September 23, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey M. Zirger
Information Collection Review Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS–D74
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Dear Mr. Zirger:

On behalf of the 58,000 members of the School Nutrition Association (SNA), we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [60 Day–19–19BIW; Docket No. CDC–2019–0060] Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations published in the Federal Register of July 25, 2019. This notice requests comments on the proposed data collection of the Healthy Schools (DP18–1801) Program Evaluation.

The purpose of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy Schools Program, DP18–1801, is to: (1) Increase the number of students who consume nutritious foods and beverages (i.e., those aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans); (2) increase the number of students who participate in daily physical education and physical activity; and (3) increase the number of students who can effectively manage their chronic health conditions. There is common ground with our association and the purpose of the Healthy Schools Program. As stated in the notice, CDC will use a multi-site collection and different data collection methods. Historically, when evaluating these programs, contact is made solely to the funded entity rather than looking at peripheral support and activities that impact the purpose. In the data collection, CDC should include school nutrition program directors to assess the full spectrum of participants in the Healthy Schools Program.

As evaluation of programs develop, they should use electronic means of data collection and provide adequate time to gather responses. Repetition of questions and redundancy should be minimized. In addition, where resource data is available from other sources, it should be used to minimize the burden on school nutrition personnel. As always, SNA is happy to support the CDC in this effort.

Sincerely,

Gay Anderson, SNS
President

Patricia Montague, CAE
Chief Executive Officer