

APPENDIX C.3

INTRODUCTORY EMAIL STATE CHILD NUTRITION DIRECTORS TO SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITES

Dear SFA Director:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) is gearing up for the 2027 Farm to School Census!

FNS has contracted with [Contractor] to conduct the Census with all public, charter, and private school food authorities (SFAs) that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) nationwide. Your full participation is crucial to ensure that the Census data is representative of all SFAs in the country and in your State.

On [date], DIR will e-mail you a link to the Census and instructions. It will come from [study team email]. Please add this email address to your approved senders list so that you don't miss the email. When completing the Census, you will provide information about your SFA for school year 2026-27. You will have through June to complete the Census.

Additionally, in the email with your Census link, you will also receive an invitation to a webinar open to all SFAs that will provide an overview of the Census, guidance on filling out different sections, and an opportunity to ask questions. We encourage your attendance to learn more about this important research effort.

Responding to FNS research requests is required under the National School Lunch Act, and it is important that **all SFAs participate, regardless of their participation in farm to school activities**. The Farm to School Census is our best tool for collecting important information to help us support your farm to school efforts.

If you are curious about how your results will be used, you can see the results of the 2023 Farm to School Census at <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/>. You can explore data at the SFA, State, or national level.

If you have any questions, please contact the project team toll-free at [study team phone number] from 9 AM to 9 PM ET, or e-mail [study team email]. Thank you in advance for your support of the 2027 Census.

Sincerely,

[insert State CN director name and signature]

This information is being collected to assist the Food and Nutrition Service in understanding and tracking farm to school engagement. This is a mandatory collection and FNS will use the information to set priorities for USDA outreach and technical support. 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 0584-0646. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 0.0668 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 22306 ATTN: PRA (0584-0646). Do not return the completed form to this address.