December 31, 2018

Desk Officer for Agriculture
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov

On behalf of the 58,000 members of the School Nutrition Association, we welcome this opportunity to respond to the Notice for Comments for Farm to School Census and Comprehensive Review, OMB Control Number: 0584–New published in the Federal Register on November 29, 2018. This notice is related to the Farm to School Census scheduled to be conducted in 2019.

As noted in our comments sent on May 18, 2018 related to the Farm to School Census (copy attached), we remain concerned about the burden placed on school nutrition personnel, especially gathering information for this census in a format that is not consistent with the way the School Food Authorities (SFA) collect and maintain records. We appreciate the response the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) sent to our May 2018 comments, but we feel it is critical to reiterate that there is a considerable volume of data gathering in these census activities that takes considerable time and effort for the school staff. Therefore, we encourage FNS to work with contractors to design data collection in a manner less burdensome on the program operators.

The Farm to School Program has been integrated into many of our schools yielding great benefit for our students, and we are eager to assist in quantifying and highlighting these successes. Streamlining the data collection would be beneficial to this effort and reduce burden on program operators.

Sincerely,

Gay Anderson, SNS
President

Patricia Montague, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment