

**APPENDIX C03. STUDY OVERVIEW (GROUPS 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, AND 3)**

This information is being collected to assist the Food and Nutrition Service in understanding school food purchasing practices, the nutritional quality of school meals and snacks, the cost to produce school meals, and student participation and dietary intakes. This is a mandatory collection and FNS will use the information to monitor program operations. This collection does not request any personally identifiable information under the Privacy Act of 1974. 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-[xxxx]. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 0.03 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing 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, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314 ATTN: PRA (0584-xxxx). Do not return the completed form to this address.

## 2024–2025 National School Foods Study

<b>About the Study</b>	<p>The National School Foods Study will continue the long-standing commitment of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to comprehensively assess school meal programs. This important study will inform current and future policy decisions to better serve students. The results from similar past studies can be found at FNS website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-nutrition-and-meal-cost-study">www.fns.usda.gov/school-nutrition-and-meal-cost-study</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-food-purchase-study-iii">www.fns.usda.gov/school-food-purchase-study-iii</a></li></ul> <p>FNS has contracted with Mathematica and its research partners Decision Information Resources (DIR) and ProTeam Foodservice Advisors to conduct this study. The study will collect a broad range of data from public school food authorities (SFAs), schools, and students and their parents.</p>	
<b>Participating in the Study</b>	<p>More than 1,000 SFAs across the country are participating in the study! The study will only collect data necessary for the study's success. <b>Participation by selected state agencies, school districts, and schools is required under Section 28 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.</b></p>	
<b>Protecting Privacy</b>	<p>All information gathered from SFAs, schools, and households 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. Individual districts, schools, or students will not be identified outside of the study team. We will inform selected parents of the study and of our privacy practices. Any selected parent or student can choose not to participate in the study. We are not conducting audits or monitoring visits. Taking part in the study will not affect meal payment to participating SFAs and schools or school meal program benefits to participating households.</p>	
<b>For More Information</b>	<p><b>[Project Director]</b> <i>Study Project Director</i> Mathematica [EMAIL] [PHONE] For more information about the study: [LINK]</p>	<p><b>Ashley Chaifetz</b> <i>Study Project Officer</i> Office of Policy Support USDA Food and Nutrition Service <a href="mailto:ashley.chaifetz@usda.gov">ashley.chaifetz@usda.gov</a></p>