

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request—Survey of States on Their School Meals Initiative (SMI) Reviews

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is publishing for public comment a summary of a proposed information collection. FNS wishes to examine whether data currently collected by States can be used to devise a nationwide estimate of the nutrient content of the meals that are offered under the school meals programs. Obtaining this estimate is necessary for FNS to monitor progress toward goals in its strategic plan.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by March 5, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on this proposed collection of information to Matthew Sinn; Food and Nutrition Service; 3101 Park Center Drive; Room 208; Alexandria, VA 22302-1500. 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 will 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 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 through the use of appropriate

automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

When FNS requests approval for this information collection from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FNS will provide OMB with all comments received. All comments will thus become public documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Sinn, (703) 305-2133.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Survey of States on their School Meals Initiative Reviews.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: New collection of information.

Abstract: The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) wishes to examine whether certain data currently collected by States can be used to devise a nationwide estimate of FNS's progress toward a goal in its strategic plan. The goal is that school meals be consistent with the Recommended Daily Allowances (RDA) and the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, i.e., the nutritional standards for school meals that were recently established by USDA's School Meals Initiative (SMI).

SMI is the umbrella term for all efforts and activities associated with updating the nutritional standards for school meals served pursuant to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The primary goal of SMI was to make the nutritional standards for these meals consistent with the latest scientific evidence on proper nutrition for children. The legislative and regulatory history of SMI began when USDA published a proposed rule on June 10, 1994 (59 FR 30218), and culminated when the President signed the Healthy Meals for Children Act (Public Law 104-149) into law on May 29, 1996. The operational implementation of SMI began soon after and is ongoing.

States are required to assess nutritional compliance with school meals requirements of all their school food authorities (SFAs) (the legal entities, typically school districts, that operate the USDA school meals programs in schools). This proposed data collection is intended to inform FNS of the specific data States are collecting in their school meals

nutrition compliance reviews so that FNS can determine whether this data is in such a form that it would allow FNS to derive from it national estimates of the nutrient content of meals analyzed in the reviews. This data collection will not ask States to provide their review data; rather, it will only ask States about the disposition and contents of their review data, where it is maintained, and how it is maintained (on paper, electronically, etc.).

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 45 minutes per State.

Respondents: Respondents will be the persons or person in each State most knowledgeable of the specifics of school meals nutrition compliance reviews in that State.

Estimated Number of Respondents: There will be 51 respondents for the survey: the 48 contiguous States, Hawaii, Alaska, and the District of Columbia.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: One.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 38 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Matthew Sinn, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 208, Alexandria, VA 22302-1500.

Dated: December 14, 1998.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,

Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Food Distribution Program: Substitution of Donated Beef and Pork With Commercial Beef and Pork

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) intent to implement a demonstration project to test program changes designed to improve the State processing of donated foods by allowing the substitution of donated beef and pork supplied by the Department of Agriculture (the Department) with