



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: 2027 Farm to School Census

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

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 revision of a currently approved collection (OMB Number 0584-0646) for the 2027 Farm to School Census.

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

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent to: Amy Rosenthal, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Braddock Metro Center II, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. Comments may also be sent via email to Amy Rosenthal at amy.rosenthal@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 Amy Rosenthal at amy.rosenthal@usda.gov, 703-305-2245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments are invited on: (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 or other forms of information technology.

Title: 2027 Farm to School Census

OMB Number: 0584-0646

Expiration Date: 5/31/25

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection

Abstract: Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act authorized and funded USDA to establish a farm to school program in order to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve food and agriculture education as well as access to local foods in schools. This work is housed within the FNS Community Food Systems Division. As part of the Farm to School Program's authorization, CFSD collects and disseminates information on farm to school activity throughout the country. CFSD conducted a national census of farm to school activity in 2013, 2015, 2019, and 2023. The Farm to School Census provides the only nationally-representative data available on farm to school participation and activities in the United States.

The 2027 Farm to School Census (Census) will collect and synthesize data from a national census of SFAs to better understand the characteristics of SFAs participating in farm to school and the scope and details of the activities they engage in (e.g., local food procurement, gardening, agriculture education). The Census will be distributed to all public¹ and private SFAs (including residential child care institutions) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin

¹ Public includes charter schools that operate NSLP.

Islands, and Washington, D.C.

The primary mode of data collection will be an online survey, distributed to SFA directors. The online survey is expected to take 30 minutes to complete. Census questions will be based on prior Farm to School Census instruments, from the iterations conducted in 2023 (the currently approved collection, OMB Number 0584-0646), 2019 (OMB Number 0584-0646), 2015 (OMB Number 0584-0593), and 2013 (OMB Number 0536-0069). The 2027 survey instrument will closely follow the 2023 instrument in order to insure comparability. Some questions and/or response options may be removed, added or adjusted based on current research interests and to make the instrument as streamlined as possible. Respondents will receive an invitation to complete the Census along with a worksheet to help them prepare to respond to the survey and a document with answers to frequently asked questions.

To construct the contact list for the Census, State Child Nutrition (CN) directors will be sent a list of all SFAs in their State or territory, based on the most recently available FNS data. They will be asked to 1) add or remove any SFAs that have begun or ended participation in the NSLP and 2) provide contact information for the director of each SFA. State CN directors will also be asked to forward an announcement email (and one email reminder about the Census to SFAs.

Non-respondents will receive a reminder phone call and up to nine reminder emails. Study team staff will also be available for technical and completion assistance via a toll-free phone number.

Affected Public: The affected public includes State, Local, and Tribal Government (directors of public SFAs participating in the NSLP and State Child Nutrition directors); Business or Other For Profit (directors of private SFAs participating in the NSLP); and Not for Profit (directors of not for profit SFAs participating in the NSLP).

Estimated Number of Respondents: The estimated number of respondents is 19,056. This includes 12,406 respondents and 6,650 non-respondents. The number of unique respondents

expected to provide data for this study are 9,806 State/local government respondents (56 CN directors and 9,750 directors of public SFAs), 1,625 business respondents (directors of private SFAs), and 975 not for profit respondents (directors of not for profit SFAs). These numbers are based on an estimated 65% response rate to the survey for SFAs (based on the 2023 Census response rate) and a 100% response rate to requests to State CN directors

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: All respondents will be asked to respond to each specific data collection activity only once. The overall average number of responses per respondent across the entire collection is 13.4.

Estimated Total Annual Responses: The estimated number of total annual responses is 255,088.

Estimated Time per Response: The estimated time of response varies from 2 minutes (for some emails) to 30 minutes (for completion of the Census survey), as shown in the burden table below. The estimated time per response is 4.7 minutes (0.08 hours).

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 20,110 hours. This includes 14,267 hours for respondents and 5,843 hours for non-respondents. See the table below for estimated total annual burden for each type of respondent.

Respondent Burden Table:

Respondent Type	Respondent Description	Data Collection Activity	Original Sample Size	Responsive					Non-Responsive					Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden
				Estimated number of respondents	Frequency of Response	Total Annual Responses	Hours per Response	Estimated Annual Burden (hours)	Estimated number of non-respondents*	Frequency of Response	Total Annual Responses	Hours per Response	Estimated Annual Burden (hours)	
State/local government	State Child Nutrition directors	Announcement email from FNS to State Child Nutrition Directors	56	56	1	56	0.0668	3.74	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	3.74
		Contact list request from Study Team to State Child Nutrition Directors ¹	56	56	1	56	1.00	56.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	56.00
		Announcement email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	56	56	1	56	0.50	28.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	28.00
		Reminder email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	56	56	1	56	0.25	14.00	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	14.00
		Subtotal (States)	56	56	4	224	0.45	101.74	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	101.74
	SFA directors: Public schools	Census survey pretest	9	9	1	9	1.50	13.50	0	0	-	0.00	0.00	13.50
		Announcement email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	15,000	9,750	1	9,750	0.0668	651.30	5,250	1	5,250	0.0334	175.35	826.65
		Introductory email from Study Team to SFAs	15,000	9,750	1	9,750	0.0668	651.30	5,250	1	5,250	0.0334	175.35	826.65
		Census preparation worksheet	15,000	4,875	1	4,875	0.50	2,437.50	10,125	1	10,125	0.0334	338.18	2,775.68
		Census frequently asked questions (FAQ) document	15,000	4,875	1	4,875	0.25	1,218.75	10,125	1	10,125	0.0334	338.18	1,556.93
Census survey		15,000	9,750	1	9,750	0.50	4,875.00	5,250	1	5,250	0.0501	263.03	5,138.03	
Reminder email #1		14,100	846	1	846	0.0501	42.38	13,254	1	13,254	0.0334	442.68	485.07	
Reminder email #2		13,254	795	1	795	0.0501	39.84	12,459	1	12,459	0.0334	416.12	455.96	
Reminder email #3		12,459	748	1	748	0.0501	37.45	11,711	1	11,711	0.0334	391.16	428.61	
Reminder email #4	11,711	703	1	703	0.0501	35.20	11,009	1	11,009	0.0334	367.69	402.89		

		Reminder email #5	11,009	661	1	661	0.0501	33.09	10,348	1	10,348	0.0334	345.62	378.72
		Reminder email #6	10,348	621	1	621	0.0501	31.11	9,727	1	9,727	0.0334	324.89	355.99
		Reminder email #7	9,727	584	1	584	0.0501	29.24	9,144	1	9,144	0.0334	305.39	334.63
		Reminder email #8	9,144	549	1	549	0.0501	27.49	8,595	1	8,595	0.0334	287.07	314.56
		Reminder email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	15,000	9,750	1	9,750	0.0668	651.30	5,250	1	5,250	0.0334	175.35	826.65
		Reminder telephone call	8,595	1,719	1	1,719	0.0501	86.12	6,876	1	6,876	0.0334	229.66	315.78
		Thank you email	9,750	9,750	1	9,750	0.0334	325.65	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	325.65
		Subtotal (SFAs: Public Schools)	15,000	9,750	7	65,733	0.17	11,186.23	5,250	25.59	134,372	0.03	4,575.71	15,761.93
		Subtotal (All State/local government)	15,056	9,806	7	65,957	0.17	11,287.97	5,250	25.59	134,372	0.03	4,575.71	15,863.67
Business	SFA directors: Private schools	Announcement email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	2,500	1,625	1	1,625	0.0668	108.55	875	1	875	0.0334	29.23	137.78
		Introductory email from Study Team to SFAs	2,500	1,625	1	1,625	0.0668	108.55	875	1	875	0.0334	29.23	137.78
		Census preparation worksheet	2,500	813	1	813	0.50	406.25	1,688	1	1,688	0.0334	56.36	462.61
		Census frequently asked questions (FAQ) document	2,500	813	1	813	0.25	203.13	1,688	1	1,688	0.0334	56.36	259.49
		Census survey	2,500	1,625	1	1,625	0.50	812.50	875	1	875	0.0501	43.84	856.34
		Reminder email #1	2,350	141	1	141	0.0501	7.06	2,209	1	2,209	0.0334	73.78	80.84
		Reminder email #2	2,209	133	1	133	0.0501	6.64	2,076	1	2,076	0.0334	69.35	75.99
		Reminder email #3	2,076	125	1	125	0.0501	6.24	1,952	1	1,952	0.0334	65.19	71.43
		Reminder email #4	1,952	117	1	117	0.0501	5.87	1,835	1	1,835	0.0334	61.28	67.15
		Reminder email #5	1,835	110	1	110	0.0501	5.52	1,725	1	1,725	0.0334	57.60	63.12
		Reminder email #6	1,725	103	1	103	0.0501	5.18	1,621	1	1,621	0.0334	54.15	59.33
		Reminder email #7	1,621	97	1	97	0.0501	4.87	1,524	1	1,524	0.0334	50.90	55.77
		Reminder email #8	1,524	91	1	91	0.0501	4.58	1,432	1	1,432	0.0334	47.85	52.43
		Reminder email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	2,500	1,625	1	1,625	0.0668	108.55	875	2	1,750	0.0334	58.45	167.00

