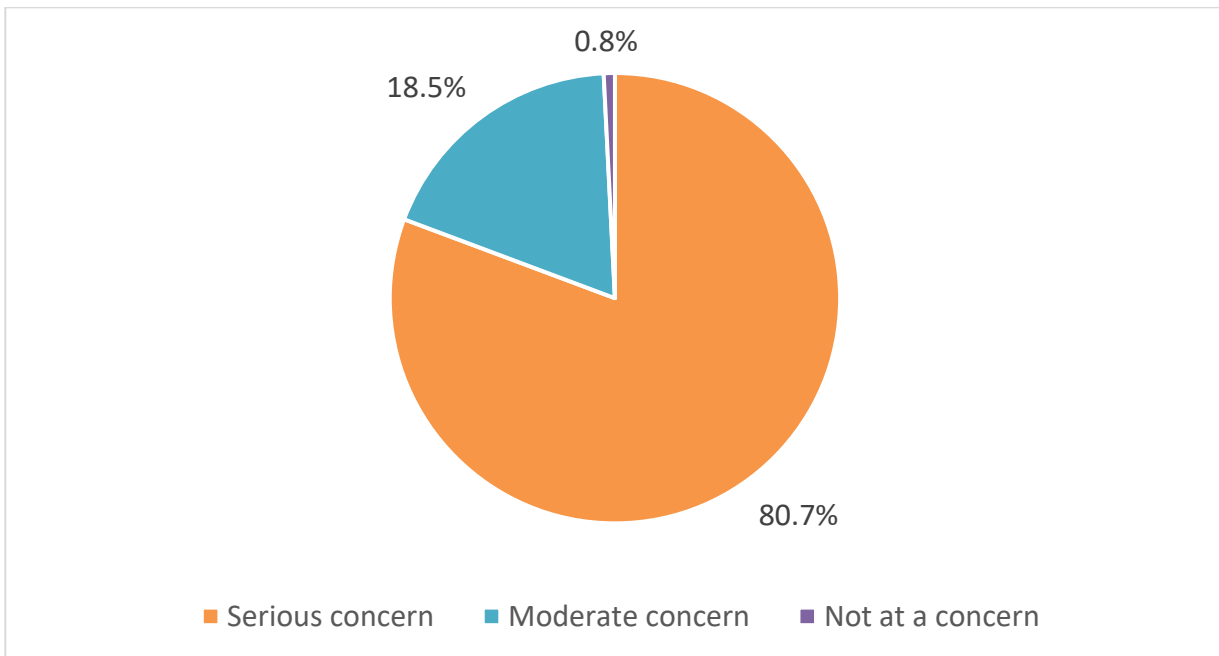
Figure 17. At the current time, are the SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates sufficient to cover the cost of producing a reimbursable lunch (including food, labor, supplies, and other costs)? - Breakouts

	Overall	Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n
		24.9%	56.6%	18.4%	1,095
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	23.0%	58.2%	18.8%	304
	Mid-Atlantic	23.6%	57.5%	18.9%	106
	Mountain Plains	18.9%	58.5%	22.6%	106
	Northeast	34.6%	51.4%	14.0%	107
	Southeast	26.8%	59.8%	13.4%	209
	Southwest	29.3%	52.6%	18.1%	116
	Western	21.1%	53.7%	25.2%	147
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	19.3%	64.1%	16.7%	192
	26 - 50%	23.9%	58.0%	18.1%	426
	51 - 65%	24.1%	57.0%	18.9%	249
	>65%	32.3%	47.6%	20.1%	229
District Enrollment	<1,000	20.1%	55.0%	24.8%	149
	1,000 - 2,499	24.9%	55.1%	20.0%	245
	2,500 - 4,999	27.2%	55.6%	17.1%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	25.8%	57.7%	16.5%	194
	10,000 - 24,999	23.8%	61.3%	15.0%	160
	25,000+	26.4%	56.0%	17.6%	91

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between Free and Reduced % and whether the SY 2022/2023 NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates were sufficient for a school meal program to cover the cost of producing a reimbursable lunch (including food, labor, supplies, and other costs).



Figure 18. What is your level of concern regarding the adequacy of the NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates when these additional reimbursements expire at the end of SY 2022/23?



n = 1,102. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



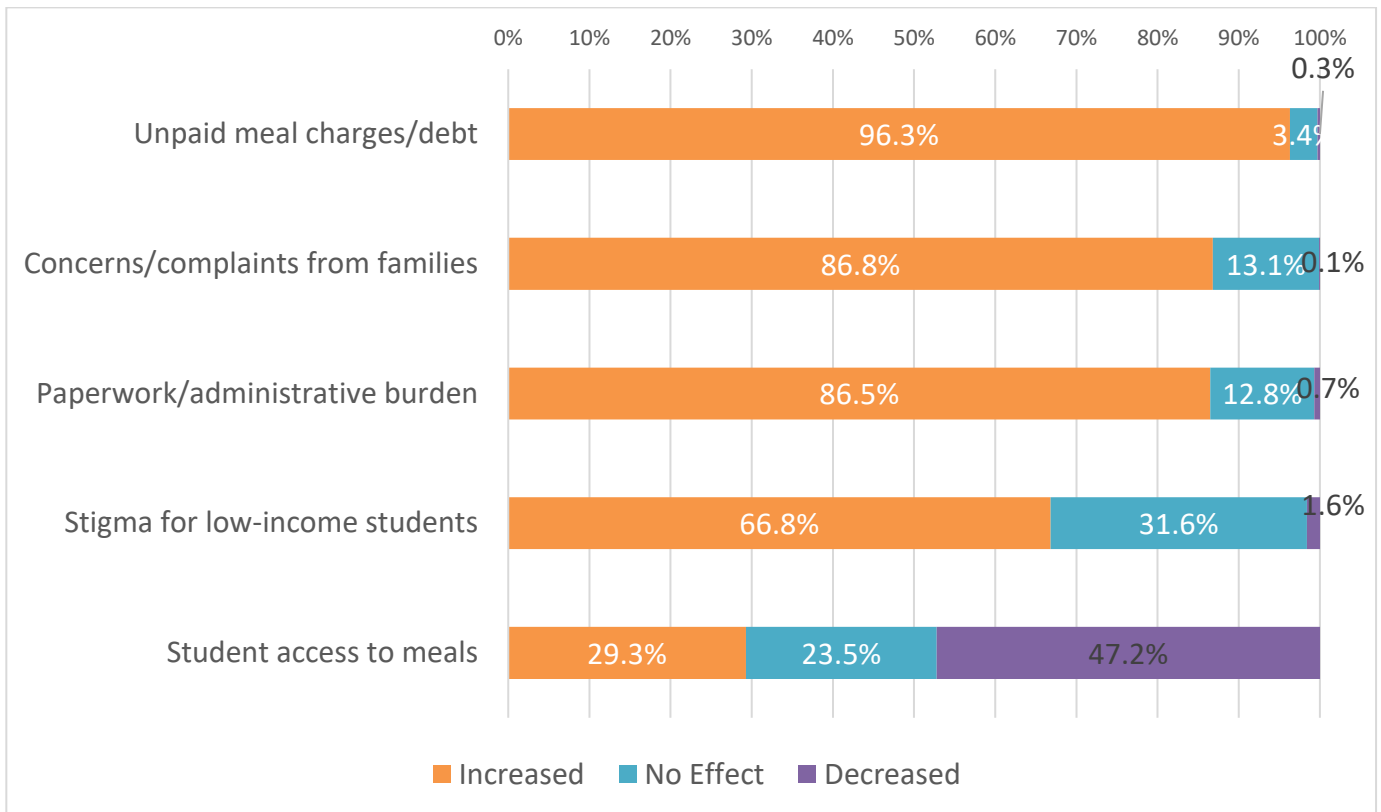
Figure 19. What is your level of concern regarding the adequacy of the NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates when additional [Keep Kids Fed Act](#) reimbursements expire at the end of SY 2022/23? - Breakouts

	Overall	Serious concern	Moderate concern	Not at a concern	n
		80.7%	18.5%	0.8%	1,102
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	79.2%	20.5%	0.3%	307
	Mid-Atlantic	74.3%	24.8%	1.0%	105
	Mountain Plains	76.4%	23.6%	0.0%	106
	Northeast	79.6%	19.4%	0.9%	108
	Southeast	85.2%	13.3%	1.4%	210
	Southwest	89.0%	11.0%	0.0%	118
	Western	79.7%	18.9%	1.4%	148
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	81.3%	18.2%	0.5%	192
	26 - 50%	82.5%	17.5%	0.0%	428
	51 - 65%	82.0%	16.8%	1.2%	250
	>65%	75.5%	22.3%	2.1%	233
District Enrollment*	<1,000	70.5%	28.2%	1.3%	149
	1,000 - 2,499	82.2%	17.0%	0.8%	247
	2,500 - 4,999	81.0%	19.0%	0.0%	258
	5,000 - 9,999	80.7%	17.8%	1.5%	197
	10,000 - 24,999	81.9%	17.5%	0.6%	160
	25,000+	90.2%	8.7%	1.1%	92
*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between Free and Reduced % and District Enrollment, and level of concern regarding the adequacy of the NSLP/SBP per meal reimbursement rates when these additional reimbursements expire at the end of SY 2022/23.					



Figure 20. What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on the following?

Refer to Appendix C for response summary tables on each challenge, disaggregated by USDA FNS region, free-and-reduced percentage rate, district enrollment, and other selected variables.



Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district. Number of responses varies by item: minimum n = 706, maximum n = 730. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



Unpaid Meal Debt

Figure 21. Unpaid Meal Debt: Breakouts

Unpaid Meal Debt: Breakouts									
	Overall	Reported Unpaid Meal Debt (%)	10th percentile	25th percentile	50th percentile (median)	75th percentile	90th percentile	Average	n
			72.8%	\$499.40	\$1,972.00	\$5,164.00	\$17,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$22,655.29
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	88.1%	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$8,298.50	\$21,000.00	\$9,154.83	280
	Mid-Atlantic	78.8%	\$800.00	\$3,127.00	\$9,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$60,425.35	89
	Mountain Plains	95.5%	\$448.00	\$2,006.00	\$7,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$90,242.40	\$28,761.38	107
	Northeast	57.8%	\$190.00	\$493.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,153.00	\$20,600.00	\$5,776.76	67
	Southeast	63.3%	\$498.20	\$2,400.00	\$7,000.00	\$26,747.00	\$75,000.00	\$24,967.94	143
	Southwest	69.9%	\$1,200.00	\$3,150.00	\$9,509.50	\$20,276.76	\$77,200.00	\$21,586.88	86
	Western	48.7%	\$463.00	\$3,379.00	\$10,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$75,200.00	\$31,419.03	75
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	87.8%	\$415.80	\$1,705.00	\$4,000.00	\$13,620.25	\$31,700.00	\$14,686.13	180
	26 - 50%	87.5%	\$636.90	\$2,154.75	\$5,450.00	\$18,000.00	\$57,920.00	\$22,418.63	392
	51 - 65%	71.7%	\$495.60	\$1,112.00	\$5,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$38,196.00	\$20,855.74	185
	>65%	35.7%	\$205.00	\$1,371.25	\$8,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$98,700.00	\$43,323.49	90
District Enrollment	<1,000	78.6%	\$200.40	\$500.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,438.60	\$2,785.31	121
	1,000 - 2,499	72.1%	\$350.00	\$952.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,805.50	\$17,905.00	\$7,626.69	189
	2,500 - 4,999	71.6%	\$512.60	\$2,000.00	\$4,275.00	\$8,851.50	\$19,642.00	\$9,561.64	192
	5,000 - 9,999	72.1%	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,300.00	\$18,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$16,347.46	147
	10,000 - 24,999	71.8%	\$3,562.70	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$40,143.75	\$96,100.00	\$46,132.55	122
	25,000+	72.4%	\$6,050.00	\$13,500.00	\$60,000.00	\$97,654.00	\$188,700.00	\$99,007.64	76
Offer Free Meals to ALL students district-wide?***	Yes	33.0%	\$150.00	\$450.50	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$32,943.44	149
	No	97.9%	\$711.90	\$2,259.00	\$6,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$20,459.11	697
Note: Debt ranges from \$15 to \$1,700,000. Among the 847 unique school districts that reported their unpaid meal debt, total accumulated debt equaled \$19,189,031.									
*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced % and Offering Free Meals to ALL students districtwide, and reporting that a school district has unpaid meal debt.									
**School nutrition programs offering free meals to all students districtwide may do so through several means: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) districtwide, local or state provision of free meals for all students, or a combination of the previous.									



Average Daily Participation

Survey takers were asked to report their average daily participation (ADP) in October 2021 and October 2022 for both lunch and breakfast.

The following directions for reporting ADP were given:

“ADP should be calculated by dividing the number of meals served in a month by the number of operating days in that month.

Please round to a whole number (e.g. 8,000 lunches/21 days = 380.95, so Lunch ADP = 381).

Please leave any cells for which you do not have data blank.”

Figure 22. Average Daily Participation – Breakfast and Lunch

Average Daily Participation – Breakfast and Lunch									
		10th percentile	25th percentile	50th percentile (median)	75th percentile	90th percentile	Average	Average % Difference	n
Breakfast	2022	72	260	779	2,000	4,392	2,041	-10.8%	951
	2021	96	350	915	2,330	5,362	2,354		940
Lunch	2022	203	665	1,723	4,235	9,887	4,268	-5.7%	958
	2021	223	721	1,925	4,697	10,161	4,701		944



