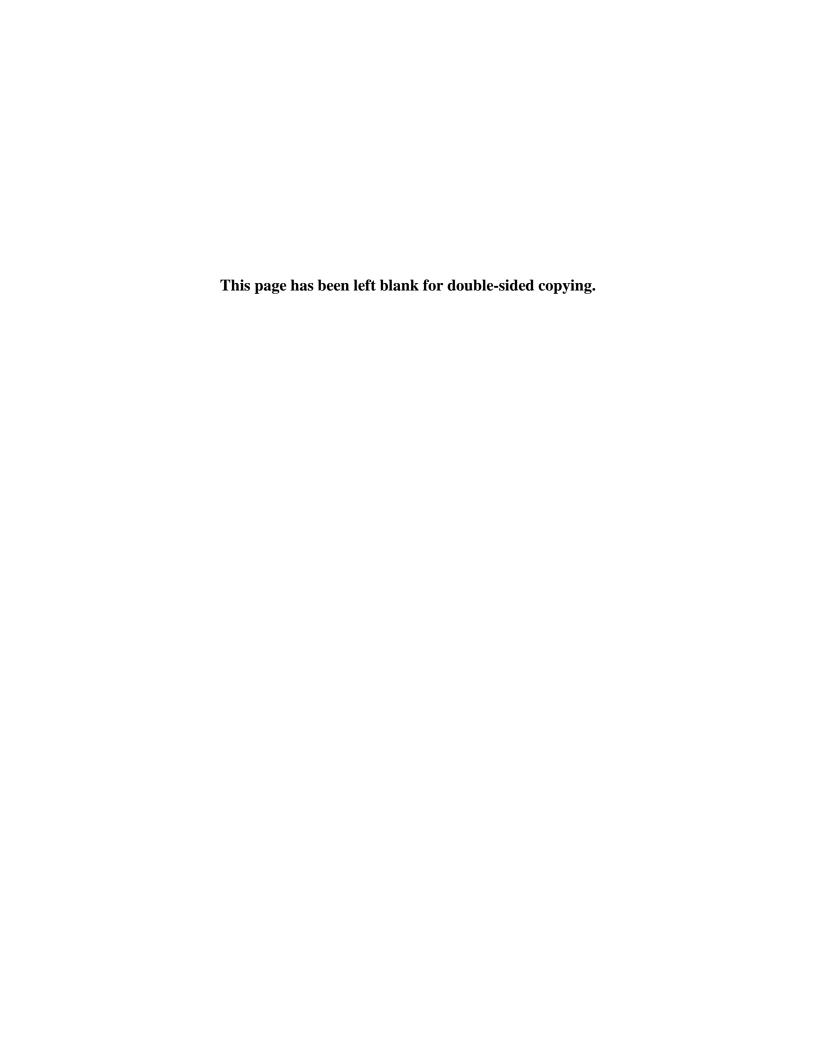
C6.

SNA ENDORSEMENT LETTER (GROUPS 2, 3 & FULL AND LIMITED OUTLYING AREAS)





OMB Control Number: 0584-XXXX Expiration Date: XX/XX/XXXX

April 23, 2019

Dear School Nutrition Professional:

I am writing to encourage your participation in the second School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS-II). As you know, SNMCS-I provided critical information to policy makers, program managers, and others about the implementation and impacts of the new nutrition standards and the nutritional quality and costs of school meals across the nation. In addition, for the first time, the study examined associations between the nutritional quality and cost of school meals, as well as associations between the nutritional quality of meals and student participation, students' dietary intakes, and other important outcomes. The support of school nutrition professionals was important to the success of SNMCS-I and to the precursor School Nutrition and Dietary Assessment (SNDA) and School Lunch and Breakfast Cost (SLBCS) studies, and I hope you can provide the same assistance and support for SNMCS-II.

Mathematica Policy Research and its research partners Agralytica, Decision Information Resources, Insight Policy Research, and Relyon Solutions are conducting SNMCS-II for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Like SNMCS-I, the study will examine the food and nutrient content of meals offered and served, and meal costs and revenues in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. It will also provide needed information on food service operations under the new nutrition standards and gather information about a range of other issues important to the school meal programs, including student participation and dietary intake, the amounts and proportions of foods served that are wasted, and the availability of competitive foods. Data will be collected from school food authorities (SFAs), schools, and students and parents primarily between January and June 2020. The study will include a national sample of 500 SFAs and 1000 schools.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I hope that you agree with me that the data collected and analyzed through SNMCS will provide critical information in setting policies and program changes that can truly support schools in serving meals that contribute to a healthy future for our children – a goal we all share.

Sincerely,

Gay Anderson, SNS

SNA President

Patti Montague, CAE Chief Executive Officer, SNA

cc: SNA Board of Directors

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