

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 0584-0698. 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 (0584-0698). Do not return the completed form to this address.



2024–2025 National School Foods Study



About the Study

Including the outlying areas as a part of the 2024–2025 National School Foods Study, will provide critical information to FNS about the cost of producing school meals in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This study will continue the long-standing commitment of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to assess school meal programs. Reimbursement rates for school meals sold in the contiguous 48 States and the District of Columbia are assessed periodically using a rigorous cost study methodology and we are now applying that methodology to Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This study is important because an accurate assessment of meal costs could eventually be used to adjust per-meal reimbursement rates in your state or territory.

To do so, we will estimate the cost of producing reimbursable meals for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. We will also examine the ratios of revenues to costs. FNS has selected Mathematica to conduct the study for SY 2024–2025.

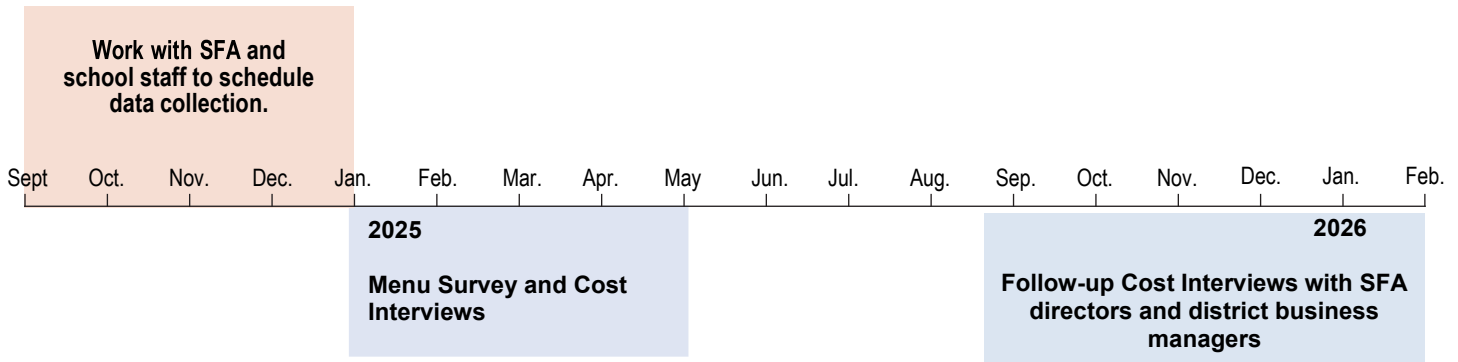
Participating in the Study

Mathematica is selecting a sample of SFAs and schools needed to produce cost estimates for each outlying area. The study will collect data only from SFAs, food service management companies, and schools. SFAs and schools will be asked to complete the following activities:

Menu Survey. This survey will collect detailed information on the foods offered and served in reimbursable lunches and breakfasts during one school week.

SFA Director, School Nutrition Manager, and Principal Cost Interviews. Interviewers will ask SFA directors/business managers, food service management company representatives, school nutrition managers, and principals for information about the cost to prepare and serve school meals.

Timeline of Study Activities



<p>Protecting Privacy</p>	<p>All information gathered from SFAs, food service management companies, and schools is for research purposes only, and will not be used for auditing or monitoring. It will be kept private to the fullest extent allowed by law. We will group responses with those of other study participants. Study reports will not identify individual schools or respondents. Taking part in the study will not affect current Federal meal reimbursements or benefits to students participating in the school meal programs.</p>	
<p>About the Research Team</p>	<p>Mathematica and its partner, Decision Information Resources, are among the nation’s leading research companies. The team has over 30 years of experience in conducting research for government agencies and studying child nutrition programs.</p> <p>To learn more, visit: https://www.mathematica.org/sp/2024-2025-national-school-foods-study</p>	
<p>For More Information</p>	<p>Alice Ann Gola <i>Study Project Director</i> Mathematica AGola@mathematica-mpr.com 1-833-SCH-MEAL</p>	<p>Ashley Chaifetz <i>Study Project Officer</i> Office of Policy Support USDA Food and Nutrition Service ashley.chaifetz@usda.gov</p>