



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Ellen Pimental, Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Food Programs

Date: March 7, 2013

Subject: USDA Farm to School Census

Original Signed

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) needs your help in conducting the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) *Farm to School Census* of all School Food Authorities (SFAs). The Census will provide an important national baseline of how many SFAs are purchasing locally produced food for school meal programs or conducting other Farm to School activities such as bringing students to farms and farmers into classrooms, teaching students how to cook locally grown food, and edible school gardens.

The *Farm to School Census* is being conducted by USDA's Farm to School Program, in collaboration with the Economic Research Service (ERS). This information collection is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 427 and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Control No. 0536-0069, expires 2/29/2016). Participation is voluntary.

Your assistance is vital. Information from the questionnaire will be used to allocate grant funding and technical assistance for Farm to School Programs in Arizona and across the country. These programs are connecting schools and farms to support local and regional economies and inspire students' enthusiasm for healthier food.

Questionnaire Distribution

On March 11, 2013, ADE will send an invitation to participate in the Farm to School Census to all public school district SFAs by email. ADE encourages all to participate, even if your school district is not currently involved in any farm to school related activities. Responses from all

SFAs are needed in order to develop accurate state-level estimates of farm to school activities and to produce web-based maps of SFA responses.

The questionnaire can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F2S> and will be open until **May 3, 2013**. It is estimated that the online questionnaire should take about 20 minutes if the SFA has a local foods procurement program and only 5 minutes if it does not have one. ADE will send you three reminder messages via email.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact School Food Programs at (602) 542-8729.

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