		Reminder telephone call	1,432	286	1	286	0.0501	14.35	1,146	1	1,146	0.0334	38.28	52.63
		Thank you email	1,625	1,625	1	1,625	0.0334	54.28	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	54.28
		Subtotal (Business)	2,500	1,625	7	10,954	0.17	1,862.12	875	26.59	23,270	0.03	791.84	2,653.96
Not For Profit	SFA directors: Not for profit schools	Announcement email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	1,500	975	1	975	0.0668	65.13	525	1	525	0.0334	17.54	82.67
		Introductory email from Study Team to SFAs	1,500	975	1	975	0.0668	65.13	525	1	525	0.0334	17.54	82.67
		Census preparation worksheet	1,500	488	1	488	0.50	243.75	1,013	1	1,013	0.0334	33.82	277.57
		Census frequently asked questions (FAQ) document	1,500	488	1	488	0.25	121.88	1,013	1	1,013	0.0334	33.82	155.69
		Census survey	1,500	975	1	975	0.50	487.50	525	1	525	0.0501	26.30	513.80
		Reminder email #1	1,410	85	1	85	0.0501	4.24	1,325	1	1,325	0.0334	44.27	48.51
		Reminder email #2	1,325	80	1	80	0.0501	3.98	1,246	1	1,246	0.0334	41.61	45.60
		Reminder email #3	1,246	75	1	75	0.0501	3.75	1,171	1	1,171	0.0334	39.12	42.86
		Reminder email #4	1,171	70	1	70	0.0501	3.52	1,101	1	1,101	0.0334	36.77	40.29
		Reminder email #5	1,101	66	1	66	0.0501	3.31	1,035	1	1,035	0.0334	34.56	37.87
		Reminder email #6	1,035	62	1	62	0.0501	3.11	973	1	973	0.0334	32.49	35.60
		Reminder email #7	973	58	1	58	0.0501	2.92	914	1	914	0.0334	30.54	33.46
		Reminder email #8	914	55	1	55	0.0501	2.75	859	1	859	0.0334	28.71	31.46
		Reminder email from State Child Nutrition Directors to SFAs	1,500	975	1	975	0.0668	65.13	525	2	1,050	0.0334	35.07	100.20
		Reminder telephone call	859	172	1	172	0.0501	8.61	688	1	688	0.0334	22.97	31.58
Thank you email	975	975	1	975	0.0334	32.57	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	32.57		
		Subtotal (Not for profit)	1,500	975	7	6,572	0.17	1,117.27	525	26.59	13,962	0.03	475.11	1,592.38
TOTAL REPORTING BURDEN			19,056	12,406	7	83,483	0.17	14,267	6,650	25.81	171,605	0.03	5,843	20,110

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