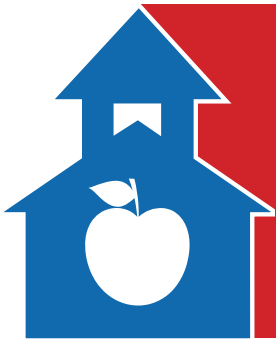


## **C8. STUDY OVERVIEW (GROUP 3)**

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

## About the Study

School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study-II (SNMCS-II) 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. This study continues the important research begun in the first School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS-I) (OMB Control Number: 0584-0596, discontinued 7/31/2017) by updating information on school nutrition policies and practices. It will measure how many students take part in the meal program, what foods they consume, and their opinion of the foods. It will also assess the relationships among these factors and the nutritional quality and cost of school meals.

FNS has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research to conduct SNMCS-II about SY 2019-2020. SNMCS-II will collect a broad range of data from public school food authorities (SFAs), schools, and students and their parents. These data about the school meals programs will help Federal, State, and local stakeholders better serve students.

## Participating in the Study

Mathematica is selecting a sample of about 500 SFAs nationwide and two to four schools per SFA. It will collect data only from SFAs and schools necessary for the study's success. The cooperation of selected States, districts, schools, and contractors is required under Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. Your SFA 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, breakfasts, and afterschool snacks (if offered) during one school week.

**SFA Director, School Nutrition Manager, and Principal Surveys.** Surveys will ask SFA directors, school nutrition managers, and principals to answer questions that will describe district policies, the school environments, and foodservice operations.

**SFA Director, School Nutrition Manager, and Principal Cost Interviews.**

Interviewers will ask SFA directors, school nutrition managers, and principals for information about the cost to prepare and serve school meals.

**Observations of Cafeteria and Other Sources of Foods and Beverages.**

Data collectors will observe one lunch and one breakfast period in each sampled school to record features of foodservice operations. They will also observe other sources of foods and beverages, such as vending machines and school stores.

**Plate Waste Observations.** In some schools, data collectors will estimate the amounts of food taken and wasted in school meals.

<p><b>Protecting Privacy</b></p>	<p>All information gathered from SFAs and schools is for research purposes only. It will be kept private to the full extent allowed by law. We will group responses with those of other study participants. The data will not identify individual districts or schools. We are not conducting audits or monitoring visits. Taking part in the study will not affect meal payments to participating SFAs and schools or school meal program benefits to participating households.</p>		
<p><b>Disseminating the Findings</b></p>	<p>A series of final reports on the research findings will be released in 2022.</p>		
<p><b>About the SNMCS-II Research Team</b></p>	<p>Mathematica and its partners, Insight Policy Research, Decision Information Resources, 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.</p>		
<p><b>For More Information</b></p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="435 678 808 856"> <p><b>Mary Kay Fox</b>  <i>Project Director</i>            Mathematica Policy Research            XXXX@mathematica-mpr.com            (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p> </td> <td data-bbox="997 678 1370 894"> <p><b>[FNS Representative]</b>  <i>[TITLE]</i>            Food and Nutrition Service,            U.S. Department of Agriculture            XXXX@fns.usda.gov            (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Mary Kay Fox</b>  <i>Project Director</i>            Mathematica Policy Research            XXXX@mathematica-mpr.com            (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p>	<p><b>[FNS Representative]</b>  <i>[TITLE]</i>            Food and Nutrition Service,            U.S. Department of Agriculture            XXXX@fns.usda.gov            (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p>
<p><b>Mary Kay Fox</b>  <i>Project Director</i>            Mathematica Policy Research            XXXX@mathematica-mpr.com            (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p>	<p><b>[FNS Representative]</b>  <i>[TITLE]</i>            Food and Nutrition Service,            U.S. Department of Agriculture            XXXX@fns.usda.gov            (XXX) XXX-XXXX</p>		

