

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: The National School Lunch Program: Backgrounds, Trends, and Issues
 Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA

Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: This report presents comprehensive background information on the NSLP – how it works, its history and recent changes, program trends, participant characteristics, and current issues. In 2006, the National School Lunch Program provided \$10 billion in cash reimbursements and donated commodities to school food authorities who provide free, reduced-price, and full-price lunches that met specific nutrient targets to 30 million students. Issues related to the program’s outcome include its impacts on nutrition and obesity, the difficulty of serving healthy meals on a limited budget, efforts to increase participation and reduce plate waste, and the tradeoffs of “competitive foods”. Administrative issues include the magnitude and sources of certification errors.

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 Individual Reviewers

Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 04/10/07 End: 08/23/07 Completed: 08/23/07

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

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: Agency Designated Outside Organization

Organization’s Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? Yes No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? Yes No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? Yes No

