

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food and Nutrition Service****Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request—Special Nutrition
Program Operations Study (SNPOS)**

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a revision of a currently approved collection for the Special Nutrition Program Operations Study.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by December 2, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments may be sent to: Allison Magness, Social Science Research Analyst, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of Allison Magness at 703–305–2576 or via email to Allison.Magness@fns.usda.gov.

Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans, contact Allison Magness, Social Science Research Analyst, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302; Fax: 703–305–2576; Email: Allison.Magness@fns.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Special Nutrition Program Operations Study.

Form Number: N/A.

OMB Number: 0584–0562.

Expiration Date: 04/30/2016.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), is currently conducting a study to collect information needed to address current policy issues related to the Special Nutrition Programs. The study is designed to collect data from a nationally representative sample of public School Food Authorities (SFAs) and all Child Nutrition (CN) State Agencies. Data collection for the Special Nutrition Program Operations Study—Year 2 will conclude in September 2013; the existing approved burden hours for Year 2 are 5,094. Special Nutrition Program Operations Study—Year 3 will include the third year of data collection for School Year (SY) 2013/14. Year 3 will add an additional 1,956 burden hours to the existing collection. The reduction in burden hours for Year 3 is due to Year 3 not including the on-site data collection that was included in Year 2.

The study will provide general descriptive information on the characteristics of the school-based CN

programs necessary for the preparation of program budgets, data on various aspects of the program administration to inform program policy and regulations, as well as data to identify areas in need of technical assistance and training. Specifically, this study will help FNS obtain:

- General descriptive data on the CN programs characteristics to help FNS respond to questions about the nutrition programs in schools;

- Data related to program administration for designing and revising program regulations, managing resources, and reporting requirements; and

- Data related to program operations to help FNS develop and provide training and technical assistance for SFAs and State Agencies responsible for administering the CN programs.

The activities to be undertaken subject to this notice include:

- Conducting a multi-modal (e.g. paper, Web, and telephone) survey of approximately 1,900 SFA Directors.

- Conducting a paper survey of all 56 State Agency CN Directors.

Affected Public: State, Local and Tribal Governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

The total estimated number of respondents is 1,956. This includes 1,900 SFA Directors and 56 State Agency CN Directors.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: Once annually.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: 1,956.

Estimated Time per Response: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average sixty (60) minutes per Self Administered Survey for the SFA Directors and the State Agency CN Directors (this includes 30 minutes for data gathering and 30 minutes to respond to the questionnaire).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: The annual reporting burden is estimated at 6605.46 hours. See the table below for estimated total annual burden for each type of respondent.

Affected public	Data collection activity	Respondents	Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual responses	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden estimate (hours)
Local and Tribal	Self Administered Paper/Web/ Telephone Survey.	Non-Responders	475	1	475	0.07	33.25
		School Food Authority Directors.	1,425	1	1,425	1	1,425
State	Self Administered Paper Survey.	Non-Responders	3	1	3	0.07	0.21

Affected public	Data collection activity	Respondents	Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual responses	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden estimate (hours)
		State Agency Child Nutrition Directors.	53	1	53	1	53
TOTAL—YEAR 3			1,956	1	1,956	0.7727	1,511.46
TOTAL—YEAR 2 (Existing Burden).			1,938	4.9355	9,565	.5346	5,094
TOTAL BURDEN FOR #0584–0562.			1,956	5.8901	11,521	.5733	6605.46

Dated: September 25, 2013.

Audrey Rowe,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2013–24143 Filed 10–2–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection. This collection is a new collection for the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received on or before December 2, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to: John Endahl, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture,

3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1004, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via fax to the attention of John Endahl at 703–305–2576 or via email to john.endahl@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to John Endahl at 703–305–2127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study.

Form Number: N/A.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: Not yet determined.

Type of Request: New collection.

Abstract: The School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS) comes at a time of unprecedented change for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). In the 2012–2013 school year (SY), the school meal programs began to undergo far-reaching changes, mainly stemming from the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA). Key reforms enacted by this legislation include new, more stringent meal pattern and nutrient requirements for school meals, new offer-versus-serve (OVS) rules, gradually increased prices for paid meals, and introduction of nutrition standards for competitive foods. School food service practices are being revised dramatically. Changes in practices, prices, and available foods may influence which students participate in the programs. The new requirements are intended to better align USDA meals and snacks with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and to improve participating students' food and nutrient intake. Complying with the new requirements might affect the costs

of producing school lunches and breakfasts. Conducting the SNMCS at this historic juncture will provide FNS with crucial information about the effects of the new meal standards on nutritional quality and the cost of school meals. No national study has concurrently examined the cost of producing school meals, the nutritional profile of school meals and the amount of plate waste in school meals.

The SNMCS will collect a broad range of data from nationally representative samples of public school food authorities (SFAs), schools, students, and parents during SY 2014–2015. These data will provide Federal, State, and local policymakers with needed information about how federally sponsored school meal programs are operating after implementation of the new nutrition standards and other changes in regulations. Comparisons of results from the SNMCS with previous studies (the School Nutrition and Dietary Assessment [SNDA] and the School Lunch and Breakfast Cost [SLBC] studies) will provide information to assess the effects of the new nutrition standards on foodservice operations, the nutrient content of school meals as offered and served, meal costs and revenues, and student consumption of school meals and dietary intake. The SNMCS will be the first assessment of school meals after implementation of these major changes.

The SNMCS sample will include 502 unique SFAs, 1,200 schools, 2,400 students and their parents, and observations of plate waste from 5,040 lunches and 3,360 breakfasts. The sample is designed to provide required levels of statistical precision and data quality while minimizing data collection costs and respondent burden. The SNMCS sample will be divided into three groups of SFAs, with various levels of data collected from each group. The data collection includes the administration of several different types of instruments and modes, including self-administered web-based SFA director and school principal surveys, a