

## Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: School Food Services Costs: Does Location Matter?  
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR  
 Influential Scientific Information  
Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA  
Agency Contact: Elise Golan, [egolan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:egolan@ers.usda.gov)

Subject of Review: Over 30 million lunches and 9.8 million breakfasts are served every day to children in participating American schools through the USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. It is challenging for participating local school food authorities (SFAs) to serve appealing, healthful meals while covering food, labor, and other operating costs with USDA reimbursements. But it may be more difficult for some SFAs than others due to cost differences across locations. Using data from the School Food Authority Characteristics survey conducted in 2003-2004, the study employs an econometric approach to measure the effects of location on total school food service costs, while controlling for other SFA characteristics.

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: 12/08/09 End: 02/09/10 Completed: 06/01/10

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