

Community Eligibility Option Evaluation
A study by Abt Associates for USDA-FNS

Notification Letter to SEA

OMB Clearance # 0584-XXXX
Expiration Date: XX/XX/20XX

DATE, 2012

Dear _____ :

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has recently contracted with Abt Associates. to conduct an **Evaluation of the Community Eligibility (CE) Option**. This evaluation was mandated by Congress in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. As specified in the authorizing legislation, the evaluation has the following objectives:

- a) To examine the characteristics of eligible schools that participate in the CE Option and those that choose not to participate
- b) To examine the incentives and barriers to participation and implementation of the CE Option
- c) To estimate CE Option impacts on LEAs, schools and children, including impacts on program administration, nutritional quality and foodservice costs and revenues

As part of this evaluation, Abt Associates will conduct a survey of all 51 State Education Agencies to gather data on the programs that use free/reduced-price student data for funding allocation and how these programs might be affected by the CE Option. The telephone survey will be administered by Abt Associates staff and take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

In the next few days, a member of the Abt Associates study team will contact you with additional details about this important evaluation, and the role you and your States play in ensuring its success.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Your State's participation in the CE Option evaluation is greatly valued and appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important study. In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the project, feel free to call the study team toll-free at (855) 759-5752 or via email at CommunityEligibility@abtassoc.com. You may also contact John Endahl, the FNS Project Officer, at (703) 305-2127 or via email at john.endahl@fns.usda.gov. For questions about your rights as a study participant, contact Teresa Doksum, Administrator of the Abt Associates Inc Institutional Review Board at (877) 520-6835 (a toll-free number).

Sincerely,

Patty Connor
Project Director
Abt Associates

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-XXXX. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 3 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including

suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Research and Analysis, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.