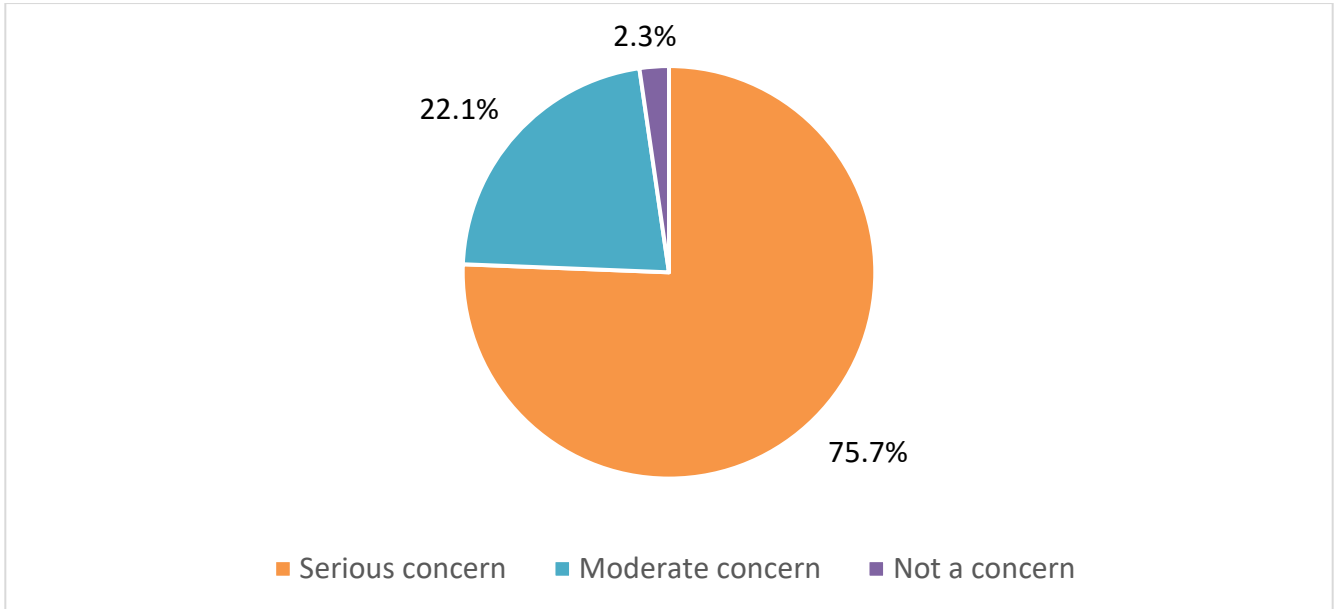
Figure 23. Average Daily Participation (Medians): Breakouts*

Average Daily Participation (Medians): Breakouts									
*All 2022 and 2021 data are medians	Overall	Breakfast				Lunch			
		2022	2021	Average % Difference	n (2022)	2022	2021	Average % Difference	n (2022)
		779	915	-10.8%	951	1,723	1,925	-5.7%	958
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	415	642	-21.7%	264	1,298	1,508	-8.3%	268
	Mid-Atlantic	798	1,028	-1.3%	92	1,718	1,990	-9.6%	92
	Mountain Plains	780	1,084	-27.1%	94	2,270	2,587	-13.5%	94
	Northeast	422	398	3.7%	95	1,007	918	4.2%	95
	Southeast	1,339	1,454	-6.9%	176	2,108	2,400	-5.5%	176
	Southwest	1,306	1,600	-12.2%	104	3,478	3,585	-5.8%	105
	Western	1,109	1,384	2.1%	125	2,707	3,010	0.5%	127
Free and Reduced %	<26%	356	575	-32.0%	156	1,425	1,810	-15.7%	161
	26 - 50%	715	814	-13.5%	380	1,732	1,921	-8.8%	382
	51 - 65%	987	1,098	-5.4%	217	1,718	1,855	-3.0%	217
	>65%	1,520	1,553	5.0%	198	2,189	2,283	5.3%	198
District Enrollment	<1,000	167	226	-9.3%	124	333	370	-3.0%	127
	1,000 - 2,499	423	547	-11.9%	216	899	1,000	-5.6%	220
	2,500 - 4,999	836	1,002	-8.0%	229	1,894	2,023	-3.7%	229
	5,000 - 9,999	1,425	1,859	-12.8%	174	3,427	3,826	-6.7%	174
	10,000 - 24,999	2,955	3,525	-13.4%	139	6,844	7,515	-7.3%	139
	25,000+	7,500	8,462	-8.1%	69	17,564	20,700	-12.2%	69
Offer Free Meals to ALL students district-wide? **	Yes	916	901	8.9%	369	1,638	1,635	6.4%	369
	No	656	944	-23.1%	582	1,803	2,097	-13.2%	589
<p>**School nutrition programs offering free meals to all students districtwide may do so through several means: Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) districtwide, local or state provision of free meals for all students, or a combination of the previous.</p>									



Updates to School Nutrition Standards

Figure 24. What is your level of concern regarding the availability of foods that will meet target 1A sodium limits and are well accepted by students?



n = 1,102. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



Figure 25. What is your level of concern regarding the availability of foods that will meet target 1A sodium limits and are well accepted by students? - Breakouts

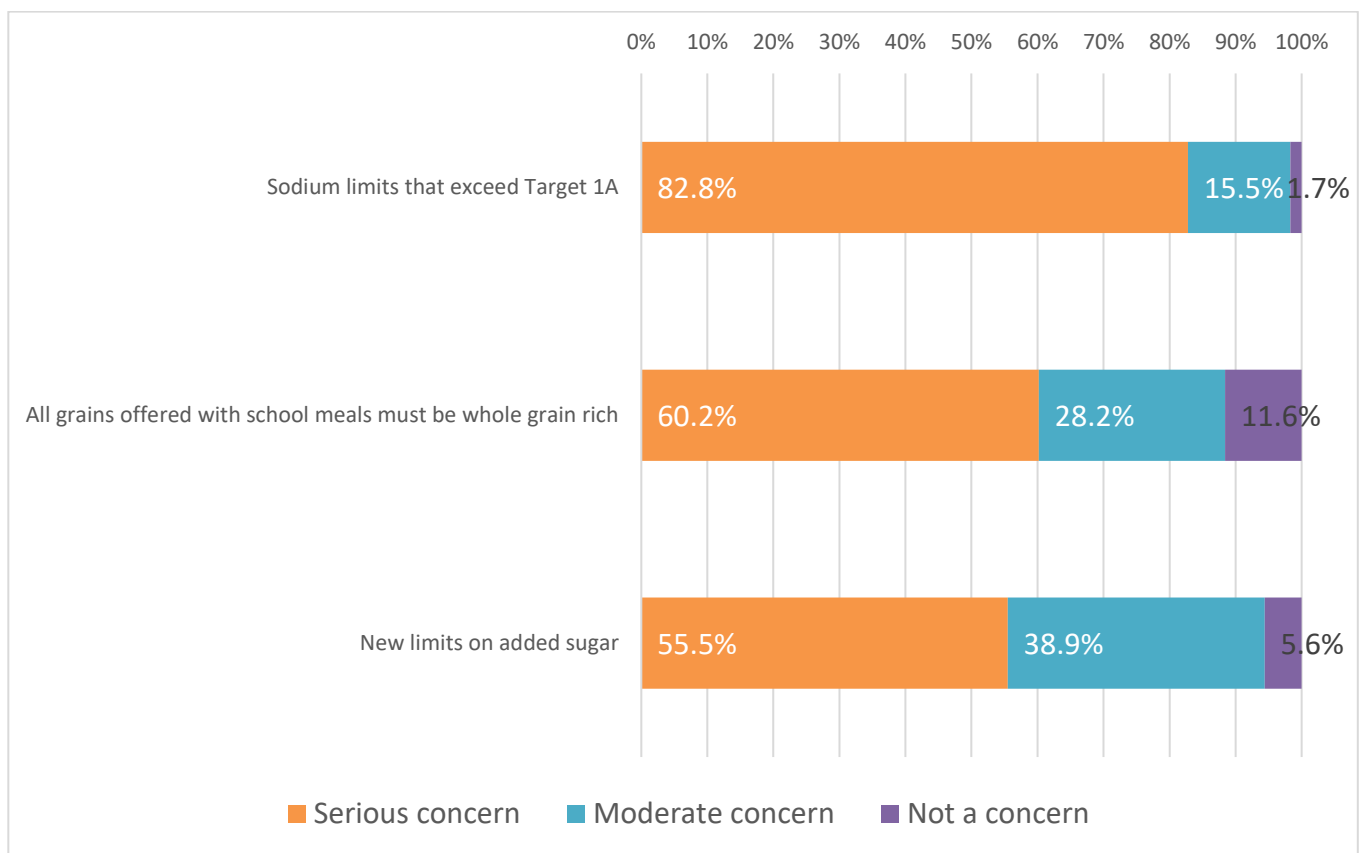
What is your level of concern regarding the availability of foods that will meet target 1A sodium limits and are well accepted by students? - Breakouts					
	Overall	Serious concern	Moderate concern	Not a concern	N
		75.7%	22.1%	2.3%	1,102
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	76.5%	20.8%	2.6%	307
	Mid-Atlantic	72.4%	23.8%	3.8%	105
	Mountain Plains	71.4%	26.7%	1.9%	105
	Northeast	62.0%	35.2%	2.8%	108
	Southeast	84.8%	13.3%	1.9%	210
	Southwest	82.2%	17.8%	0.0%	118
	Western	71.6%	25.7%	2.7%	148
Free and Reduced %	<26%	70.8%	25.5%	3.6%	192
	26 - 50%	75.0%	22.0%	3.0%	428
	51 - 65%	79.5%	20.1%	0.4%	249
	>65%	76.8%	21.5%	1.7%	233
District Enrollment	<1,000	75.0%	22.3%	2.7%	148
	1,000 - 2,499	75.3%	22.3%	2.4%	247
	2,500 - 4,999	76.0%	21.7%	2.3%	258
	5,000 - 9,999	78.7%	20.3%	1.0%	197
	10,000 - 24,999	73.1%	24.4%	2.5%	160
	25,000+	75.0%	21.7%	3.3%	92

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and level of concern regarding the availability of foods that will meet target 1A sodium limits and are well accepted by students.



Figure 26. What is your level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards?

Refer to Appendix D for response summary tables on each challenge, disaggregated by USDA FNS region, free-and-reduced percentage rate, district enrollment, and other selected variables.



n = 1,100. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



Appendices

Appendix A – Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program (Disaggregated by USDA FNS region, Free and Reduced Rate, and District Enrollment)

Table A1. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Menu items discontinued					
	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		46.1%	46.9%	7.0%	1,192
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	41.2%	52.4%	6.4%	328
	Mid-Atlantic	35.1%	57.9%	7.0%	114
	Mountain Plains	46.9%	46.9%	6.2%	113
	Northeast	43.0%	43.8%	13.2%	121
	Southeast	54.9%	40.3%	4.7%	233
	Southwest	52.0%	42.4%	5.6%	125
	Western	48.1%	43.0%	8.9%	158
Free and Reduced %	<26%	43.2%	48.8%	8.0%	213
	26 - 50%	42.8%	50.2%	7.0%	458
	51 - 65%	49.1%	44.2%	6.8%	265
	>65%	51.4%	42.0%	6.6%	257
District Enrollment	<1,000	45.3%	47.2%	7.5%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	47.6%	45.0%	7.4%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	44.6%	47.6%	7.7%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	42.2%	48.1%	9.7%	206
	10,000 - 24,999	49.1%	46.3%	4.6%	175
	25,000+	49.5%	47.7%	2.7%	111
*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of menu items being discontinued.					



Table A2. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Menu item shortages

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		52.1%	44.6%	3.4%	1,190
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	45.6%	51.4%	3.1%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	48.2%	50.0%	1.8%	114
	Mountain Plains	45.1%	48.7%	6.2%	113
	Northeast	49.2%	46.7%	4.1%	122
	Southeast	61.2%	36.6%	2.2%	232
	Southwest	54.8%	40.5%	4.8%	126
	Western	59.6%	37.2%	3.2%	156
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	48.1%	50.0%	1.9%	212
	26 - 50%	48.1%	47.9%	3.9%	457
	51 - 65%	53.8%	41.4%	4.9%	266
	>65%	60.5%	37.5%	2.0%	256
District Enrollment	<1,000	52.2%	41.4%	6.4%	157
	1,000 - 2,499	52.8%	43.9%	3.3%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	50.6%	47.6%	1.8%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	52.7%	43.5%	3.9%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	52.0%	45.1%	2.9%	175
	25,000+	52.7%	44.5%	2.7%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced %, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of menu item shortages by respondents.



Table A3. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Supplies/packaging shortages

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		40.5%	51.0%	8.6%	1,188
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	34.9%	54.4%	10.7%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	36.0%	59.6%	4.4%	114
	Mountain Plains	31.0%	59.3%	9.7%	113
	Northeast	39.2%	50.8%	10.0%	120
	Southeast	47.0%	46.1%	6.9%	232
	Southwest	39.2%	52.8%	8.0%	125
	Western	54.1%	37.6%	8.3%	157
Free and Reduced %	<26%	38.4%	52.6%	9.0%	211
	26 - 50%	37.6%	54.8%	7.6%	458
	51 - 65%	41.1%	49.4%	9.4%	265
	>65%	46.7%	44.3%	9.0%	255
District Enrollment	<1,000	38.9%	52.2%	8.9%	157
	1,000 - 2,499	41.5%	47.8%	10.7%	270
	2,500 - 4,999	37.0%	54.8%	8.1%	270
	5,000 - 9,999	39.1%	51.7%	9.2%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	46.0%	47.1%	6.9%	174
	25,000+	42.3%	52.3%	5.4%	111

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of supplies/packaging shortages by respondents.



Table A4. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Increasing costs

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		88.5%	11.3%	0.3%	1,189
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	86.6%	13.1%	0.3%	328
	Mid-Atlantic	88.5%	11.5%	0.0%	113
	Mountain Plains	88.4%	11.6%	0.0%	112
	Northeast	89.3%	9.8%	0.8%	122
	Southeast	88.3%	11.7%	0.0%	230
	Southwest	92.1%	7.9%	0.0%	126
	Western	89.2%	10.1%	0.6%	158
Free and Reduced %	<26%	93.4%	6.6%	0.0%	213
	26 - 50%	87.3%	12.7%	0.0%	456
	51 - 65%	87.6%	11.7%	0.8%	266
	>65%	87.5%	12.2%	0.4%	255
District Enrollment	<1,000	83.5%	15.2%	1.3%	158
	1,000 - 2,499	91.1%	8.9%	0.0%	270
	2,500 - 4,999	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	87.0%	13.0%	0.0%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	90.3%	9.7%	0.0%	175
	25,000+	88.1%	11.0%	0.9%	109



Table A5. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Late/delayed deliveries

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		31.6%	45.3%	23.1%	1,187
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	21.4%	42.8%	35.8%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	28.3%	50.4%	21.2%	113
	Mountain Plains	24.8%	42.5%	32.7%	113
	Northeast	35.8%	50.0%	14.2%	120
	Southeast	39.9%	40.3%	19.7%	233
	Southwest	28.8%	56.8%	14.4%	125
	Western	46.2%	43.6%	1030.0%	156
Free and Reduced %	<26%	27.4%	50.0%	22.6%	212
	26 - 50%	31.3%	44.0%	24.7%	457
	51 - 65%	29.8%	44.9%	25.3%	265
	>65%	37.4%	44.1%	18.5%	254
District Enrollment*	<1,000	26.8%	42.0%	31.2%	157
	1,000 - 2,499	28.8%	39.5%	31.7%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	29.3%	46.3%	24.4%	270
	5,000 - 9,999	29.0%	52.2%	18.8%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	41.6%	42.8%	15.6%	173
	25,000+	40.0%	52.7%	7.3%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of late/delayed deliveries.



Table A6. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Supplier/Distributor cancelling services/contracts

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		23.4%	36.3%	40.3%	1,187
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	15.9%	36.4%	47.7%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	17.7%	44.2%	38.1%	113
	Mountain Plains	21.2%	28.3%	50.4%	113
	Northeast	18.3%	39.2%	42.5%	120
	Southeast	36.8%	32.0%	31.2%	231
	Southwest	22.2%	39.7%	38.1%	126
	Western	29.3%	37.6%	33.1%	157
Free and Reduced %	<26%	20.4%	40.3%	39.3%	211
	26 - 50%	21.8%	35.4%	42.9%	455
	51 - 65%	25.3%	35.1%	39.6%	265
	>65%	26.8%	35.8%	37.4%	257
District Enrollment*	<1,000	18.9%	36.5%	44.7%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	25.3%	29.4%	45.4%	269
	2,500 - 4,999	21.9%	40.5%	37.5%	269
	5,000 - 9,999	22.2%	36.2%	41.5%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	24.1%	35.1%	40.8%	174
	25,000+	30.0%	44.5%	25.5%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of suppliers/distributors cancelling services/contracts.



Table A7. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Longer than normal ordering lead times

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		38.9%	46.7%	14.4%	1,186
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	29.4%	50.3%	20.2%	326
	Mid-Atlantic	30.1%	61.1%	8.8%	113
	Mountain Plains	35.7%	48.2%	16.1%	112
	Northeast	28.9%	53.7%	17.4%	121
	Southeast	40.1%	47.4%	12.5%	232
	Southwest	49.2%	36.5%	14.3%	126
	Western	64.7%	29.5%	5.8%	156
Free and Reduced %	<26%	31.6%	50.5%	17.9%	212
	26 - 50%	38.7%	47.0%	14.2%	457
	51 - 65%	40.3%	45.2%	14.4%	263
	>65%	43.9%	44.3%	11.8%	255
District Enrollment*	<1,000	34.4%	43.9%	21.7%	157
	1,000 - 2,499	30.0%	47.9%	22.1%	267
	2,500 - 4,999	40.6%	46.9%	12.5%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	38.2%	48.8%	13.0%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	50.0%	41.4%	8.6%	174
	25,000+	46.8%	51.4%	1.8%	111

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of longer than normal lead times.



Table A8. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Suppliers not carrying sufficient menu items needed to meet nutrition standards (e.g. whole-grain, low-sodium, low-fat)

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		44.0%	44.8%	11.2%	1,188
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	39.3%	49.4%	11.3%	326
	Mid-Atlantic	35.4%	47.8%	16.8%	113
	Mountain Plains	39.8%	49.6%	10.6%	113
	Northeast	45.9%	43.4%	10.7%	122
	Southeast	54.3%	36.1%	9.6%	230
	Southwest	42.1%	50.8%	7.1%	126
	Western	47.5%	39.2%	13.3%	158
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	42.7%	43.1%	14.2%	211
	26 - 50%	41.9%	48.0%	10.1%	456
	51 - 65%	41.7%	50.0%	8.3%	264
	>65%	51.2%	35.3%	13.6%	258
District Enrollment	<1,000	44.7%	46.5%	8.8%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	48.1%	40.4%	11.5%	270
	2,500 - 4,999	45.6%	45.6%	8.9%	270
	5,000 - 9,999	40.1%	46.4%	13.5%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	42.8%	42.2%	15.0%	173
	25,000+	38.2%	52.7%	9.1%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced %, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of suppliers not carrying sufficient menu items needed to meet nutrition standards (e.g. whole-grain, low-sodium, low-fat).



Table A9. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Suppliers not carrying sufficient menu items to meet Buy American requirements

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		26.8%	49.4%	23.8%	1,191
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	20.2%	54.4%	25.4%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	17.7%	50.4%	31.9%	113
	Mountain Plains	31.3%	45.5%	23.2%	112
	Northeast	32.0%	48.4%	19.7%	122
	Southeast	32.6%	46.8%	20.6%	233
	Southwest	25.4%	52.4%	22.2%	126
	Western	31.6%	43.7%	24.7%	158
Free and Reduced %	<26%	19.8%	52.8%	27.4%	212
	26 - 50%	26.9%	49.9%	23.2%	457
	51 - 65%	24.5%	50.6%	24.9%	265
	>65%	34.5%	44.6%	20.9%	258
District Enrollment*	<1,000	30.2%	48.4%	21.4%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	32.2%	43.7%	24.1%	270
	2,500 - 4,999	25.0%	56.3%	18.8%	272
	5,000 - 9,999	22.2%	46.9%	30.9%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	27.0%	47.1%	25.9%	174
	25,000+	20.9%	56.4%	22.7%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of suppliers not carrying sufficient menu items to meet Buy American requirements.



Table A10. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Staff shortages

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		59.4%	33.5%	7.1%	1,190
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	54.3%	35.6%	10.1%	326
	Mid-Atlantic	71.1%	26.3%	2.6%	114
	Mountain Plains	55.8%	36.3%	8.0%	113
	Northeast	53.3%	38.5%	8.2%	122
	Southeast	62.2%	33.5%	4.3%	233
	Southwest	65.6%	28.0%	6.4%	125
	Western	59.9%	33.1%	7.0%	157
Free and Reduced %	<26%	57.7%	31.9%	10.3%	213
	26 - 50%	58.9%	35.0%	6.1%	457
	51 - 65%	59.5%	33.0%	7.6%	264
	>65%	61.9%	32.7%	5.4%	257
District Enrollment*	<1,000	43.4%	37.7%	18.9%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	49.4%	41.3%	9.2%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	62.1%	33.1%	4.8%	269
	5,000 - 9,999	62.8%	32.4%	4.8%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	69.1%	29.1%	1.7%	175
	25,000+	79.1%	18.2%	2.7%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of staff shortages.



