

Appendix D-2: Minor Assent for Pretest 1 and Pretest 2

You are being asked to allow your child to participate in the National Food Study. Please read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not you consent to allow your child to participate.

Sponsor of Study: The study is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the authority of United States Code Title 7 Section 2026 (a) (1). The study is conducted by Westat, an independent research firm.

Purpose of the study: This study will collect information to help USDA improve its programs and help to assure that all residents of the US have access to a healthy diet at affordable prices.

Procedures to follow: If you agree to your child participating, we will ask your child to keep track of the foods he or she gets for 7 days. We will also ask you to give your consent to minors accessing the web instrument to report for themselves or ask you to report for minors in your household. The study procedures for your child include:

1. **Keep track of food and drinks purchased or obtained for free during the next 7 days.** This includes scanning food items that your child brings into your home and reporting food items obtained and consumed outside your home. Your child's smartphone or a scanner that can be connected to a computer to scan food items during the week will be used to scan food items. This may take about 25 minutes per day during the week.
2. **Keep track of meals and snacks that your child gets away from home.** This may take about 3 minutes per day during the week for each person age 11 and over who obtains food away from home.

Incentives for participation: Each eligible child will receive **\$3** for every day that he or she either reports food that he or she got or indicates that he or she did not get any food on a given day. Each eligible child can earn a maximum of **\$21** for recording food items.

Voluntary participation: Taking part in the study is **voluntary**. If you choose to participate, your child can skip any question he or she does not want to answer or that makes him or her feel uncomfortable. Deciding to take part in the study or not, or withdrawing from the study, will not affect your eligibility for benefits or services received by anyone in your household—now or in the future. Each household member may decide to participate.

Your household may participate even if some but not all members agree to participate.

Discomforts or risks: The risks are no greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life. If you receive SNAP benefits (or food stamps), the study incentives will not affect your eligibility or benefit amount.

Termination of participation: Your child may choose to withdraw from the study at any time. If your child withdraws before tracking foods for 7 days, he or she will not receive the study incentives. The study may use some of the data provided to us up to the time of withdrawal.

Statement of confidentiality: We are required by law (read box below) to use your information for statistical research only and to keep it confidential. The law prohibits us from giving anyone any information that may identify you or your family without your consent.

Assurance of Confidentiality: All information which would permit identification of an individual, a practice, or an establishment will be held confidential, will be used for statistical purposes only, will be used only by USDA staff, contractors, and agents authorized by USDA to perform statistical activities only when required and with necessary controls, and will not be disclosed or released to other persons without the consent of the individual or establishment in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (PL-107-347). By law, every employee as well as every agent has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you.

If you have questions about this research, please contact Janice Machado, the Project Director at (301-294-2801; janicemachado@westat.com)

If you have questions about your rights and welfare as a research participant, please call the Westat Human Subjects Protections office at 1-888-920-7631. Please leave a message with your full name, mention that you are calling about the National Food Study, and leave a phone number beginning with the area code. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

I read the information provided on this form. I voluntarily agree to allow my child to participate in this study.

Printed Name of Child

Signature of Parent/Legally Authorized Representative _____ Date

Printed Name of Parent/Legally Authorized Representative