

MOU for School Nutrition & Meal Cost Study

December 9, 2014

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for participation in the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS).

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

None

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) makes periodic assessments of school meal programs. This is the first study to be conducted after implementation of major changes designed to increase children's access to healthy foods at school and to promote the adoption of healthy eating and physical activity habits. It is also the first study to explore both nutrition and cost on a large national scale.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

Members of the Study Team will visit the district and participating schools during the target week of February 23, 2015. The participating schools will be Denton High School, Strickland Middle School and Lee Elementary School.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. recognizes that participation in the SNMCS will place additional demands on school personnel. They will provide an incentive to the district to compensate for the time and burden associated with participation in the study.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

This study will provide critical information of interest to the USDA, the States, and other program stakeholders, for which information is currently not available.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

Selected schools will participate in the following components of the study:

- Menu Survey
- Child Nutrition Director, Cafeteria Manager, and Principal Surveys
- Cafeteria Observations
- Student and Parent Interviews
- Competitive Foods Checklists

ALTERNATIVES:

No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS:

The study does not include any classroom visits, and it will not impact curriculum.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for participation in the School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study (SNMCS).

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Debbie Monschke, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Robin Wantland, Child Nutrition Director

ATTACHMENT:

Memorandum of Understanding

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____