



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

1320  
Braddock  
Place  
Alexandria,  
VA  
22314

January 11, 2022

Kate Wheeler  
Utah State Board of Education

Re: Response to FR Docket ID FNS-2021-0044

Dear Kate Wheeler:

Thank you for your response to the Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the proposed information collection for the 2023 Farm to School Census, published December 2, 2021. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is committed to generating national and state-level data reflecting the scope and details of U.S. school food authority participation in farm to school activities, and we appreciate your comments.

Your comment suggests that FNS explore innovative ways to collect data. As in 2019, we will distribute the Census survey to school food authorities by email, as this is the most direct method we have to contact potential respondents. The 2023 Census will be available online, and we anticipate 99% of respondents will use this method to respond. We plan to make the online survey mobile-friendly (in addition to offering an option to respond by phone) so that SFA directors can respond in the format that is most convenient for them.

The survey will be shareable using the SFA's unique link, and anyone with the link will be able to open it, respond to questions, and save their answers. Where possible, we will work with the survey programmer to make collaboration on the survey as intuitive and convenient as possible, for example, by offering an option to send links to specific questions. We will adjust our communications with SFA directors to highlight these features and encourage directors to reach out to other staff for information they might not know.

Finally, we continue to strive to make the survey as comprehensible to respondents as possible. We have edited the language of several survey questions and streamlined the instrument (while maintaining comparability to the 2019 questionnaire) in order to make the survey easier for respondents to understand and complete. We also offer phone and email support in order to help respondents with any questions or issues, and we are also available to support State Agencies that are responding to SFA concerns.

Thank you again for your comments and your support of USDA school meals programs.

Sincerely,

Amy Rosenthal, PhD  
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