

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Nutrition Standards Would Impact Availability of Most Competitive Foods but Have Smaller Revenue Effects for Most School Foodservices

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

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

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Subject of Review: Across America, lunches and breakfasts provided through USDA's National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) supply most of the foods and beverages obtained by children at school. Nevertheless, in the majority of American schools, the school food service also sells competitive foods. "Competitive foods" is the popular term for foods and beverages that are not part of USDA school meals and are sold in schools, subject to local discretion. They are most commonly sold in the cafeteria alongside USDA school meals, where they are known as "à la carte" items. These foods have been widely criticized as being of low nutritional value, undercutting public efforts to improve children's diets and prevent obesity. Responding to nutritional concerns, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 will require schools that offer USDA school meals to limit competitive foods to those that meet nutrition standards based on the Federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans, to be developed by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, the agency that administers USDA school meal programs. Introducing nutrition standards for competitive foods should alter the mix of products sold by school foodservices, with potential revenue implications. Concerns have been raised that loss of competitive food revenues will pose fiscal challenges to school foodservices. The extent of the fiscal effects can depend on how much revenue school foodservices currently receive from competitive foods and the share those revenues contribute to total foodservice revenues. To address this issue, this study uses data from two national surveys to assess student competitive food selections in comparison to model nutrition standards developed by the Institute of Medicine, examines the extent to which competitive foods contribute to school foodservice revenues and describes the characteristics of schools and school districts that have higher foodservice revenues from competitive foods.

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: 11/27/12 End: 03/18/13 Completed: 03/18/13

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:

