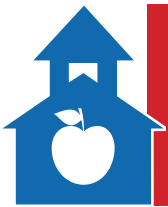


**C20. STUDY OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW (FULL AND LIMITED
OUTLYING AREAS)**

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School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II (SNMCS-II)



Outlying Areas Cost Study

About the Study

The Outlying Areas Cost Study (OACS) will continue the long-standing commitment of the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to assess school meal programs. FNS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Reimbursement rates for school meals sold in the contiguous 48 States and the District of Columbia are assessed periodically using a rigorous cost study methodology. That cost study methodology has never been applied in outlying areas such as Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The OACS, a sub-study of the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II (SNMCS-II), will provide critical information to FNS about the cost of producing school meals in the outlying areas.

The OACS will estimate the cost of producing reimbursable meals for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. It will also examine the ratios of revenues to costs. This study is important because an accurate assessment of meal costs could eventually be used to adjust per-meal reimbursement rates in these outlying areas.

FNS has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research to conduct the OACS about SY 2019-2020.

Participating in the Study

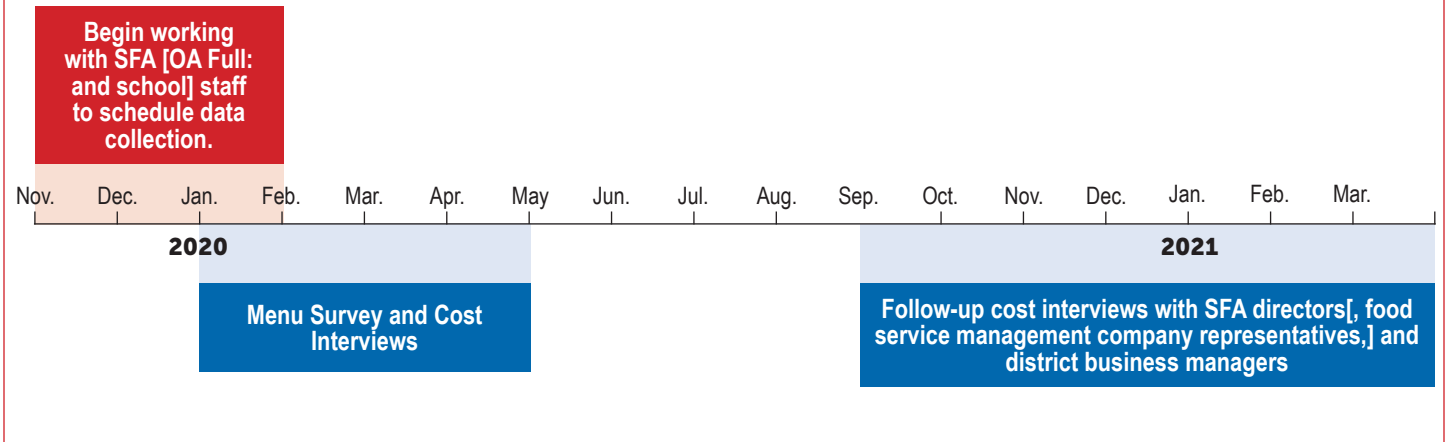
Mathematica is selecting a sample of SFAs and schools needed to produce cost estimates for each outlying area. It will collect data only from SFAs [food service management companies,] and schools necessary for the study's success. The cooperation of selected States/Territories, districts, schools, and contractors is required under Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. SFAs and schools will be asked to complete the following activities:

A Menu Survey. This survey will collect detailed information on the foods offered and served in reimbursable lunches and breakfasts [OA Full: during one school week; OA Limited: (FILL MENU REQUEST DETAILS)].

[OA Full: SFA Director, School Nutrition Manager, and Principal Cost Interviews. Interviewers will ask SFA directors/business managers, [food service management company representatives,] school nutrition managers, and principals for information about the cost to prepare and serve school meals.]

[OA Limited: SFA Director Cost Interviews. Interviewers will ask SFA directors/business managers for information about the cost to prepare and serve school meals.]

Timeline of Study Activities



Protecting Privacy	All information gathered from SFAs[, food service management companies,] and schools is for research purposes only, and will not be used for auditing or monitoring. It will be kept private to the fullest extent allowed by law. We will group responses with those of other study participants. Study reports will not identify individual schools or respondents. Taking part in the study will not affect Federal meal reimbursements or benefits to students participating in the school meal programs.	
Disseminating the Findings	A final report on the OACS findings will be submitted to FNS in 2022.	
About the SNMCS-II Research Team	Mathematica and its partners, Insight Policy Research and Agralytica, are among the nation's leading research companies. The team has over 25 years of experience in conducting research for government agencies and studying child nutrition programs.	
For More Information	<p>Mary Kay Fox <i>Project Director</i> Mathematica Policy Research XXXX@mathematica-mpr.com (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p>	<p>[FNS Representative] <i>[TITLE]</i> Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture XXXX@fns.usda.gov (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p>