Table A11. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Getting families to submit free-and-reduced meal applications/household income forms

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		40.1%	35.3%	24.6%	1,189
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	46.6%	37.5%	15.9%	328
	Mid-Atlantic	27.7%	40.2%	32.1%	112
	Mountain Plains	54.0%	39.8%	6.2%	113
	Northeast	38.0%	40.5%	21.5%	121
	Southeast	33.3%	32.0%	34.6%	231
	Southwest	34.1%	31.7%	34.1%	126
	Western	41.1%	27.8%	31.0%	158
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	50.9%	38.2%	10.8%	212
	26 - 50%	51.0%	38.9%	10.1%	457
	51 - 65%	32.5%	38.5%	29.1%	265
	>65%	19.5%	23.0%	57.4%	256
District Enrollment	<1,000	40.9%	39.6%	19.5%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	43.5%	31.4%	25.1%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	40.6%	36.9%	22.5%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	38.2%	35.8%	26.0%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	39.4%	33.7%	26.9%	175
	25,000+	33.6%	36.4%	30.0%	110
CEP Status*	100% CEP	12.6%	19.7%	67.7%	310
	Not 100% CEP	49.8%	40.8%	9.4%	880

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region, Free and Reduced %, and CEP Status, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of getting families to submit free-and-reduced meal applications/household income forms



Table A12. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Lack of competitive bid responses

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		32.0%	46.1%	21.9%	1,191
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	23.3%	47.2%	29.4%	326
	Mid-Atlantic	33.3%	49.1%	17.5%	114
	Mountain Plains	23.0%	46.9%	30.1%	113
	Northeast	35.2%	45.9%	18.9%	122
	Southeast	48.3%	39.2%	12.5%	232
	Southwest	25.4%	51.6%	23.0%	126
	Western	34.2%	46.8%	19.0%	158
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	33.0%	43.9%	23.1%	212
	26 - 50%	27.5%	47.2%	25.3%	458
	51 - 65%	34.3%	44.9%	20.8%	265
	>65%	37.0%	47.1%	16.0%	257
District Enrollment*	<1,000	25.3%	40.5%	34.2%	158
	1,000 - 2,499	33.3%	42.6%	24.1%	270
	2,500 - 4,999	34.3%	45.4%	20.3%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	30.4%	50.2%	19.3%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	30.9%	52.6%	16.6%	175
	25,000+	37.8%	45.9%	16.2%	111

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced % and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of lacking competitive bid responses.



Table A13. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Unpaid meal charges/debt

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		44.4%	25.6%	30.0%	1,186
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	58.1%	28.4%	13.5%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	54.5%	17.9%	27.7%	112
	Mountain Plains	58.4%	31.9%	9.7%	113
	Northeast	21.7%	27.5%	50.8%	120
	Southeast	39.4%	24.7%	35.9%	231
	Southwest	37.6%	30.4%	32.0%	125
	Western	28.5%	17.1%	54.4%	158
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	55.7%	30.7%	13.7%	212
	26 - 50%	54.6%	29.6%	15.8%	456
	51 - 65%	41.8%	23.2%	35.0%	263
	>65%	19.5%	16.8%	63.7%	256
District Enrollment	<1,000	37.7%	32.7%	29.6%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	44.2%	22.7%	33.1%	269
	2,500 - 4,999	43.5%	29.7%	26.8%	269
	5,000 - 9,999	47.3%	22.0%	30.7%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	51.4%	18.3%	30.3%	175
	25,000+	40.0%	30.9%	29.1%	110
Offer Free Meals to ALL students districtwide?*	Yes	10.9%	17.2%	71.8%	458
	No	65.4%	30.9%	3.7%	729

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced % and Offering Free Meals to ALL Students, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of unpaid meal charges/debt.



Table A14. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Obtaining and utilizing USDA Foods					
	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		22.3%	47.8%	29.9%	1,189
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	25.4%	54.1%	20.5%	327
	Mid-Atlantic	11.5%	50.4%	38.1%	113
	Mountain Plains	18.6%	44.2%	37.2%	113
	Northeast	25.6%	43.8%	30.6%	121
	Southeast	21.1%	40.5%	38.4%	232
	Southwest	20.6%	51.6%	27.8%	126
	Western	26.1%	46.5%	27.4%	157
Free and Reduced %	<26%	26.7%	44.3%	29.0%	210
	26 - 50%	23.6%	48.5%	27.9%	458
	51 - 65%	18.9%	47.5%	33.6%	265
	>65%	19.8%	49.8%	30.4%	257
District Enrollment	<1,000	26.6%	41.8%	31.6%	158
	1,000 - 2,499	24.4%	46.5%	29.2%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	19.6%	50.2%	30.3%	271
	5,000 - 9,999	19.3%	48.8%	31.9%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	25.3%	49.4%	25.3%	174
	25,000+	18.3%	49.5%	32.1%	109
*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of obtaining and utilizing USDA Foods.					



Table A15. Please indicate the extent to which the following issues are a challenge for your school meal program. - Shortages of new equipment and/or parts

	Overall	Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
		39.4%	48.1%	12.5%	1,192
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	35.1%	51.2%	13.7%	328
	Mid-Atlantic	36.3%	52.2%	11.5%	113
	Mountain Plains	35.4%	46.0%	18.6%	113
	Northeast	32.8%	49.2%	18.0%	122
	Southeast	51.3%	40.1%	8.6%	232
	Southwest	46.8%	47.6%	5.6%	126
	Western	34.8%	51.9%	13.3%	158
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	31.9%	54.5%	13.6%	213
	26 - 50%	36.9%	49.8%	13.3%	458
	51 - 65%	41.9%	45.3%	12.8%	265
	>65%	47.5%	42.8%	9.7%	257
District Enrollment*	<1,000	25.8%	49.1%	25.2%	159
	1,000 - 2,499	35.6%	47.8%	16.7%	270
	2,500 - 4,999	41.2%	50.4%	8.5%	272
	5,000 - 9,999	42.0%	48.3%	9.7%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	45.7%	49.1%	5.1%	175
	25,000+	49.1%	40.0%	10.9%	110

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced % and District Enrollment, and the rating of the severity of the challenge of shortages of new equipment and/or parts.



Appendix B – Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure: Disaggregated by USDA FNS region, Free and Reduced Rate, and District Enrollment

Since no statistically significant differences between free-and-reduced rate or district enrollment categories were detected, breakdowns by these factors are not provided.

Table B1. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Fruits					
		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	14.8%	45.7%	39.4%	1,151
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	13.3%	43.0%	43.7%	316
	Mid-Atlantic	8.8%	45.1%	46.0%	113
	Mountain Plains	15.0%	51.4%	33.6%	107
	Northeast	13.2%	41.2%	45.6%	114
	Southeast	17.9%	44.5%	37.6%	229
	Southwest	15.0%	54.2%	30.8%	120
	Western	18.4%	46.7%	34.9%	152

Table B2. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Vegetables					
		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	15.6%	47.3%	37.1%	1,154
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	17.0%	43.4%	39.6%	318
	Mid-Atlantic	6.3%	50.0%	43.8%	112
	Mountain Plains	17.8%	55.1%	27.1%	107
	Northeast	18.3%	34.8%	47.0%	115
	Southeast	14.0%	51.1%	34.9%	229
	Southwest	11.7%	53.3%	35.0%	120
	Western	20.9%	47.1%	32.0%	153

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring vegetables.



Table B3. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Milk

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	8.4%	33.5%	58.1%	1,153
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	5.4%	29.8%	64.8%	315
	Mid-Atlantic	4.5%	31.5%	64.0%	111
	Mountain Plains	7.4%	34.3%	58.3%	108
	Northeast	2.6%	35.7%	61.7%	115
	Southeast	17.7%	34.2%	48.1%	231
	Southwest	10.0%	45.0%	45.0%	120
	Western	6.5%	30.7%	62.7%	153

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring milk.

Table B4. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Non-milk dairy products (eg yogurt, cheese)

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	10.0%	48.6%	41.5%	1,152
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	10.4%	44.3%	45.3%	318
	Mid-Atlantic	8.2%	42.7%	49.1%	110
	Mountain Plains	7.5%	43.9%	48.6%	107
	Northeast	8.8%	43.0%	48.2%	114
	Southeast	11.7%	51.1%	37.2%	231
	Southwest	9.2%	57.5%	33.3%	120
	Western	10.5%	58.6%	30.9%	152

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring non-milk dairy products (eg yogurt, cheese).



Table B5. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Entrees (eg pizza, burritos, chicken, burgers)

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	37.1%	51.3%	11.6%	1,159
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	37.4%	52.5%	10.1%	318
	Mid-Atlantic	30.1%	53.1%	16.8%	113
	Mountain Plains	31.5%	53.7%	14.8%	108
	Northeast	30.4%	57.4%	12.2%	115
	Southeast	41.3%	46.1%	12.6%	230
	Southwest	33.6%	58.2%	8.2%	122
	Western	46.4%	43.8%	9.8%	153

Table B6. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Bread products (eg sliced bread, rolls, buns)

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	19.0%	45.7%	35.4%	1,153
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	17.3%	41.8%	40.9%	318
	Mid-Atlantic	18.2%	38.2%	43.6%	110
	Mountain Plains	18.7%	40.2%	41.1%	107
	Northeast	16.5%	43.5%	40.0%	115
	Southeast	24.8%	51.3%	23.9%	230
	Southwest	17.4%	54.5%	28.1%	121
	Western	17.1%	49.3%	33.6%	152

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring bread products (eg sliced bread, rolls, buns).



Table B7. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Breakfast items (eg cereals, granola bars, biscuits, pancakes)

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	42.6%	45.4%	12.0%	1,157
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	39.3%	47.2%	13.5%	318
	Mid-Atlantic	45.9%	46.8%	7.2%	111
	Mountain Plains	33.3%	50.9%	15.7%	108
	Northeast	52.2%	40.9%	7.0%	115
	Southeast	44.8%	44.3%	10.9%	230
	Southwest	37.7%	52.5%	9.8%	122
	Western	46.4%	36.6%	17.0%	153

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring breakfast items (eg cereals, granola bars, biscuits, pancakes).

Table B8. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Snacks (eg crackers/chips)

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	32.5%	45.1%	22.4%	1,156
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	33.8%	42.3%	24.0%	317
	Mid-Atlantic	42.3%	40.5%	17.1%	111
	Mountain Plains	23.1%	48.1%	28.7%	108
	Northeast	34.8%	49.6%	15.7%	115
	Southeast	29.9%	48.9%	21.2%	231
	Southwest	28.1%	53.7%	18.2%	121
	Western	34.6%	36.6%	28.8%	153

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring snack (eg crackers/chips).



Table B9. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Juices

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	13.7%	38.6%	47.7%	1,153
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	13.3%	36.2%	50.5%	315
	Mid-Atlantic	3.6%	37.5%	58.9%	112
	Mountain Plains	15.9%	42.1%	42.1%	107
	Northeast	13.0%	41.7%	45.2%	115
	Southeast	12.2%	40.2%	47.6%	229
	Southwest	11.5%	46.7%	41.8%	122
	Western	24.2%	31.4%	44.4%	153

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and the rating of the severity of the challenge of procuring juices.

Table B10. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following product types have been a challenge to procure. - Condiments (eg cream cheese, ketchup, BBQ sauce)

		Significant Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Not a Challenge	n
	Overall	12.9%	49.1%	38.0%	1,152
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	11.0%	50.8%	38.2%	317
	Mid-Atlantic	14.5%	55.5%	30.0%	110
	Mountain Plains	8.4%	43.0%	48.6%	107
	Northeast	14.8%	48.7%	36.5%	115
	Southeast	18.8%	45.4%	35.8%	229
	Southwest	5.8%	50.4%	43.8%	121
	Western	13.7%	50.3%	35.9%	153



Appendix C – What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on concerns/complaints from families: Disaggregated by USDA FNS region, Free and Reduced Rate, and District Enrollment

Table C1. What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on student access to meals					
	Overall	Increased	No Effect	Decreased	N
		29.3%	23.5%	47.2%	706
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	31.3%	21.8%	46.8%	252
	Mid-Atlantic	33.8%	19.7%	46.5%	71
	Mountain Plains	27.5%	24.5%	48.0%	102
	Northeast	25.9%	33.3%	40.6%	27
	Southeast	27.8%	28.6%	43.7%	126
	Southwest	31.2%	22.1%	46.8%	77
	Western	19.6%	19.6%	60.8%	51
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	28.2%	17.8%	54.0%	163
	26 - 50%	32.4%	22.9%	44.7%	349
	51 - 65%	26.1%	26.1%	47.9%	142
	>65%	21.2%	38.5%	40.4%	52
District Enrollment	<1,000	30.8%	29.7%	39.6%	91
	1,000 - 2,499	31.4%	25.5%	43.1%	137
	2,500 - 4,999	28.7%	23.4%	47.9%	167
	5,000 - 9,999	34.1%	22.5%	43.4%	129
	10,000 - 24,999	22.0%	23.9%	54.1%	109
	25,000+	27.4%	13.7%	58.9%	73
Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.					



Table C2. What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on stigma for low-income students

	Overall	Increased	No Effect	Decreased	N
		66.8%	31.6%	1.6%	705
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	63.1%	35.3%	1.6%	252
	Mid-Atlantic	66.2%	33.8%	0.0%	71
	Mountain Plains	71.6%	25.5%	2.9%	102
	Northeast	59.3%	40.7%	0.0%	27
	Southeast	68.3%	29.4%	2.4%	126
	Southwest	69.7%	30.3%	0.0%	76
	Western	72.5%	25.5%	2.0%	51
Free and Reduced %	<26%	69.9%	28.2%	1.8%	163
	26 - 50%	67.8%	31.3%	0.9%	348
	51 - 65%	59.2%	37.3%	3.5%	142
	>65%	71.2%	28.8%	0.0%	52
District Enrollment*	<1,000	49.5%	47.3%	3.3%	91
	1,000 - 2,499	57.4%	40.4%	2.2%	136
	2,500 - 4,999	68.3%	31.1%	0.6%	167
	5,000 - 9,999	76.7%	22.5%	0.8%	129
	10,000 - 24,999	74.3%	22.9%	2.8%	109
	25,000+	74.0%	26.0%	0.0%	73

Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between District Enrollment and what effect, if any, the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on stigma for low-income students.



Table C3. What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on paperwork/administrative burden

	Overall	Increased	No Effect	Decreased	N
		86.5%	12.8%	0.7%	705
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	86.1%	13.9%	0.0%	251
	Mid-Atlantic	83.1%	16.9%	0.0%	71
	Mountain Plains	85.3%	12.7%	2.0%	102
	Northeast	81.5%	18.5%	0.0%	27
	Southeast	88.1%	9.5%	2.4%	126
	Southwest	88.3%	11.7%	0.0%	77
	Western	92.2%	7.8%	0.0%	51
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	85.8%	14.2%	0.0%	162
	26 - 50%	87.7%	12.0%	0.3%	349
	51 - 65%	88.7%	9.9%	1.4%	142
	>65%	75.0%	21.2%	3.8%	52
District Enrollment*	<1,000	80.2%	19.8%	0.0%	91
	1,000 - 2,499	82.5%	17.5%	0.0%	137
	2,500 - 4,999	87.3%	12.0%	0.6%	166
	5,000 - 9,999	93.0%	5.4%	1.6%	129
	10,000 - 24,999	90.8%	7.3%	1.8%	109
	25,000+	82.2%	17.8%	0.0%	73

Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between Free and Reduced % and District Enrollment and what effect, if any, the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on paperwork/administrative burden.



Table C4. What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on **unpaid meal charges/debt**

	Overall	Increased	No Effect	Decreased	N
		96.3%	3.4%	0.3%	706
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	97.2%	2.8%	0.0%	252
	Mid-Atlantic	95.8%	4.2%	0.0%	71
	Mountain Plains	94.1%	4.9%	1.0%	102
	Northeast	92.6%	7.4%	0.0%	27
	Southeast	94.4%	4.8%	80.0%	126
	Southwest	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	77
	Western	98.0%	2.0%	0.0%	51
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	95.1%	4.9%	0.0%	163
	26 - 50%	97.1%	2.9%	0.0%	349
	51 - 65%	97.2%	1.4%	1.4%	142
	>65%	92.3%	7.7%	0.0%	52
District Enrollment*	<1,000	93.4%	6.6%	0.0%	91
	1,000 - 2,499	92.7%	7.3%	0.0%	137
	2,500 - 4,999	97.6%	2.4%	0.0%	167
	5,000 - 9,999	97.7%	0.8%	1.6%	129
	10,000 - 24,999	99.1%	0.9%	0.0%	109
	25,000+	97.3%	2.7%	0.0%	73

Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between Free and Reduced % and District Enrollment and what effect, if any, the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on unpaid meal charges/debt.



Table C5. What effect, if any, has the loss of the federal pandemic waiver allowing all schools to offer free meals to all students, had on concerns/complaints from families					
	Overall	Increased	No Effect	Decreased	N
		86.8%	13.1%	0.1%	703
USDA FNS Region	Midwest	84.4%	15.6%	0.0%	250
	Mid-Atlantic	90.1%	9.9%	0.0%	71
	Mountain Plains	81.2%	17.8%	1.0%	101
	Northeast	81.5%	18.5%	0.0%	27
	Southeast	92.9%	7.1%	0.0%	126
	Southwest	88.3%	11.7%	0.0%	77
	Western	90.2%	980.0%	0.0%	51
Free and Reduced %	<26%	85.7%	14.3%	0.0%	161
	26 - 50%	87.4%	12.6%	0.0%	348
	51 - 65%	86.6%	12.7%	0.7%	142
	>65%	86.5%	13.5%	0.0%	52
District Enrollment	<1,000	78.0%	22.0%	0.0%	91
	1,000 - 2,499	87.4%	12.6%	0.0%	135
	2,500 - 4,999	86.7%	13.3%	0.0%	166
	5,000 - 9,999	87.6%	11.6%	0.8%	129
	10,000 - 24,999	90.8%	9.2%	0.0%	109
	25,000+	89.0%	11.0%	0.0%	73

Note: This question only asked of those who indicated that they were not 100% CEP districts and indicated that they were not providing breakfast and/or lunch for free to all students in their district.



Appendix D - What is your level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards: Disaggregated by USDA FNS region, Free and Reduced Rate, and District Enrollment

Table D1. What is your level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards? - All grains offered with school meals must be whole grain rich					
	Overall	Serious concern	Moderate concern	Not a concern	N
		60.2%	28.2%	11.6%	1,099
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	61.6%	28.7%	9.8%	307
	Mid-Atlantic	41.0%	44.8%	14.3%	105
	Mountain Plains	67.3%	23.1%	9.6%	104
	Northeast	45.8%	27.1%	27.1%	107
	Southeast	81.0%	17.1%	1.9%	210
	Southwest	61.0%	28.8%	10.2%	118
	Western	46.6%	34.5%	18.9%	148
Free and Reduced %	<26%	54.7%	27.6%	17.7%	192
	26 - 50%	62.1%	27.2%	10.8%	427
	51 - 65%	60.9%	30.2%	8.9%	248
	>65%	60.5%	28.3%	11.2%	233
District Enrollment	<1,000	60.3%	30.8%	8.9%	146
	1,000 - 2,499	66.8%	22.3%	10.9%	247
	2,500 - 4,999	62.0%	26.4%	11.6%	258
	5,000 - 9,999	58.9%	28.9%	12.2%	197
	10,000 - 24,999	51.9%	35.6%	12.5%	160
	25,000+	54.3%	30.4%	15.2%	92

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards? - All grains offered with school meals must be whole grain rich.



Table D2. What is your level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards? - New limits on added sugar

	Overall	Serious concern	Moderate concern	Not a concern	N
		55.5%	38.9%	5.6%	1,098
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	58.2%	35.6%	6.2%	306
	Mid-Atlantic	49.5%	44.8%	5.7%	105
	Mountain Plains	53.8%	44.2%	1.9%	104
	Northeast	40.2%	52.3%	7.5%	107
	Southeast	62.9%	31.9%	5.2%	210
	Southwest	65.3%	33.9%	0.8%	118
	Western	48.0%	41.9%	10.1%	148
Free and Reduced %*	<26%	50.5%	40.1%	9.4%	192
	26 - 50%	54.0%	39.4%	6.6%	426
	51 - 65%	60.5%	37.1%	2.4%	248
	>65%	57.1%	38.6%	4.3%	233
District Enrollment	<1,000	52.7%	41.8%	5.5%	146
	1,000 - 2,499	59.5%	37.2%	3.2%	247
	2,500 - 4,999	58.8%	35.4%	5.8%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	52.3%	40.6%	7.1%	197
	10,000 - 24,999	51.9%	42.5%	5.6%	160
	25,000+	53.3%	38.0%	8.7%	92

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and Free and Reduced %, and level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards? - New limits on added sugar



Table D3. What is your level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards? - Sodium limits that exceed Target 1A

	Overall	Serious concern	Moderate concern	Not a concern	N
		82.8%	15.5%	1.7%	1,098
USDA FNS Region*	Midwest	82.7%	15.0%	2.3%	306
	Mid-Atlantic	80.0%	16.2%	3.8%	105
	Mountain Plains	85.6%	14.4%	0.0%	104
	Northeast	70.1%	28.0%	1.9%	107
	Southeast	88.6%	11.0%	0.5%	210
	Southwest	90.7%	9.3%	0.0%	118
	Western	77.7%	18.9%	3.4%	148
Free and Reduced %	<26%	79.2%	17.2%	3.6%	192
	26 - 50%	82.4%	16.0%	1.6%	426
	51 - 65%	87.5%	11.7%	0.8%	248
	>65%	81.5%	17.2%	1.3%	233
District Enrollment	<1,000	81.5%	15.8%	2.7%	146
	1,000 - 2,499	81.4%	17.4%	1.2%	247
	2,500 - 4,999	80.5%	18.3%	1.2%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	86.8%	12.2%	1.0%	197
	10,000 - 24,999	82.5%	15.0%	2.5%	160
	25,000+	87.0%	9.8%	3.3%	92

*A chi-square test of independence showed there is a statistically significant association between FNS Region and level of concern for the following proposed requirements being considered for inclusion in a new proposed rule to update federal school nutrition standards? - Sodium limits that exceed Target 1A.