



Study Team

Westat, an employee-owned research corporation located in Rockville, MD, is leading the study under contract with FNS/USDA.

Westat has partnered with Agralytica, a research company based in Alexandria, VA.

Questions Regarding This Study?

Please contact Westat's Technical Assistance Center by email at www.purchasestudy.com or by phone at XXX-XXX-XXXX between 9am and 4pm EST.

We appreciate your support in making this a successful study.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture is conducting this study to obtain updated national estimates of food acquisitions and a description and analysis of food purchase practices of school districts participating in the Federally supported school meal programs. The estimates will provide information on the type, volume and source of foods acquired, the relative importance of USDA Foods, and changes in food composition and cost over time. Participation in this study by individuals is voluntary and the information collected will be used to understand school meal program trends and practices associated with food buying efficiency. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-0471. The time required to provide this information collection is estimated to average 3 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather and maintain the data needed, and complete and review 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: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314 ATTN: PRA (0584-0471).

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School Food Purchase Study IV



Photo is for illustrative purposes only. Any person depicted in the photo is a model.

OMB Approval No. 0584-0471
Expires XX/XX/XXXX

About The Study

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is conducting the fourth School Food Purchase Study to understand food purchases--both commercial foods and USDA Foods--of school food authorities (SFAs) in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.

In the decade since the prior study, the school nutrition environment has undergone considerable changes, including updated nutrition standards for school meals and standards for competitive foods. These changes have affected the purchasing practices of SFAs in terms of the types, volume, and cost of foods.

Findings from the study will provide information on purchasing practices that promote efficiencies. This information may be especially useful to SFAs as they strive to continually improve school meals. Results may also be useful to USDA in determining future offerings of USDA Foods.



About Study Activities

A nationally representative sample of 630 public-school SFAs will be invited to take part in the study.

Selected SFAs will:

- Participate in two webinars to learn more about the study: Study Overview and Food Purchase Data
- Complete an online survey about SFA food purchase practices.
- Upload one quarter of food purchase data (e.g., velocity reports, vendor summaries, invoices) to the study website, and provide quarterly program data.
- Receive a \$300 stipend after completion of the web survey and submission of food purchase data. This may be used to support conference attendance or similar professional development opportunities.

State Distributing Agencies will:

Upload data on direct delivered and processed USDA Foods for sampled SFAs in selected quarters.

