

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Economies of Scale, Meal Balance and the Cost of USDA School Breakfasts and Lunches

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB, TB, SOR,) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

Agency Contact: Ephraim Leibtag ; eleibtag@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: Through the USDA's National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, schools receive financial support to assist them in serving nutritious meals to American children. Meal reimbursements are provided on the basis of a child's financial need, allowing schools to provide healthy meals to low-income students at free or reduced-price. Reimbursement rates are set nationwide yet variation in school location, size, and other factors may influence costs, with implications for the adequacy of reimbursement. Previous ERS research found that school foodservice costs vary by location. This paper builds on that research by examining breakfast and lunch costs separately to assess how economies of scale and the balance between the number of breakfasts and lunches served affects their costs.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 12/12/14 End: 04/20/15 Completed: 04/20/15

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

