



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 03/16/2016 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2016-05895>, and on FDsys.gov

BILLING CODE: 3410-30-P

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—

Successful Approaches to Reduce Sodium in School Meals

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

ACTION: Notice and request for comments

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other public agencies to comment on this proposed information collection.

This collection is a new collection to study Successful Approaches to Reduce Sodium in School Meals.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on the following topics: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions that were used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, and/or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Alice Ann Gola, Social Science Research Analyst, Special Nutrition Evaluation Branch, Office of Policy Support, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1014, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be submitted via email to AliceAnn.Gola@fns.usda.gov. Comments will also be accepted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments electronically.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of this information collection should be directed to Alice Ann Gola at AliceAnn.Gola@fns.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Successful Approaches to Reduce Sodium in School Meals

Form Number: N/A

OMB Number: Not yet assigned

Expiration Date: Not yet determined

Type of Request: New collection

Abstract: The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are federally assisted meal programs operating in almost 100,000 public schools, non-profit private schools, and residential child-care institutions. Any child enrolled in a participating school may purchase a meal through the SBP and NSLP. Children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals. Children from families with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of poverty are eligible for reduced-price meals.

School districts that participate in NSLP receive cash subsidies and commodities (USDA foods) from the USDA for each meal they serve. In return, they must serve meals that meet Federal requirements.

Federal regulations (7 CFR part 210.10) set nutritional and other meal requirements for school lunches, including targets for sodium levels. The purpose of this study is to identify, among schools that are successfully meeting the sodium targets, “best practices” that could be used to provide technical assistance to School Food Authorities (SFAs) for developing lower sodium menus. This study relies on qualitative data from four sources: SFA directors, school administrators, community-based stakeholders, and local food suppliers to SFAs. The study activities subject to this notice include online prescreening surveys, brief telephone interviews, in-depth telephone interviews, and in-depth on-site interviews. The online prescreening survey will verify which SFAs are currently meeting sodium targets. The brief site visit selection telephone interview will provide additional information used to determine which of the eligible sites will experience in-depth interviews, either on-site or by telephone.

Affected Public: This study includes four respondent groups: 1) State, Local, and Tribal Government (SFA directors and school administrators), 2) Business or Other For-Profit (local food suppliers), 3) Individuals or Households (community-based stakeholders), and 4) Not-For-Profit Institutions (community-based stakeholders).

Estimated Number of Respondents: The total estimated number of respondents is 753. This figure includes 608 respondents and 145 non-respondents. The initial sample will consist of 625 SFA directors. Assuming that 80 percent respond to the pre-screening survey, the resulting respondent sample will include approximately 500 SFA directors. Of the SFA directors identified as eligible from the pre-screening survey results, 45 will be contacted with an expected

response rate of 80 percent (36 SFA director respondents and 9 non-respondents). In-depth interviews will be conducted with the 36 SFA directors (with an expected 100 percent response rate). The following respondent types will be recruited within each of the SFAs, resulting in 36 responses per respondent type: 40 school administrators (with an expected response rate of 90 percent); 46 local food suppliers (with an expected response rate of 78 percent); and 42 community-based stakeholders (32 individuals with an expected response rate of 87.5 percent and 10 not-for-profit institutions with an expected response rate of 80 percent). The 145 non-respondents include 125 SFA directors, 4 school administrators, 10 local food suppliers, 4 individual community-based stakeholders, and 2 not-for-profit community-based stakeholders.

Estimated Frequency of Responses per Respondent: FNS estimates that the frequency of responses per respondent will average 1.11 responses per respondent across the entire collection. SFA directors may provide responses on three occasions (prescreening survey, brief site visit selection telephone interview, and in-depth interview), although most will provide responses on the prescreening survey only. School administrators, community-based stakeholders, and local food suppliers to SFAs will be expected to provide a one-time response during the in-depth interview.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: The total number of responses expected across all respondent categories is 834.

Estimated Time per Response: The estimated time will vary depending on the respondent category and will range from three minutes (0.05 hours) to one hour. The table that follows outlines the estimated total annual burden for each type of respondent. Across all study respondents and non-respondents, the average estimated time per response is 0.47 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours on Respondents: 391.22 hours (see table below for estimated total annual burden hours by type of respondent).

Affected Public	Respondent type	Instrument	Total Sample Size	Estimated Number of Respondents ^b	Frequency of Response	Total Annual Responses	Average Time Per Response (Hours) ^c	Total Annual Burden Estimate (Hours)	Estimated Number of Non-Respondents ^a	Frequency of Non-Response	Total Annual Non-Responses	Average Time Per Non-Response (Hours) ^d	Total Annual Burden Estimate (Hours)	Grand Total Burden Estimate (Hours)
State, Local, and Tribal Government														
State, Local, and Tribal Government	SFA Director	Prescreening Reminder Follow-up and Survey Completion-Web ^a	625	500	1	500	0.39	195	125	1	125	0.26	32.5	227.50
		Brief Interview-Telephone	45	36	1	36	0.50	18	9	1	9	0.08	0.72	18.72
		In-depth Interview-Telephone or On Site	36	36	1	36	1	36	0	1	0	0.08	0	36.00
	School Administrator	In-depth Interview-Telephone or On Site	40	36	1	36	1	36	4	1	4	0.05	0.20	36.20
Subtotal of State, Local, and Tribal Government				536	1	608	0.47	285	129	1	138	0.24	33.42	318.42
Business or Other For-Profit														
Business or Other For-Profit	Local Food Supplier	In-depth Interview-Telephone/On Site	46	36	1	36	1	36	10	1	10	0.05	0.50	36.50
Subtotal of Business or Other For-Profit				36	1	36	1	36	10	1	10	0.05	0.50	36.50
Individuals or Households														
Individuals or Households	Community-based Stakeholder	In-depth Interview-Telephone/On Site	32	28	1	28	1	28	4	1	4	0.05	0.20	28.20
Individuals or Households				28	1	28	1	28	4	1	4	0.05	0.20	28.20
Not-For-Profit Institutions														
Not-for-Profit Institutions	Community-based Stakeholder	In-depth Interview-Telephone/On Site	10	8	1	8	1	8	2	1	2	0.05	0.10	8.10
Non-For Profit Institutions				8	1	8	1	8	2	1	2	0.05	0.10	8.10
Grand Total				608	1	680	0.53	357	145	1	154	0.22	34.22	391.22

^aA welcome email with the prescreening survey link will be sent the first week of recruitment. Two more reminder emails will be sent; one during the second and third weeks. Four reminder phone calls will be made; two each week during the second and third weeks.

^b500 SFA directors are estimated to participate in the pre-screening survey; 45 of those 500 will be asked to participate in the brief telephone interview; 36 of those 45 are expected to respond and the same 36 are expected to participate in the in-depth interview

^cThe burden hours reflect the data collection activity of an average 20 min. survey as well as an average correspondence burden of .08 (maximum of three welcome/reminder emails at 3 min. and four reminder phone calls at 1.2 min.)

^dThe burden hours reflect the burden associated with non-response to repeated correspondence of .26 hours (three welcome/reminder emails at 3 min. and four phone calls at 1.2 min.)

^eThese estimated 9 non-respondents are not unique non-respondents. Therefore, they are not included in the total count of non-respondents.

Dated: March 7, 2016.

Audrey Rowe,
Administrator,
Food and Nutrition Service.

[FR Doc. 2016-05895 Filed: 3/15/2016 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/16/2016]