



**Feeding Bodies. Fueling Minds.™**

August 2024

RE: The National School Foods Study 2024-2025

Dear School Food Authority Director:

Thank you for your valuable role in providing nutritious meals to students as part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is continuing their commitment to evaluating and improving these vital school meals programs. The National School Foods Study is a continuation of previous FNS studies conducted over 10 years ago—the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study, conducted in 2014-2015, and the School Food Purchase Study-III, conducted in 2009-2010. These studies provided critical information to policy makers, program managers, and others about the implementation and impacts of the nutrition standards and the nutritional quality and costs of school meals across the nation.

Now, the National School Foods Study will be collecting data in the upcoming school year (SY) 2024-2025. The study will be recruiting hundreds of School Food Authority (SFA)s and schools to participate. You were recruited to represent not only your SFA, but other SFAs like you. To best understand what is happening within these important programs, it is important to have a diverse group of participants. FNS will use the results of this study to identify where SFAs and schools are excelling in meeting the meal standards and where they may need additional technical assistance and resources. In addition, the results of the study will provide information to FNS on the cost to prepare school meals. Given the changes in the school food landscape over the last ten years, it is critical to capture this up-to-date information to better inform policy decisions.

The National School Foods Study is not an audit of any kind. Only data across all SFAs will be reported and presented as national-level percentages, and respondents will not be identified outside the study team. You and your schools are very busy and may feel hesitant to participate in another task or study. However, SNA encourages you to participate in this study to ensure districts such as yours are represented in the results that will help FNS learn about the meals served, the foods procured, what children are eating, and the cost of providing school meals to students.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gleave, RDN, SNS  
President

Patricia Montague, FASAE. CAE  
Chief Executive Officer