



Back to School 2021 Report

A SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

ABSTRACT

SNA surveyed its school nutrition director members during May – June 2021 to understand the effect of offering meals at no charge, readiness to meet meal pattern mandates and associated challenges, the financial state of school nutrition programs and current concerns in planning for SY 2021/22.

School Nutrition Association





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Objectives

- Track CEP participation and COVID-19 waiver utilization and the effect of offering meals to all students at no charge
- Understand school nutrition program readiness to meet Target 2 and Final Target sodium limits and challenges therein
- Understand school nutrition program readiness to meet the NSLP/SBP mandate that all grains offered with school meals are whole grain rich and challenges therein
- Assess the financial situation of school nutrition programs
- Identify current concerns of school nutrition directors in planning for SY 2021/22

Background and Sample

Survey open period	May 19 – June 14, 2021
Full sample of surveyed school districts	3,613
Total number of responding school districts	1,368
Response Rate	37.9%



Executive Summary

Effect of CEP and COVID-19 Waivers

- Of programs that indicated that at least one school in their district participated in CEP, a majority reported that participation in CEP increased student meal participation (84.8%, n=425), student access to meals (71.6%, n=358) and equity among students (68.2%, n=338).
- Nearly 80% (n=395) of responding programs reported that participation in CEP decreased unpaid meal charges/debt.
- Almost all responding school nutrition programs (97.1%, n=1,070) reported utilizing COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020.
- Respondents who utilized COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 report that utilization of the waivers has increased student access to meals (71.4%, n=759), student meal participation (67.6%, n=717) and equity among students (61.0%, n=644).

Sodium Targets – Target 2 Readiness and Challenges

- Only 26.2% (n=358) of responding directors report they are prepared to meet the Target 2 sodium limits for SY 2021/22. Almost half of responding districts (46.8%, n=640) report that their program is not prepared to meet Target 2 sodium limits for SY 2021/22.
- 93.3% (n=1,276) of all respondents said they were moderately or extremely concerned regarding the impact Target 2 sodium limits will have on their school meal program.
- The top three challenges respondents identified as serious concerns to meeting the Target 2 sodium limits included student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options (73.4%, n=987), negative impact on student participation (66.5%, n=894), and sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce) (64.4%, n=866).

Sodium Targets – Final Target Readiness and Challenges

- Just over one out of ten responding programs (10.9%, n=147) said they anticipate their school nutrition program will be able to meet the Final Target sodium limits when they take effect in July 2022. Almost 45% (44.3%, n=596) of respondents said they were not sure if their school nutrition program would be able to meet the Final Target sodium limits when they take effect in July 2022.
- 97% (n=1,309) of respondents reported moderate or extreme concern regarding the impact Final Target sodium limits will have on their school meal program. 74.0% (n=995) of respondents reported extreme concern.



- The top three most significant challenges were student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options (81.4%, n=1,083), negative impact on student participation (78.7%, n=1,044), and sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce) (77.4%, n=1,029).

Whole Grain Mandate Readiness and Challenges

- 69.1% of respondents reported that the NSLP/SBP mandate that all grains offered with school meals be whole grain rich was a moderate or significant challenge.
- The most significant challenges identified by respondent school districts included general student acceptance (73.9%, n=677), negative impact on student participation (69.0%, n=630), and higher costs (n=58.3%, n=532).

School Nutrition Program Financial Situation

- Almost half (48.4%, n=644) of respondents anticipated an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21. And additional 20.1% (n=268) were not sure if anticipate an overall net loss (not including reserves).
- Among programs that reported anticipating an overall loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21, just under one-third (31.7%, n=204) anticipate they will have sufficient reserves to cover losses for SY 2020/21.
- The majority of responding programs report (70.7%, n=967) that since March 2020 they have limited menu choices and variety as a result of financial concerns related to the pandemic. About four out of ten programs report reduced staffing (reduction in hours/layoffs/deferred hiring) (45.8%, n=627), deferred or canceled equipment investments (42.0%, n=575), diminished reserve funds (39.8%, n=544), and/or deferred or canceled program expansions/improvements (39.6%, n=542).
- 28.9% (n=395) of responding directors report requesting district general funds to cover losses.

Current Concerns While Planning for SY 2021/2022

- Almost all respondents (96.8%, n=1,274) identified continued pandemic supply chain issues as a moderate or serious concern at the current time.
- 90.0% of respondents (n=1,187) reported staff shortages to be a moderate or serious concern in planning for SY 2020/21.
- Additionally, 85.5% of all respondents identified financial sustainability/losses as a moderate or serious concern at the current time.



Respondent Characteristics

Table 1. USDA FNS Region		
	n	%
Mid-Atlantic	129	9.4
Midwest	425	31.1
Mountain Plains	121	8.8
Northeast	152	11.1
Southeast	247	18.1
Southwest	135	9.9
Western	159	11.6
Total	1,368	100.0

Table 2. District Enrollment		
	n	%
<1,000	196	14.3
1,000 - 2,499	364	26.6
2,500 - 4,999	325	23.8
5,000 - 9,999	207	15.1
10,000 - 24,999	168	12.3
25,000+	108	7.9
Total	1,368	100.0

Table 3. Free and Reduced Rate		
	n	%
<25%	230	16.8
25 - 50%	532	38.9
51 - 65%	299	21.9
>65%	307	22.4
Total	1,368	100.0

Note: Survey takers were asked to submit their pre-pandemic free and reduced rate since the collection of data during the pandemic has been challenging and therefore that data may be unreliable.



Table 4. Did any schools in your district participate in the community eligibility provision (CEP)?

	n	%
Yes, some schools participated in CEP	230	16.8
Yes, all schools participated in CEP	271	19.8
No	867	63.4
Total	1,368	100.0



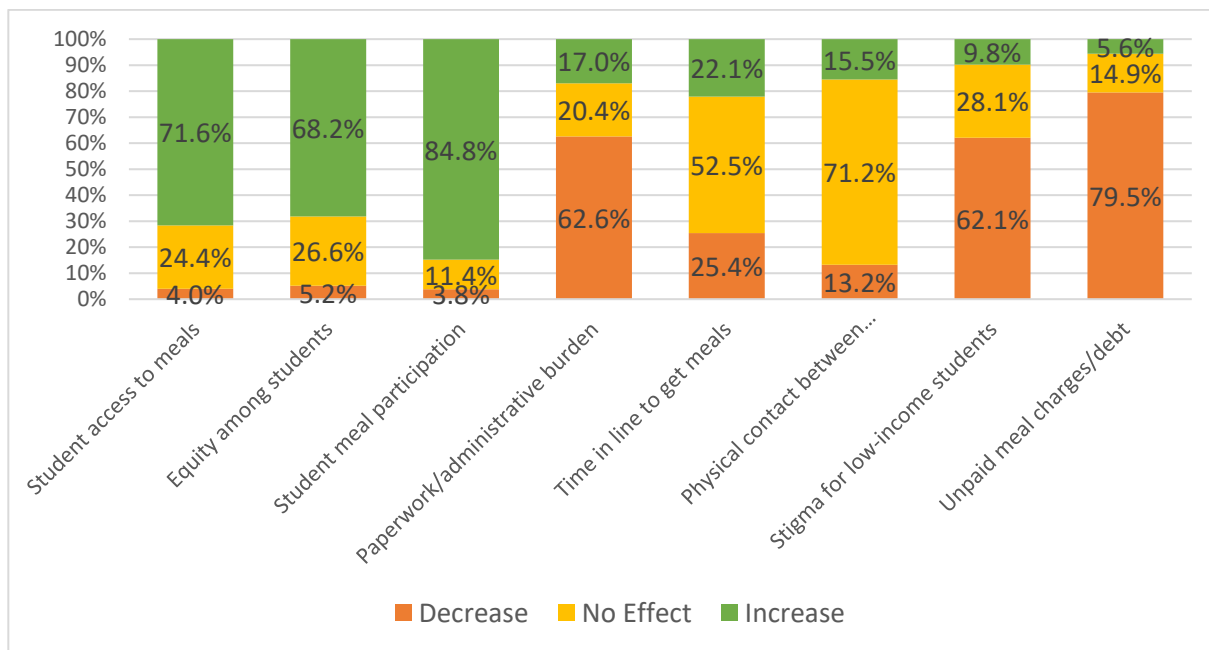
Results

Effect of CEP and COVID-19 Waivers

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows high poverty schools or districts to serve breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge without collecting household applications. Of programs that indicated that at least one school in their district participated in CEP, nearly 85% (n=425) said that CEP increased student meal participation. Programs participating in CEP in the Northeast reported CEP increasing student meal participation at the highest rate (91.7%, n=33) of USDA regions.

Nearly 80% (n=395) of responding programs reported that participation in CEP decreased unpaid meal charges/debt. Programs with a total district enrollment of 10,000 - 24,999 reported participation in CEP decreasing unpaid meal charges/debt at the highest rate (90.3%, n=74).

Figure 1. What effect did CEP have on the following...



Note: 'Decrease' and 'Increase' values were calculated by adding "Decrease Slightly" and "Decrease Greatly," and "Increase Slightly" and "Increase Greatly" responses, respectively. This question was only asked of those who indicated that at least one school in their district participated in CEP.



Table 5. What effect did CEP have on the following...										
	Decrease Greatly		Decrease Slightly		No Effect		Increase Slightly		Increase Greatly	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Student access to meals	14	2.8	6	1.2	122	24.4	111	22.2	247	49.4
Equity among students	19	3.8	7	1.4	132	26.6	114	23.0	224	45.2
Student meal participation	10	2.0	9	1.8	57	11.4	243	48.6	181	36.2
Paperwork/administrative burden	190	38.5	119	24.1	101	20.4	58	11.7	26	5.3
Time in line to get meals	55	11.1	71	14.3	261	52.5	96	19.3	14	2.8
Physical contact between students/staff	28	5.6	38	7.6	354	71.2	44	8.9	33	6.6
Stigma for low-income students	217	43.5	93	18.6	140	28.1	20	4.0	29	5.8
Unpaid meal charges/debt	340	68.4	55	11.1	74	14.9	8	1.6	20	4.0

Note: This question was only asked of those who indicated that at least one school in their district participated in CEP.



Almost all responding school districts utilized the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020.

Figure 2. Did you utilize the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020?

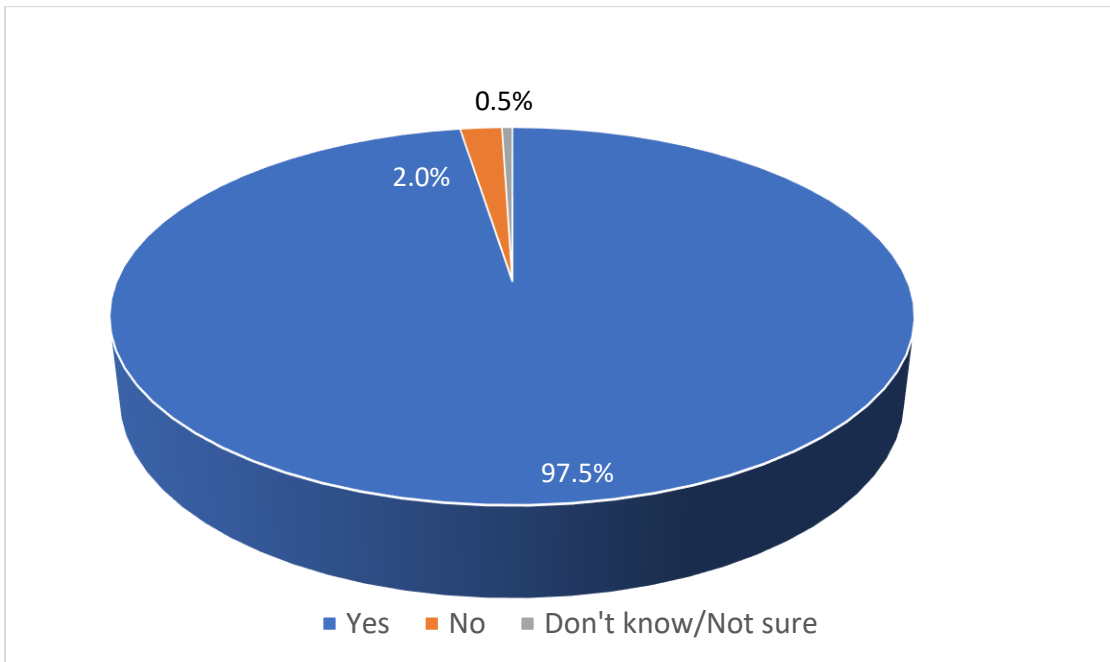




Table 6. Did you utilize the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020?

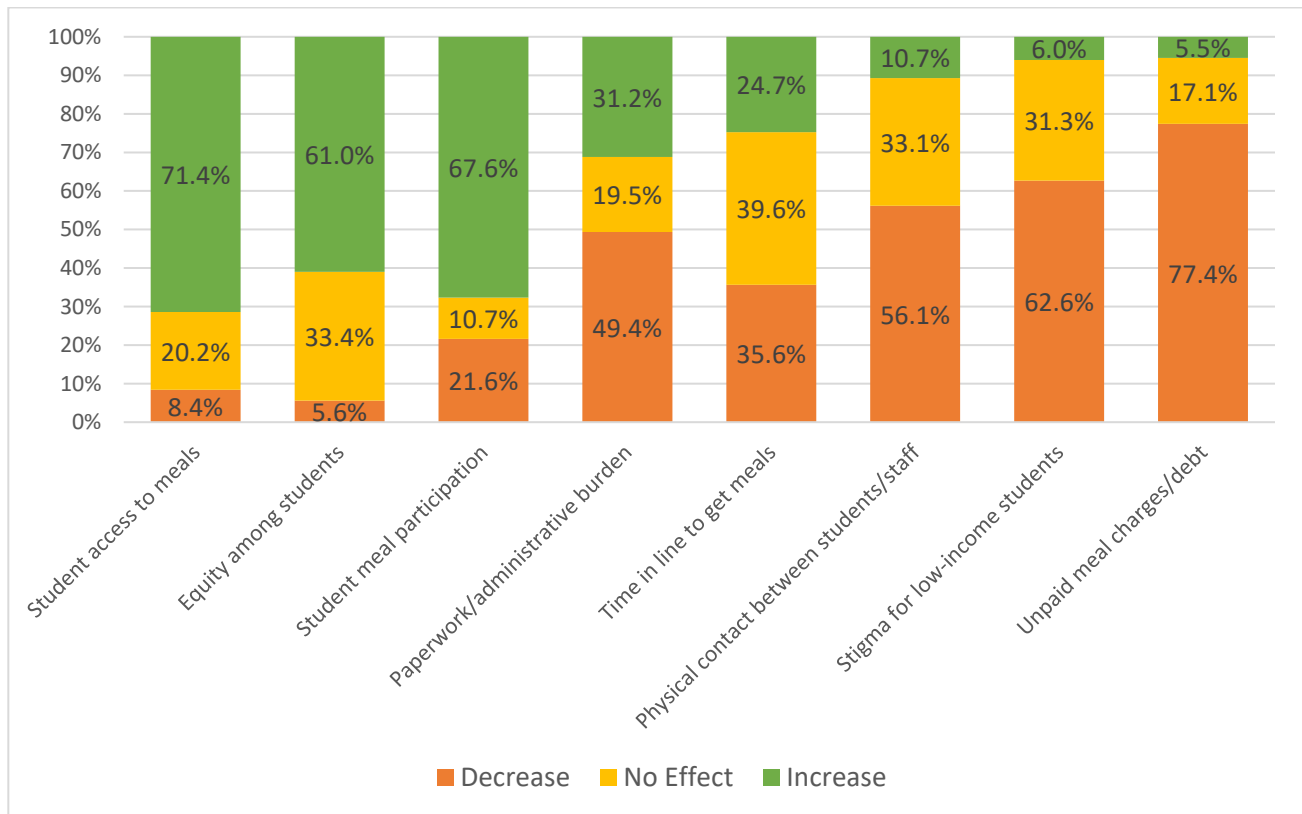
		Yes	No	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	Overall	97.5%	2.0%	0.5%	1097
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	97.0%	2.0%	1.0%	99
	Midwest	97.0%	2.4%	0.5%	369
	Mountain Plains	98.2%	0.9%	0.9%	112
	Northeast	99.2%	0.8%	0.0%	128
	Southeast	97.4%	2.6%	0.0%	155
	Southwest	96.1%	3.9%	0.0%	103
	Western	98.5%	0.8%	0.8%	131
Free and Reduced %	<25%	96.9%	2.6%	0.4%	227
	25 - 50%	98.6%	1.0%	0.4%	514
	51 - 65%	98.2%	1.3%	0.4%	227
	>65%	93.0%	6.2%	0.8%	129
District Enrollment	<1,000	91.5%	6.5%	2.0%	153
	1,000 - 2,499	98.6%	1.1%	0.4%	278
	2,500 - 4,999	98.5%	1.5%	0.0%	262
	5,000 - 9,999	99.4%	0.6%	0.0%	167
	10,000 - 24,999	97.9%	1.4%	0.7%	142
	25,000+	97.9%	2.1%	0.0%	95



71.4% (n=759) of all responding programs reported that the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had increased student access to meals, and just over two-thirds (67.6%) of responding programs (n=717) report that utilization of the waivers increased student meal participation. Programs located in the Western USDA region (81.1%, n=103) and districts with a total enrollment over 25,000 students (83.7%, n=77) reported that using the COVID-19 waivers increased student access to meals at the highest rates.

77.4% (n=825) of responding programs reported that utilizing the COVID-19 waivers decreased unpaid meal charges/debt.

Figure 3. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on...



Note: This question was only asked of those who indicated that they utilized the COVID-19 waivers permitting school to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020.



Table 7. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on...

	Decrease Greatly		Decrease Slightly		No Effect		Increase Slightly		Increase Greatly	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Student access to meals	38	3.6	51	4.8	215	20.2	253	23.8	506	47.6
Equity among students	34	3.2	25	2.4	353	33.4	205	19.4	439	41.6
Student meal participation	85	8.0	144	13.6	114	10.7	411	38.7	307	28.9
Paperwork/administrative burden	252	23.7	273	25.7	208	19.5	207	19.5	124	11.7
Time in line to get meals	199	18.7	179	16.9	421	39.6	199	18.7	64	6.0
Physical contact between students/staff	322	30.3	274	25.8	352	33.1	67	6.3	47	4.4
Stigma for low-income students	470	44.2	196	18.4	333	31.3	26	2.4	38	3.6
Unpaid meal charges/debt	704	66.0	121	11.4	182	17.1	14	1.3	45	4.2

Note: This question was only asked of those who indicated that they utilized the COVID-19 waivers permitting school to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020.



Sodium Targets – Target 2

Almost half of responding districts (46.8%, n=640) report that their program is not prepared to meet Target 2 sodium limits for SY 2021/22. There is a considerable amount of uncertainty about readiness to meet Target 2 sodium limits, with 27% (n=369) reporting they are not sure if their program is prepared to meet Target 2 sodium limits for SY 2021/22.

Figure 4. Is your program prepared to meet Target 2 sodium limits for SY 2021/22?

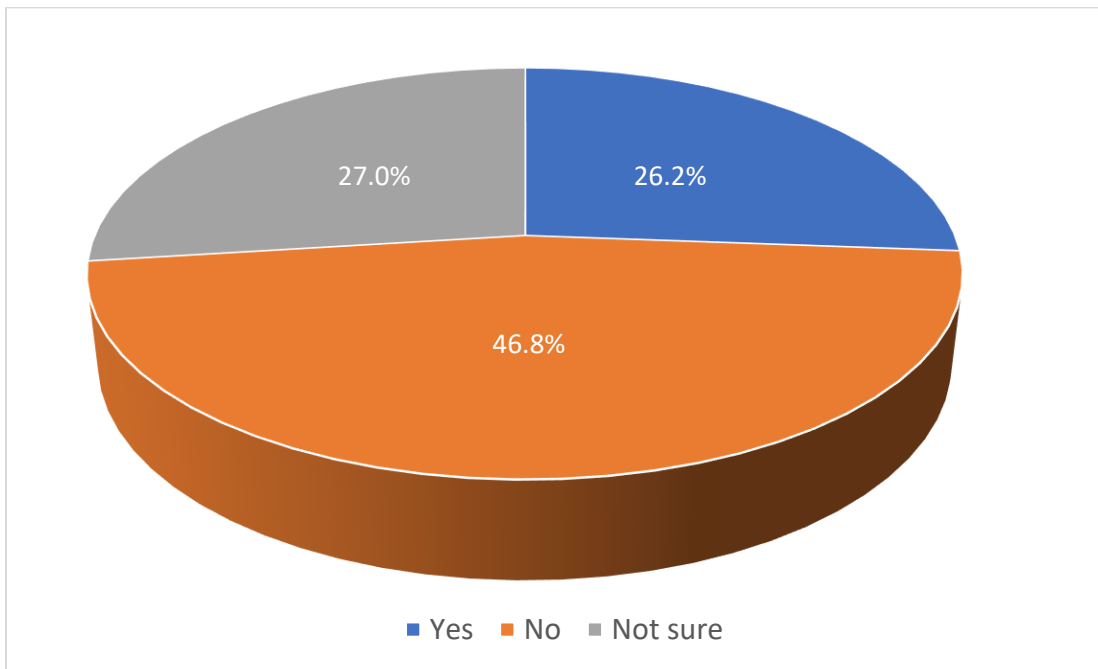




Table 8. Is your program prepared to meet Target 2 sodium limits for SY 2021/22?					
		Yes	No	Not sure	n=
	Overall	26.2%	46.8%	27.0%	1,368
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	26.4%	46.5%	27.1%	129
	Midwest	20.7%	48.7%	30.6%	425
	Mountain Plains	32.2%	44.6%	23.1%	121
	Northeast	34.2%	32.9%	32.9%	152
	Southeast	19.8%	57.9%	22.3%	247
	Southwest	33.3%	48.1%	18.5%	135
	Western	32.1%	38.4%	29.6%	159
Free and Reduced %	<25%	26.1%	49.6%	24.3%	230
	25 - 50%	25.6%	48.9%	25.6%	532
	51 - 65%	23.1%	50.5%	26.4%	299
	>65%	30.3%	37.5%	32.2%	307
District Enrollment	<1,000	31.1%	31.6%	37.2%	196
	1,000 - 2,499	24.7%	45.9%	29.4%	364
	2,500 - 4,999	20.9%	53.5%	25.5%	325
	5,000 - 9,999	25.1%	50.2%	24.6%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	29.8%	50.0%	20.2%	168
	25,000+	34.3%	45.4%	20.4%	108



93.3% (n=1,276) of all respondents said they were moderately or extremely concerned regarding the impact Target 2 sodium limits will have on their school meal program. Respondents from the Southeast reported the highest rate of being extremely concerned (70%, n=173).

Figure 5. How concerned are you regarding the impact Target 2 sodium limits will have on your school meal program?

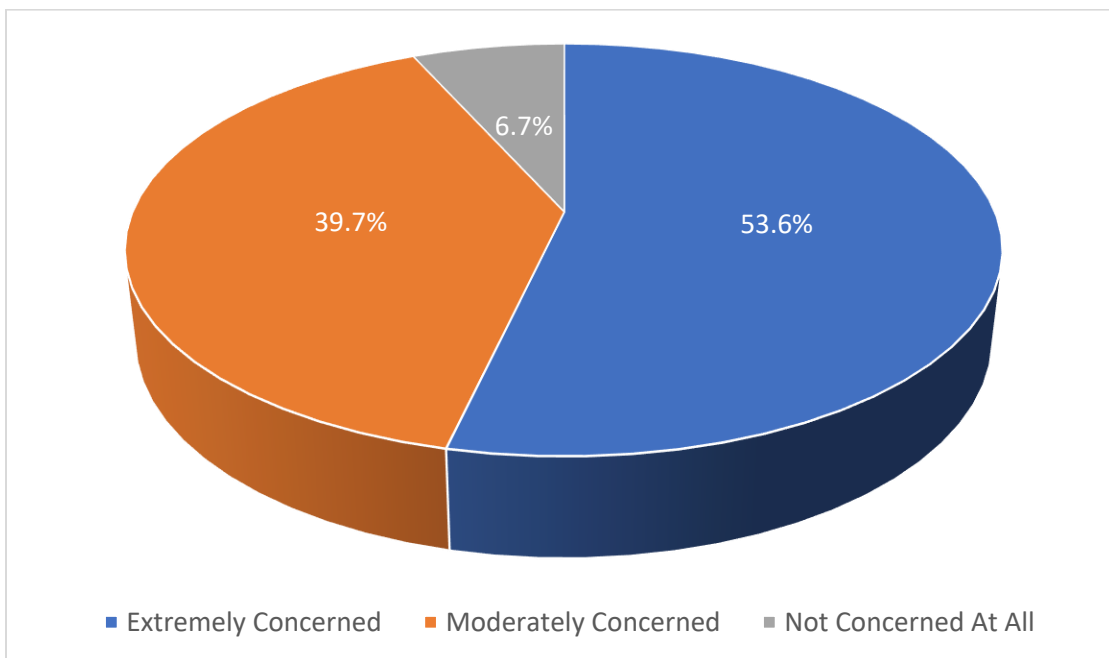




Table 9. How concerned are you regarding the impact Target 2 sodium limits will have on your school meal program?

		Extremely Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Not Concerned at All	n=
	Overall	53.6%	39.7%	6.7%	1,368
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	51.2%	42.6%	6.2%	129
	Midwest	53.4%	41.4%	5.2%	425
	Mountain Plains	54.5%	35.5%	9.9%	121
	Northeast	32.2%	57.9%	9.9%	152
	Southeast	70.0%	27.1%	2.8%	247
	Southwest	59.3%	32.6%	8.1%	135
	Western	45.3%	44.0%	10.7%	159
Free and Reduced %	<25%	56.5%	35.7%	7.8%	230
	25 - 50%	53.8%	41.4%	4.9%	532
	51 - 65%	57.9%	36.5%	5.7%	299
	>65%	46.9%	43.0%	10.1%	307
District Enrollment	<1,000	43.4%	45.9%	10.7%	196
	1,000 - 2,499	56.3%	39.0%	4.7%	364
	2,500 - 4,999	55.7%	40.0%	4.3%	325
	5,000 - 9,999	57.5%	33.8%	8.7%	207
	10,000 - 24,999	51.2%	41.7%	7.1%	168
	25,000+	52.8%	38.0%	9.3%	108



The top three challenges respondents identified as serious concerns to meeting the Target 2 sodium limits included student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options (73.4%, n=987), negative impact on student participation (66.5%, n=894), and sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce) (64.4%, n=866).

Figure 6. How much of a challenge are each of the following for you in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?

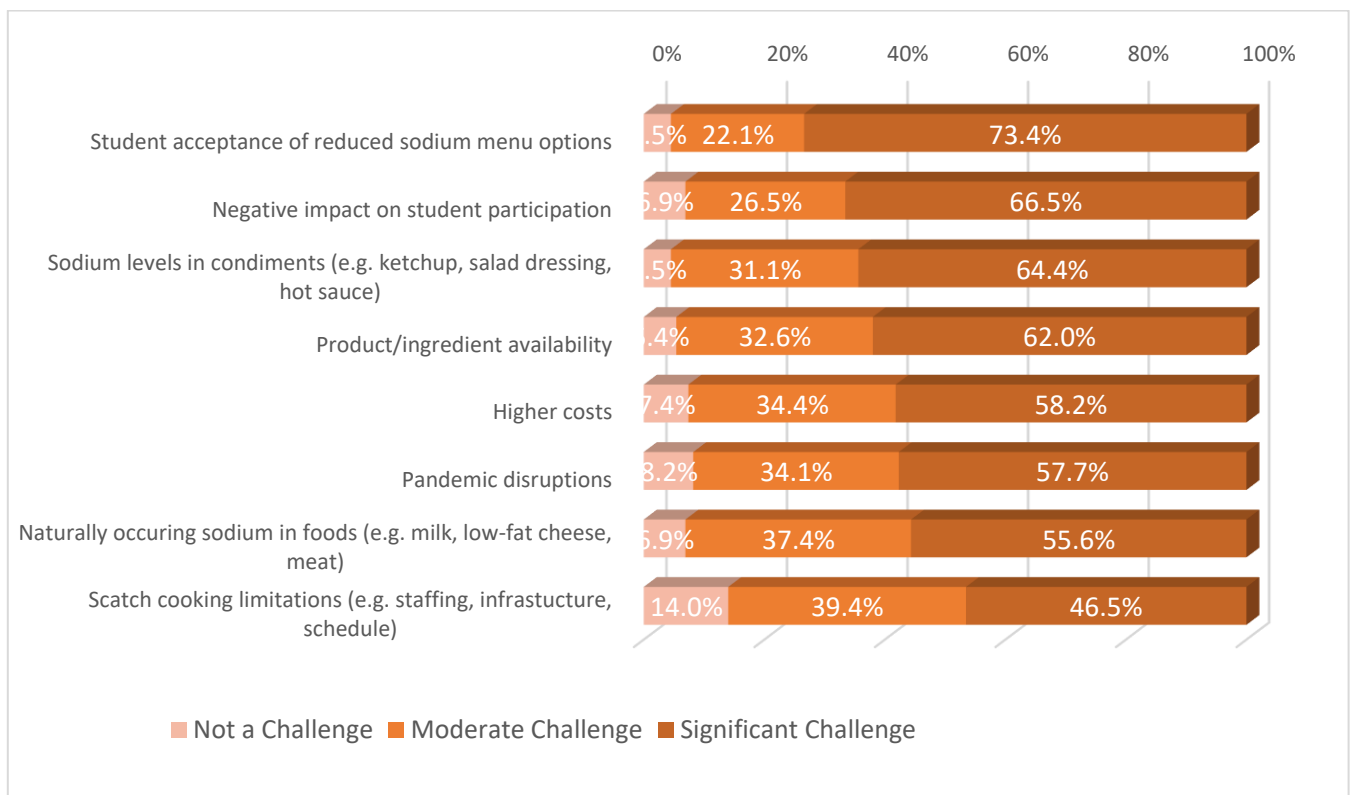




Table 10. How much of a challenge is each of the following for you in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?				
	Not a challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
Student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options	4.5	22.1	73.4	1,344
Negative impact on student participation	6.9	26.5	66.5	1,345
Sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce)	4.5	31.1	64.4	1,344
Product/ingredient availability	5.4	32.6	62	1,345
Higher costs	7.4	34.4	58.2	1,344
Pandemic disruptions	8.2	34.1	57.7	1,336
Naturally occurring sodium in foods (e.g. milk, low-fat cheese, meat)	6.9	37.4	55.6	1,346
Scratch cooking limitations (e.g. staffing, infrastructure, schedule)	14.0	39.4	46.5	1341



Sodium Targets – Final Target

Overall, just over one out of ten responding programs (10.9%, n=147) said they anticipate their school nutrition program will be able to meet the Final Target sodium limits when they take effect in July 2022. Almost 45% (44.3%, n=596) of respondents said they were not sure if their school nutrition program would be able to meet the Final Target sodium limits when they take effect in July 2022.

Figure 7. Do you anticipate your school nutrition program will be able to meet the Final Target sodium limits when they take effect in July 2022?

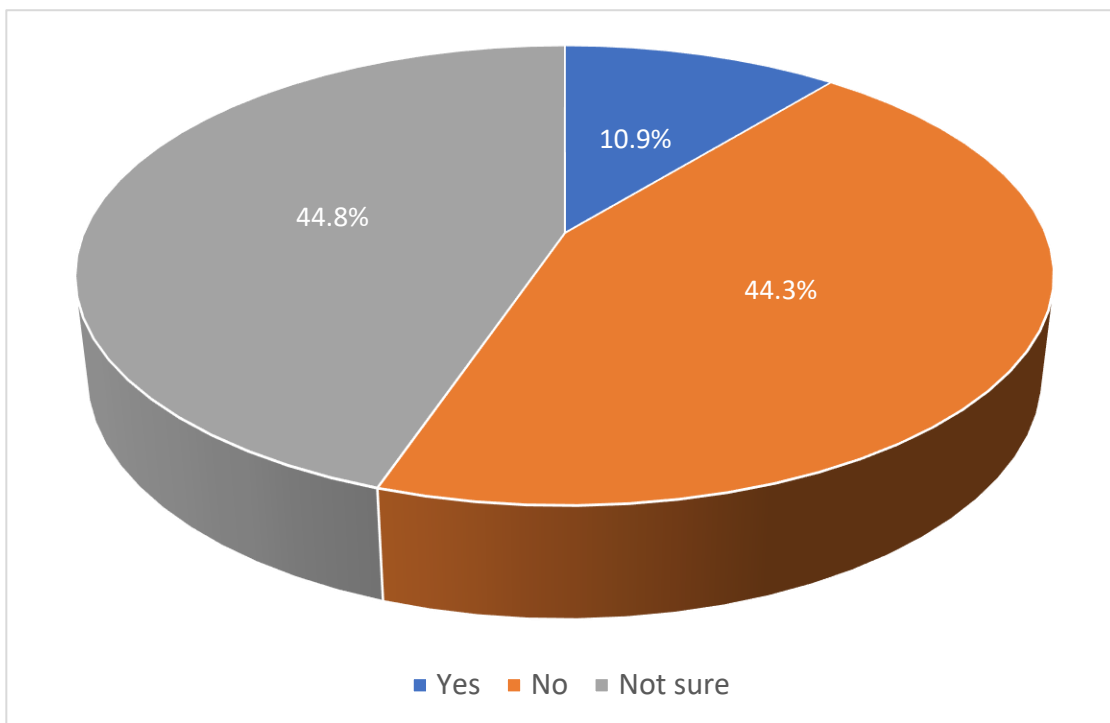




Table 11. Do you anticipate your school nutrition program will be able to meet the Final Target sodium limits when they take effect in July 2022?

		Yes	No	Not sure	n=
	Overall	10.9%	44.3%	44.8%	1,346
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	12.0%	48.0%	40.0%	125
	Midwest	8.9%	44.3%	46.9%	418
	Mountain Plains	17.6%	51.3%	31.1%	119
	Northeast	12.8%	40.5%	46.6%	148
	Southeast	7.3%	48.0%	44.7%	246
	Southwest	9.7%	43.3%	47.0%	134
	Western	15.4%	34.6%	50.0%	156
Free and Reduced %	<25%	10.5%	50.0%	39.5%	228
	25 - 50%	9.8%	44.4%	45.9%	523
	51 - 65%	10.6%	46.1%	43.3%	293
	>65%	13.6%	38.1%	48.3%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	18.2%	31.3%	50.5%	192
	1,000 - 2,499	8.4%	36.7%	54.9%	357
	2,500 - 4,999	8.8%	48.3%	42.9%	319
	5,000 - 9,999	13.7%	48.3%	38.0%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	9.6%	51.2%	39.2%	166
	25,000+	9.3%	62.6%	28.0%	107



97.4% (n=1,309) of respondents reported moderate or extreme concern regarding the impact Final Target sodium limits will have on their school meal program. Extreme concern was reported least by programs in the Northeast (53.4%, n=79) and most by programs in districts with 25,000 or more students (82.1%, n=87).

Figure 8. How concerned are you regarding the impact Final Target sodium limits will have on your school meal program?

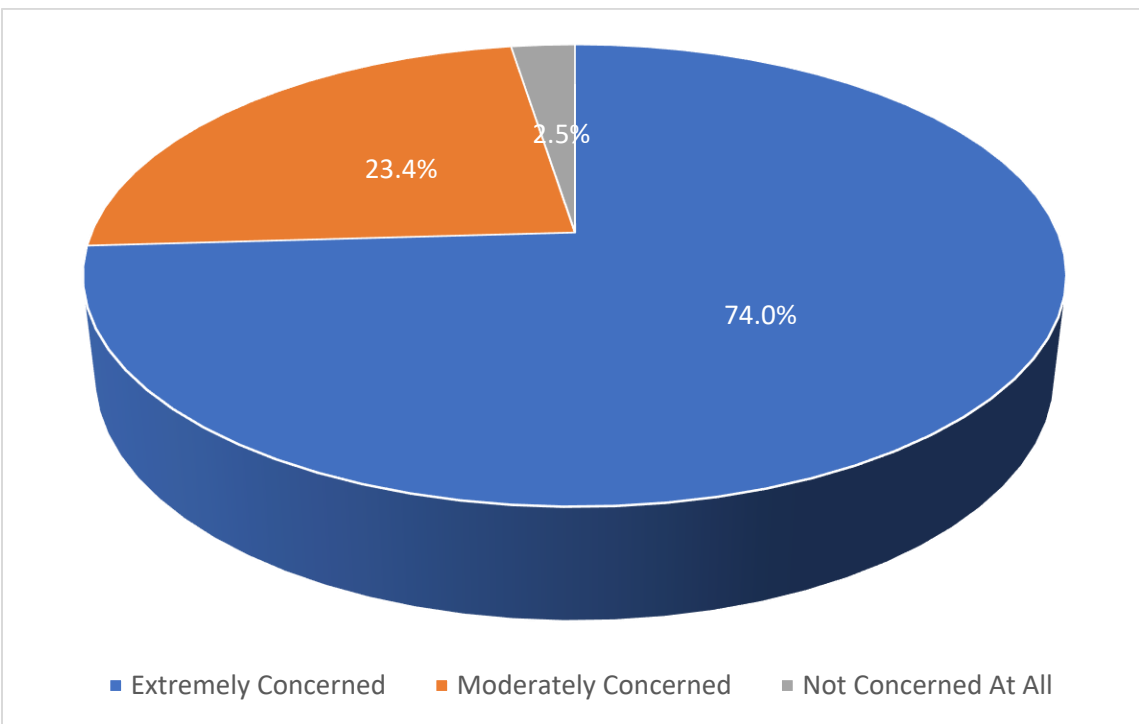




Table 12. How concerned are you regarding the impact Final Target sodium limits will have on your school meal program?

		Extremely Concerned	Moderately Concerned	Not Concerned At All	n=
	Overall	74.0%	23.4%	2.5%	1,344
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	72.0%	25.6%	2.4%	125
	Midwest	75.4%	22.9%	1.7%	419
	Mountain Plains	75.8%	19.2%	5.0%	120
	Northeast	53.4%	41.2%	5.4%	148
	Southeast	81.6%	18.0%	0.4%	244
	Southwest	82.0%	15.8%	2.3%	133
	Western	71.6%	24.5%	3.9%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	73.5%	22.1%	4.4%	226
	25 - 50%	72.1%	25.4%	2.5%	523
	51 - 65%	78.8%	20.5%	0.7%	292
	>65%	73.3%	23.8%	3.0%	303
District Enrollment	<1,000	63.7%	30.6%	5.7%	193
	1,000 - 2,499	72.8%	25.8%	1.4%	356
	2,500 - 4,999	76.9%	22.2%	0.9%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	72.7%	23.4%	3.9%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	79.9%	17.7%	2.4%	164
	25,000+	82.1%	15.1%	2.8%	106



Similar to the results to the question regarding challenges in meeting the Target 2 sodium limits, the top three most significant challenges were student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options (81.4%, n=1,083), negative impact on student participation (78.7%, n=1,044), and sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce) (77.4%, n=1,029).

Figure 9. How much of a challenge are each of the following for you in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

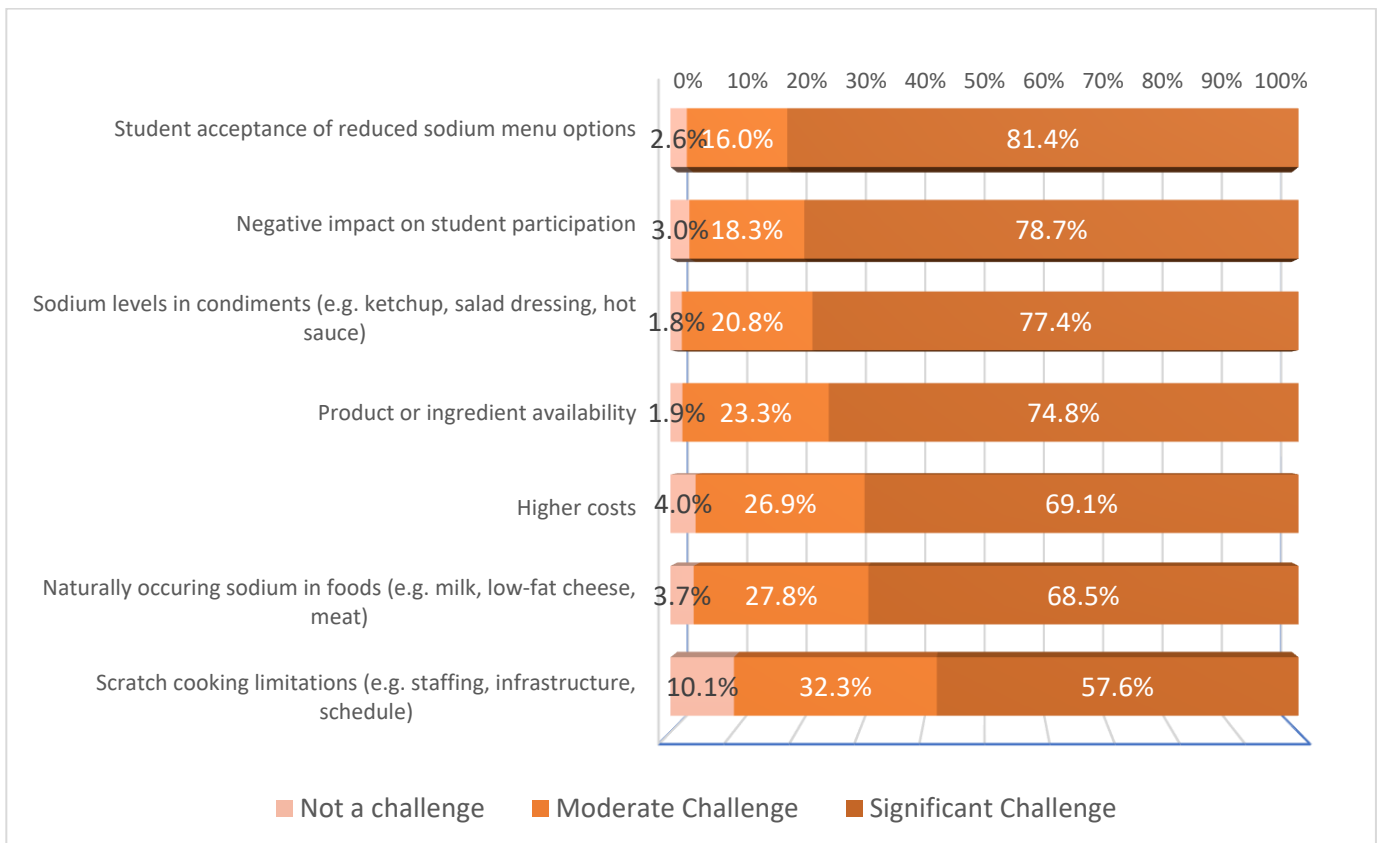




Table 13. How much of a challenge is each of the following for you in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

	Not a challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
Student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options	2.6%	16.0%	81.4%	1330
Negative impact on student participation	3.0%	18.3%	78.7%	1326
Sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce)	1.8%	20.8%	77.4%	1329
Product or ingredient availability	1.9%	23.3%	74.8%	1329
Higher costs	4.0%	26.9%	69.1%	1327
Naturally occurring sodium in foods (e.g. milk, low-fat cheese, meat)	3.7%	27.8%	68.5%	1330
Scratch cooking limitations (e.g. staffing, infrastructure, schedule)	10.1%	32.3%	57.6%	1328



Whole Grain Mandate: Readiness and Challenges

69.1% of respondents reported that the NSLP/SBP mandate that all grains offered with school meals be whole grain rich was a moderate or significant challenge. The largest variations in response are found by region: only 47.6% of Northeast region respondents (n=70) reported the whole grain mandate to be a moderate or significant challenge, while 87.3% of Southeast region respondents (n=214) reported the whole grain mandate to be a moderate or significant challenge.

Figure 10. Is the NSLP/SBP mandate that all grains offered with school meals be whole grain rich a challenge for your program?

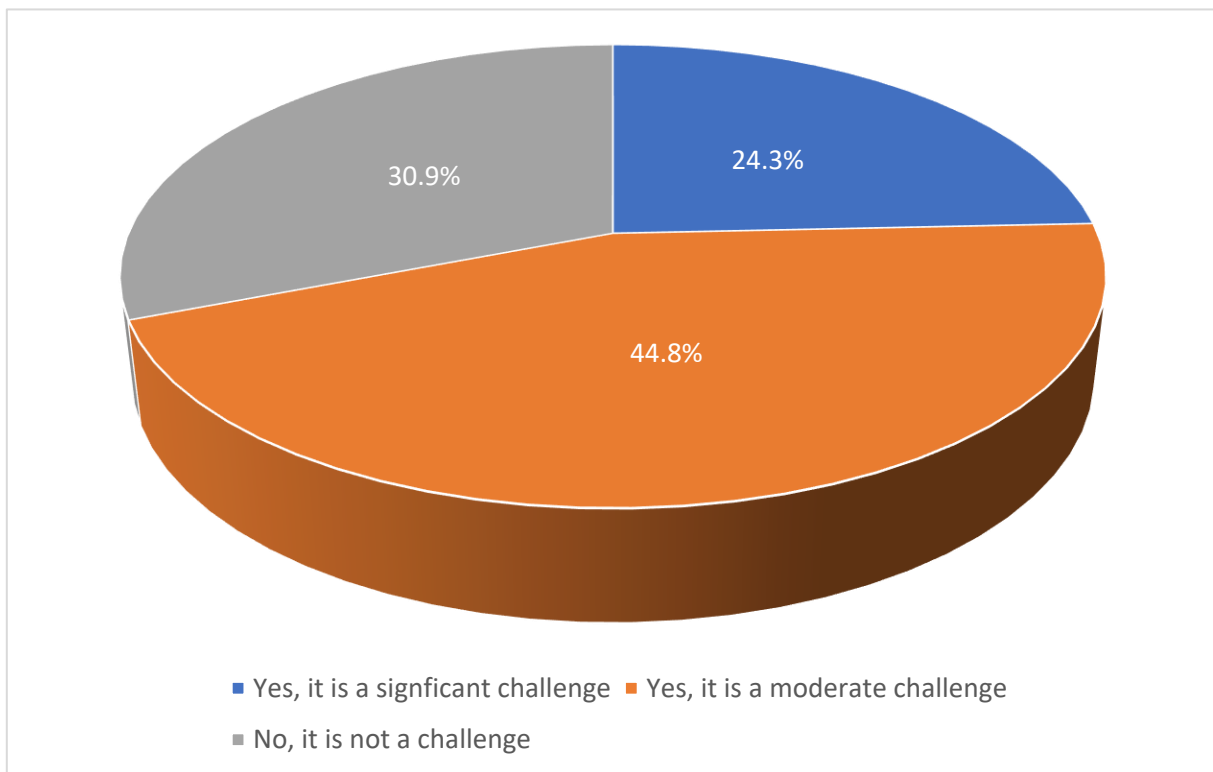




Table 14. Is the NSLP/SBP mandate that all grains offered with school meals be whole grain rich a challenge for your program?

		Yes, it is a significant challenge	Yes, it is a moderate challenge	No, it is not a challenge	n=
	Overall	24.3%	44.8%	30.9%	1,335
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	17.9%	48.8%	33.3%	123
	Midwest	24.4%	44.4%	31.2%	414
	Mountain Plains	22.9%	51.7%	25.4%	118
	Northeast	10.2%	37.4%	52.4%	147
	Southeast	42.0%	45.3%	12.7%	245
	Southwest	25.6%	48.1%	26.3%	133
	Western	14.2%	40.6%	45.2%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	18.6%	44.2%	37.2%	226
	25 - 50%	22.4%	47.8%	29.8%	517
	51 - 65%	32.4%	39.7%	27.9%	290
	>65%	23.8%	45.0%	31.1%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	25.1%	44.0%	30.9%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	26.3%	45.0%	28.6%	353
	2,500 - 4,999	26.4%	42.8%	30.8%	318
	5,000 - 9,999	26.0%	43.6%	30.4%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	19.5%	48.8%	31.7%	164
	25,000+	13.3%	47.6%	39.0%	105



The most significant challenges identified by respondent school districts included general student acceptance (73.9%, n=677), negative impact on student participation (69.0%, n=630), and higher costs (n=58.3%, n=532).

Figure 11. How much of a challenge is each of the following for you in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

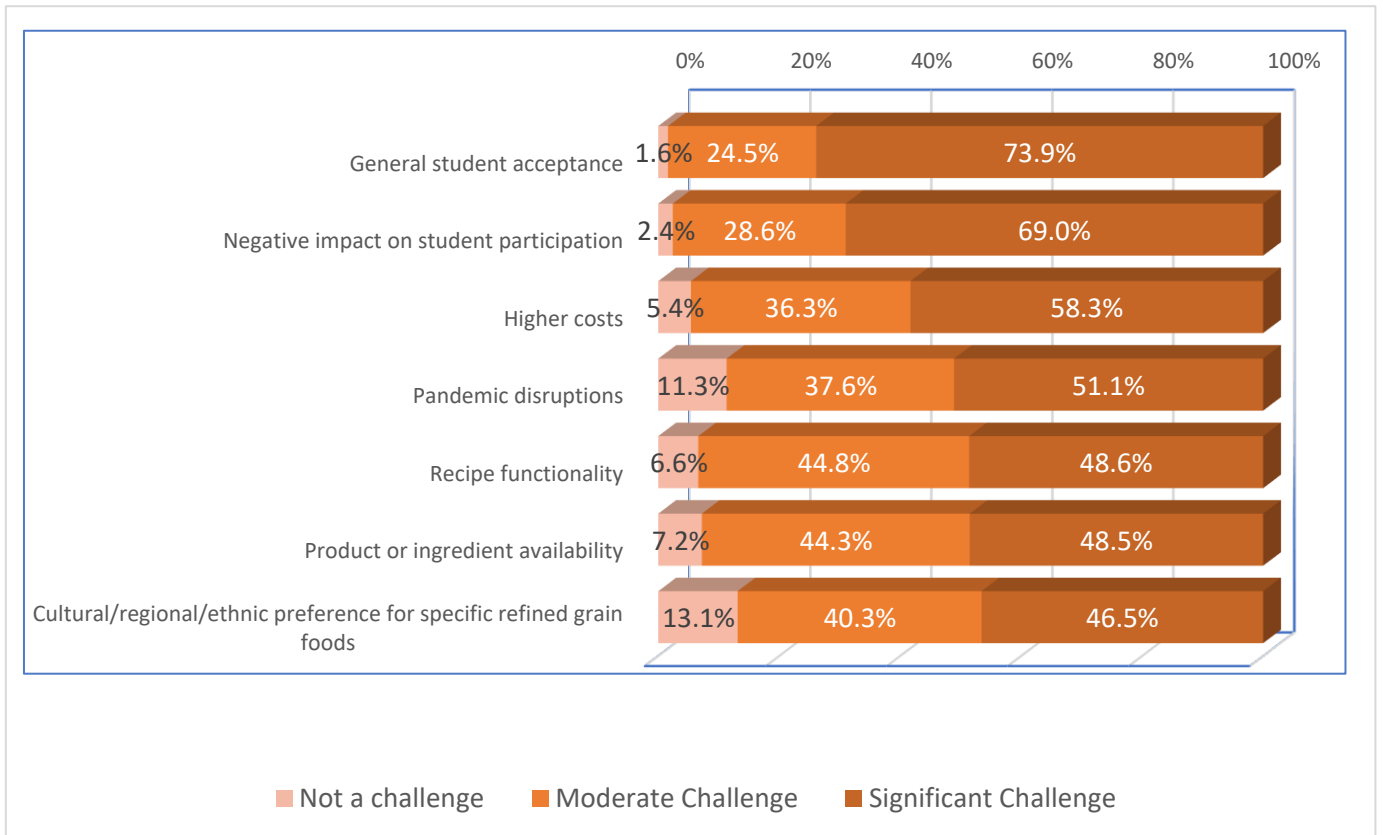




Table 15. How much of a challenge is each of the following for you in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

	Not a challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
General student acceptance	1.6%	24.5%	73.9%	916
Negative impact on student participation	2.4%	28.6%	69.0%	913
Higher costs	5.4%	36.3%	58.3%	912
Pandemic disruptions	11.3%	37.6%	51.1%	914
Recipe functionality	6.6%	44.8%	48.6%	915
Product or ingredient availability	7.2%	44.3%	48.5%	915
Cultural/regional/ethnic preference for specific refined grain foods	13.1%	40.3%	46.5%	913



School Nutrition Program Financial Situation

Almost half (48.4%, n=644) of respondents anticipated an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21. Respondents from the Northeast (61.2%, n=90) and the Mid-Atlantic (61.0%, n=75) anticipated an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21 at the highest rates.

Figure 11. Do you anticipate an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21?

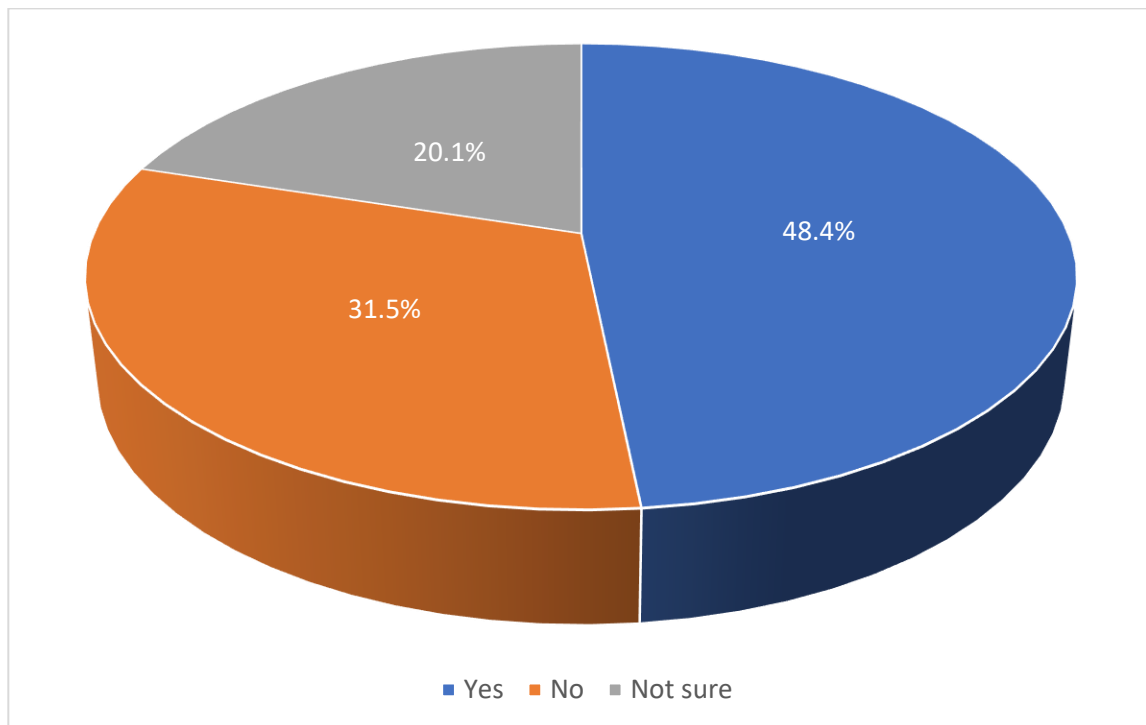




Table 16. Do you anticipate an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21?					
		Yes	No	Not sure	n=
	Overall	48.4%	31.5%	20.1%	1,331
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	61.0%	26.0%	13.0%	123
	Midwest	44.7%	34.7%	20.6%	412
	Mountain Plains	42.7%	34.2%	23.1%	117
	Northeast	61.2%	25.9%	12.9%	147
	Southeast	42.4%	33.1%	24.5%	245
	Southwest	47.4%	29.3%	23.3%	133
	Western	50.6%	29.9%	19.5%	154
Free and Reduced %	<25%	49.8%	34.7%	15.6%	225
	25 - 50%	49.2%	31.6%	19.2%	516
	51 - 65%	48.6%	32.1%	19.3%	290
	>65%	45.7%	28.3%	26.0%	300
District Enrollment	<1,000	41.8%	27.0%	31.2%	189
	1,000 - 2,499	44.6%	29.0%	26.4%	352
	2,500 - 4,999	49.1%	33.6%	17.3%	318
	5,000 - 9,999	49.3%	34.5%	16.3%	203
	10,000 - 24,999	55.5%	34.8%	9.8%	164
	25,000+	58.1%	30.5%	11.4%	105



Among programs that reported anticipating an overall loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21, just under one-third (31.7%, n=204) anticipate they will have sufficient reserves to cover losses for SY 2020/21. Generally, as both free and reduced rate and total district enrollment decrease, the percentage of programs reporting they anticipate having sufficient reserves to cover losses for SY 2020/21 decreases as well.

Figure 12. Do you anticipate your program will have sufficient reserves to cover losses for SY 2020/21?

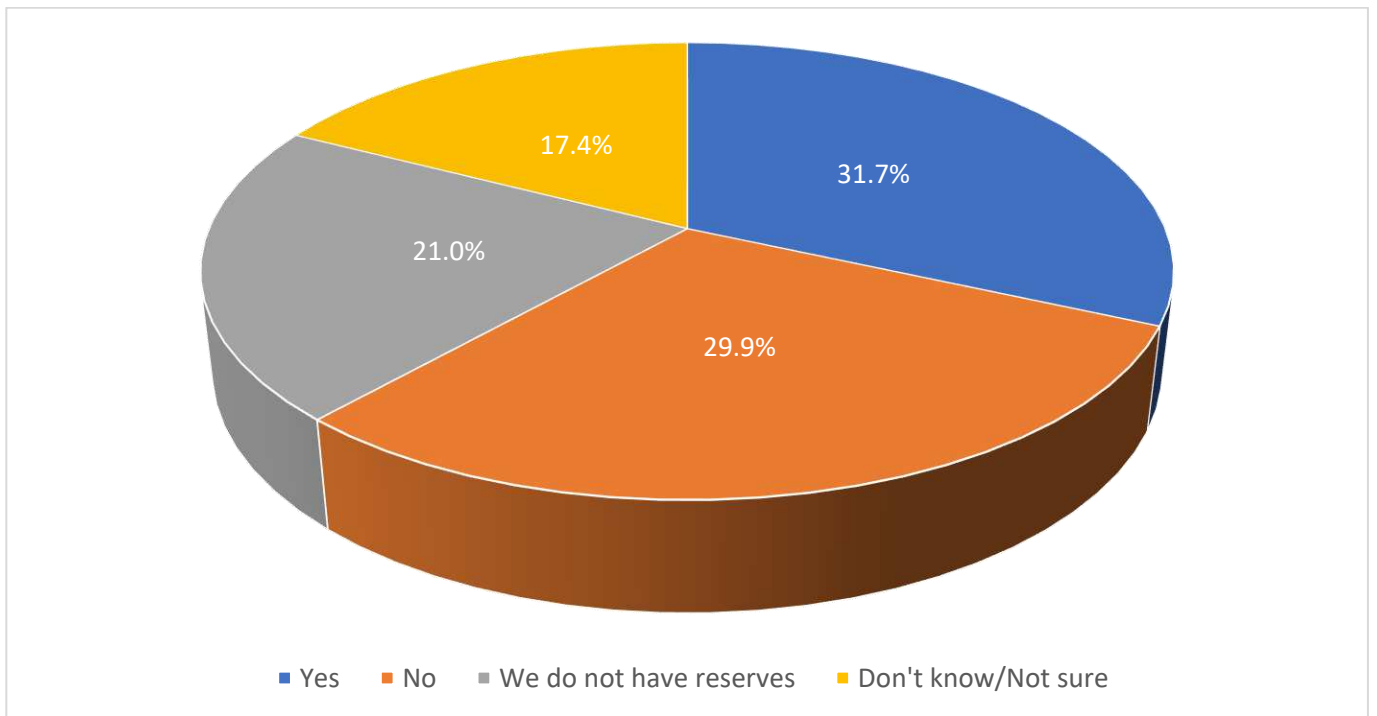




Table 17. Do you anticipate your program will have sufficient reserves to cover losses for SY 2020/21?

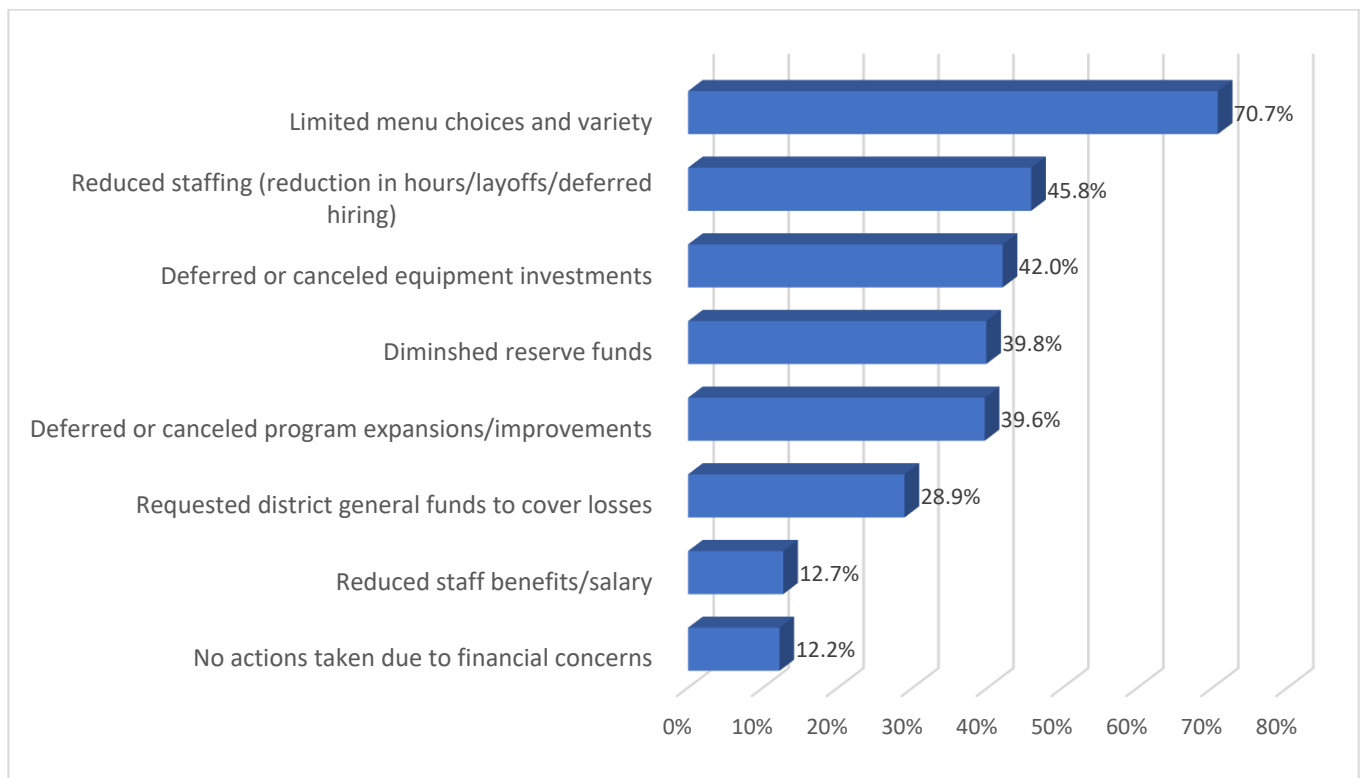
		Yes	No	We do not have reserves	Don't know/Not sure	n=
	Overall	31.7%	29.9%	21.0%	17.4%	643
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	34.7%	34.7%	18.7%	12.0%	75
	Midwest	36.1%	19.7%	20.8%	23.5%	183
	Mountain Plains	30.0%	32.0%	16.0%	22.0%	50
	Northeast	17.8%	28.9%	41.1%	12.2%	90
	Southeast	41.3%	29.8%	10.6%	18.3%	104
	Southwest	39.7%	28.6%	17.5%	14.3%	63
	Western	16.7%	50.0%	20.5%	12.8%	78
Free and Reduced %	<25%	21.4%	33.0%	27.7%	17.9%	112
	25 - 50%	29.6%	29.2%	22.9%	18.2%	253
	51 - 65%	36.2%	29.8%	21.3%	12.8%	141
	>65%	39.4%	28.5%	11.7%	20.4%	137
District Enrollment	<1,000	20.5%	23.1%	24.4%	32.1%	78
	1,000 - 2,499	22.9%	24.8%	31.2%	21.0%	157
	2,500 - 4,999	29.5%	32.7%	22.4%	15.4%	156
	5,000 - 9,999	38.0%	32.0%	21.0%	9.0%	100
	10,000 - 24,999	46.2%	31.9%	6.6%	15.4%	91
	25,000+	42.6%	37.7%	8.2%	11.5%	61

Note: This question was only asked of those programs who indicated they anticipate an overall net loss (not including reserves) for SY 2020/21.



The majority of responding programs report (70.7%, n=967) that since March 2020 they have limited menu choices and variety as a result of financial concerns related to the pandemic. About four out of ten programs report reduced staffing (reduction in hours/layoffs/deferred hiring) (45.8%, n=627), deferred or canceled equipment investments (42.0%, n=575), diminished reserve funds (39.8%, n=544), and/or deferred or canceled program expansions/improvements (39.6%, n=542).

Figure 13. Since March 2020, has your program taken any of the following actions as a result of financial concerns related to the pandemic?



Note: The question asked was, "Since March 2020, has your program taken any of the following actions as a result of financial concerns related to the pandemic? Check all that apply." Since respondents could select multiple responses, percentages will not add up to 100%. n=1,368.



Current Concerns While Planning for SY 2021/2022

In planning for SY 2021/22, continued pandemic supply chain disruptions (64.7%, n=852) and staff shortages (62.4%, n=823) were identified as the most serious concerns by responding programs at the current time.

Figure 14. In planning for SY 2021/22, please indicate how much of a concern each of the following is at the current time.

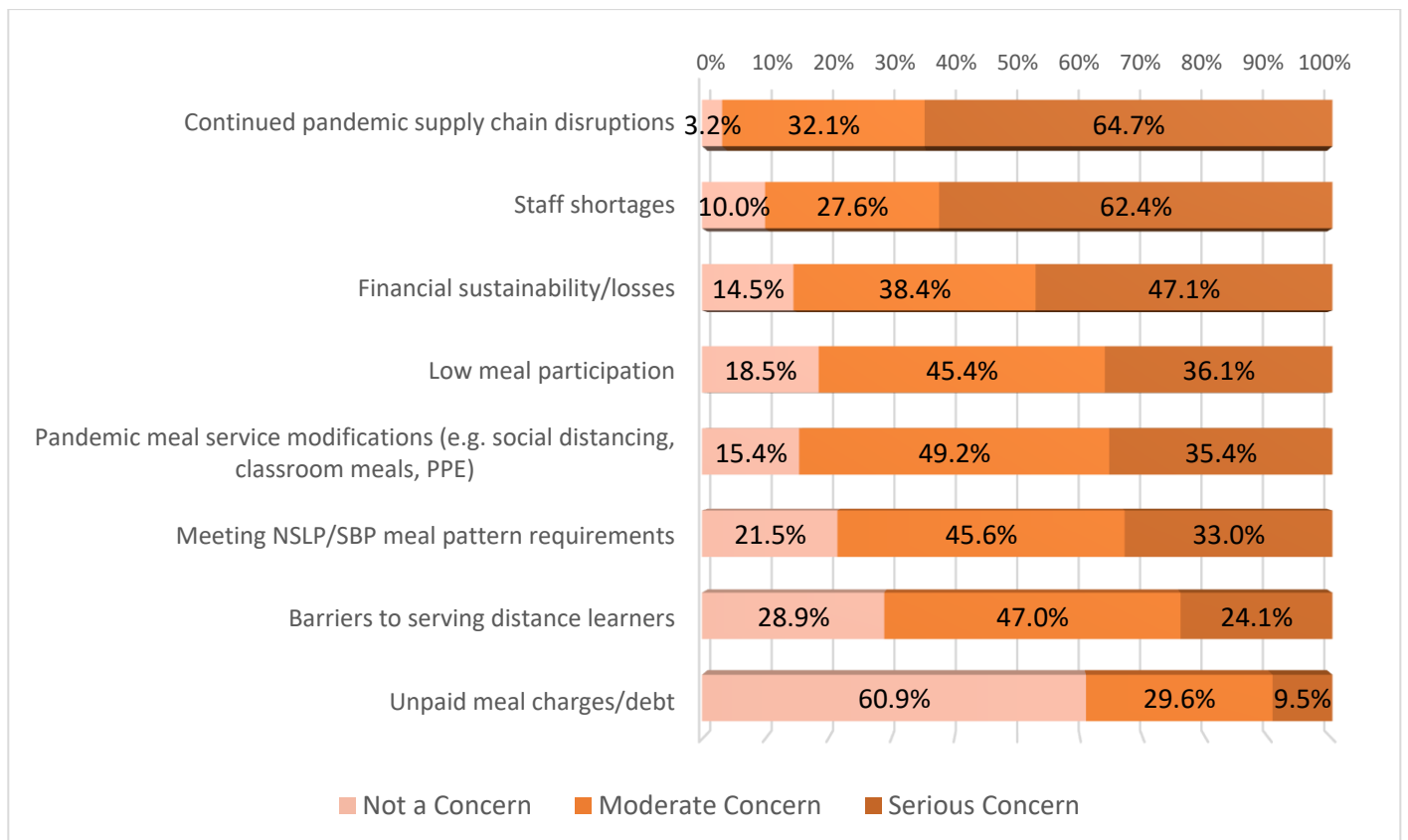




Table 18. In planning for SY 2021/22, please indicate how much of a concern each of the following is at the current time.

	Not a Concern	Moderate Concern	Serious Concern	n=
Continued pandemic supply chain disruptions	3.2%	32.1%	64.7%	1,316
Staff shortages	10.0%	27.6%	62.4%	1,319
Financial sustainability/losses	14.5%	38.4%	47.1%	1,314
Low meal participation	18.5%	45.4%	36.1%	1,318
Pandemic meal service modifications (e.g. social distancing, classroom meals, PPE)	15.4%	49.2%	35.4%	1,317
Meeting NSLP/SBP meal pattern requirements	21.5%	45.6%	33.0%	1,317
Barriers to serving distance learners	28.9%	47.0%	24.1%	1,317
Unpaid meal charges/debt	60.9%	29.6%	9.5%	1,316



Appendices: Selected Items by Region, Free and Reduced %, and Total District Enrollment

Appendix A – What Effect Did CEP Have on...

Table 5A. What effect did CEP have on student access to meals							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	2.8%	1.2%	24.4%	22.2%	49.4%	500
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.4%	0.0%	27.6%	27.6%	41.4%	58
	Midwest	1.0%	2.0%	27.0%	24.0%	46.0%	100
	Mountain Plains	4.0%	0.0%	32.0%	24.0%	40.0%	25
	Northeast	0.0%	0.0%	30.6%	8.3%	61.1%	36
	Southeast	3.3%	1.3%	21.9%	21.9%	51.7%	151
	Southwest	6.9%	1.7%	20.7%	24.1%	46.6%	58
	Western	1.4%	1.4%	20.8%	20.8%	55.6%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	0.0%	10.0%	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	10
	25 - 50%	1.0%	1.0%	21.9%	29.5%	46.7%	105
	51 - 65%	4.0%	0.7%	30.0%	16.7%	48.7%	150
	>65%	3.0%	1.3%	21.7%	22.1%	51.9%	235
District Enrollment	<1,000	2.0%	0.0%	38.8%	20.4%	38.8%	49
	1,000 - 2,499	2.7%	1.8%	24.5%	17.3%	53.6%	110
	2,500 - 4,999	1.9%	0.0%	23.1%	25.0%	50.0%	108
	5,000 - 9,999	2.4%	0.0%	20.7%	30.5%	46.3%	82
	10,000 - 24,999	4.9%	3.7%	23.2%	20.7%	47.6%	82
	25,000+	2.9%	1.4%	21.7%	18.8%	55.1%	69



Table 5B. What effect did CEP have on equity among students							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	3.8%	1.4%	26.6%	23.0%	45.2%	496
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.5%	1.8%	31.6%	24.6%	38.6%	57
	Midwest	2.0%	1.0%	27.6%	24.5%	44.9%	98
	Mountain Plains	4.0%	4.0%	36.0%	28.0%	28.0%	25
	Northeast	5.6%	0.0%	27.8%	11.1%	55.6%	36
	Southeast	5.3%	1.3%	23.3%	22.7%	47.3%	150
	Southwest	3.4%	1.7%	31.0%	24.1%	39.7%	58
	Western	2.8%	1.4%	20.8%	23.6%	51.4%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	33.3%	44.4%	9
	25 - 50%	1.9%	1.9%	23.8%	27.6%	44.8%	105
	51 - 65%	6.0%	2.7%	26.8%	24.2%	40.3%	149
	>65%	3.4%	0.4%	27.9%	19.7%	48.5%	233
District Enrollment	<1,000	0.0%	2.0%	53.1%	18.4%	26.5%	49
	1,000 - 2,499	5.6%	0.9%	29.6%	21.3%	42.6%	108
	2,500 - 4,999	3.7%	0.9%	25.2%	19.6%	50.5%	107
	5,000 - 9,999	4.9%	0.0%	19.8%	23.5%	51.9%	81
	10,000 - 24,999	3.7%	2.4%	25.6%	23.2%	45.1%	82
	25,000+	2.9%	2.9%	14.5%	33.3%	46.4%	69



Table 5C. What effect did CEP have on student meal participation							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	2.0%	1.8%	11.4%	48.6%	36.2%	500
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	1.7%	5.2%	10.3%	48.3%	34.5%	58
	Midwest	2.0%	0.0%	16.0%	53.0%	29.0%	100
	Mountain Plains	3.8%	3.8%	26.9%	42.3%	23.1%	26
	Northeast	2.8%	0.0%	5.6%	38.9%	52.8%	36
	Southeast	1.3%	2.7%	7.3%	46.7%	42.0%	150
	Southwest	5.2%	1.7%	10.3%	55.2%	27.6%	58
	Western	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	48.6%	38.9%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	60.0%	30.0%	10
	25 - 50%	1.0%	1.0%	10.5%	56.2%	31.4%	105
	51 - 65%	2.0%	2.0%	12.0%	48.0%	36.0%	150
	>65%	2.6%	2.1%	11.5%	45.1%	38.7%	235
District Enrollment	<1,000	4.0%	4.0%	26.0%	34.0%	32.0%	50
	1,000 - 2,499	2.7%	1.8%	10.0%	43.6%	41.8%	110
	2,500 - 4,999	0.9%	0.9%	8.3%	47.2%	42.6%	108
	5,000 - 9,999	1.2%	0.0%	8.6%	56.8%	33.3%	81
	10,000 - 24,999	1.2%	2.4%	7.3%	56.1%	32.9%	82
	25,000+	2.9%	2.9%	15.9%	50.7%	27.5%	69



Table 5D. What effect did CEP have on paperwork/administrative burden							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	38.5%	24.1%	20.4%	11.7%	5.3%	494
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	39.7%	31.0%	17.2%	6.9%	5.2%	58
	Midwest	29.9%	25.8%	23.7%	13.4%	7.2%	97
	Mountain Plains	36.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	4.0%	25
	Northeast	41.7%	22.2%	19.4%	11.1%	5.6%	36
	Southeast	40.0%	20.7%	19.3%	14.7%	5.3%	150
	Southwest	42.9%	19.6%	23.2%	12.5%	1.8%	56
	Western	41.7%	29.2%	19.4%	4.2%	5.6%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	44.4%	11.1%	22.2%	22.2%	0.0%	9
	25 - 50%	29.8%	29.8%	21.2%	15.4%	3.8%	104
	51 - 65%	36.7%	28.6%	17.7%	11.6%	5.4%	147
	>65%	43.2%	19.2%	21.8%	9.8%	6.0%	234
District Enrollment	<1,000	33.3%	20.8%	22.9%	18.8%	4.2%	48
	1,000 - 2,499	42.6%	19.4%	19.4%	10.2%	8.3%	108
	2,500 - 4,999	41.1%	28.0%	16.8%	11.2%	2.8%	107
	5,000 - 9,999	35.4%	26.8%	20.7%	11.0%	6.1%	82
	10,000 - 24,999	41.3%	23.8%	18.8%	12.5%	3.8%	80
	25,000+	31.9%	24.6%	27.5%	10.1%	5.8%	69



Table 5E. What effect did CEP have on time in line to get meals							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	11.1%	14.3%	52.5%	19.3%	2.8%	497
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	8.8%	14.0%	43.9%	31.6%	1.8%	57
	Midwest	8.2%	14.3%	53.1%	22.4%	2.0%	98
	Mountain Plains	20.0%	28.0%	28.0%	24.0%	0.0%	25
	Northeast	11.1%	8.3%	52.8%	25.0%	2.8%	36
	Southeast	11.9%	15.9%	56.3%	13.2%	2.6%	151
	Southwest	6.9%	10.3%	62.1%	15.5%	5.2%	58
	Western	15.3%	12.5%	51.4%	16.7%	4.2%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	22.2%	11.1%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	9
	25 - 50%	6.7%	20.0%	49.5%	21.9%	1.9%	105
	51 - 65%	12.8%	16.8%	47.7%	21.5%	1.3%	149
	>65%	11.5%	10.3%	57.7%	16.2%	4.3%	234
District Enrollment	<1,000	6.1%	8.2%	57.1%	28.6%	0.0%	49
	1,000 - 2,499	13.0%	12.0%	54.6%	15.7%	4.6%	108
	2,500 - 4,999	11.2%	12.1%	52.3%	24.3%	0.0%	107
	5,000 - 9,999	11.0%	23.2%	39.0%	24.4%	2.4%	82
	10,000 - 24,999	8.5%	15.9%	62.2%	11.0%	2.4%	82
	25,000+	14.5%	13.0%	50.7%	14.5%	7.2%	69



Table 5F. What effect did CEP have on physical contact between students/staff							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	5.6%	7.6%	71.2%	8.9%	6.6%	497
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.5%	5.3%	80.7%	7.0%	3.5%	57
	Midwest	7.1%	9.1%	69.7%	8.1%	6.1%	99
	Mountain Plains	0.0%	12.0%	76.0%	8.0%	4.0%	25
	Northeast	8.3%	5.6%	66.7%	13.9%	5.6%	36
	Southeast	5.3%	9.3%	65.3%	10.0%	10.0%	150
	Southwest	5.2%	5.2%	75.9%	8.6%	5.2%	58
	Western	6.9%	5.6%	75.0%	6.9%	5.6%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	11.1%	11.1%	55.6%	22.2%	0.0%	9
	25 - 50%	6.7%	10.5%	71.4%	6.7%	4.8%	105
	51 - 65%	6.7%	6.7%	71.8%	8.7%	6.0%	149
	>65%	4.3%	6.8%	71.4%	9.4%	8.1%	234
District Enrollment	<1,000	2.0%	6.1%	69.4%	8.2%	14.3%	49
	1,000 - 2,499	7.3%	10.1%	66.1%	9.2%	7.3%	109
	2,500 - 4,999	5.7%	4.7%	71.7%	9.4%	8.5%	106
	5,000 - 9,999	6.1%	12.2%	72.0%	6.1%	3.7%	82
	10,000 - 24,999	4.9%	6.1%	78.0%	9.8%	1.2%	82
	25,000+	5.8%	5.8%	71.0%	10.1%	7.2%	69



Table 5G. What effect did CEP have on stigma for low-income students							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	43.5%	18.6%	28.1%	4.0%	5.8%	499
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	37.9%	24.1%	31.0%	5.2%	1.7%	58
	Midwest	42.9%	17.3%	28.6%	5.1%	6.1%	98
	Mountain Plains	30.8%	30.8%	38.5%	0.0%	0.0%	26
	Northeast	52.8%	13.9%	16.7%	8.3%	8.3%	36
	Southeast	48.3%	14.6%	25.8%	3.3%	7.9%	151
	Southwest	34.5%	15.5%	41.4%	3.4%	5.2%	58
	Western	45.8%	25.0%	20.8%	2.8%	5.6%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	22.2%	55.6%	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%	9
	25 - 50%	42.9%	23.8%	23.8%	4.8%	4.8%	105
	51 - 65%	47.3%	19.3%	26.0%	2.0%	5.3%	150
	>65%	42.1%	14.5%	31.9%	4.7%	6.8%	235
District Enrollment	<1,000	38.0%	10.0%	50.0%	0.0%	2.0%	50
	1,000 - 2,499	48.1%	14.8%	26.9%	4.6%	5.6%	108
	2,500 - 4,999	37.0%	19.4%	27.8%	5.6%	10.2%	108
	5,000 - 9,999	43.9%	23.2%	17.1%	8.5%	7.3%	82
	10,000 - 24,999	45.1%	23.2%	29.3%	0.0%	2.4%	82
	25,000+	47.8%	18.8%	26.1%	2.9%	4.3%	69



Table 5H. What effect did CEP have on unpaid meal debt/charges							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	68.4%	11.1%	14.9%	1.6%	4.0%	497
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	75.4%	10.5%	8.8%	3.5%	1.8%	57
	Midwest	65.3%	11.2%	17.3%	2.0%	4.1%	98
	Mountain Plains	56.0%	8.0%	36.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25
	Northeast	83.3%	2.8%	8.3%	0.0%	5.6%	36
	Southeast	71.5%	11.3%	11.3%	1.3%	4.6%	151
	Southwest	51.7%	13.8%	29.3%	1.7%	3.4%	58
	Western	70.8%	13.9%	8.3%	1.4%	5.6%	72
Free and Reduced %	<25%	77.8%	0.0%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9
	25 - 50%	67.6%	17.1%	9.5%	2.9%	2.9%	105
	51 - 65%	73.8%	11.4%	9.4%	1.3%	4.0%	149
	>65%	65.0%	8.5%	20.5%	1.3%	4.7%	234
District Enrollment	<1,000	61.2%	2.0%	34.7%	0.0%	2.0%	49
	1,000 - 2,499	69.4%	7.4%	15.7%	0.0%	7.4%	108
	2,500 - 4,999	70.1%	10.3%	12.1%	3.7%	3.7%	107
	5,000 - 9,999	72.0%	12.2%	12.2%	0.0%	3.7%	82
	10,000 - 24,999	72.0%	18.3%	7.3%	0.0%	2.4%	82
	25,000+	60.9%	14.5%	15.9%	5.8%	2.9%	69



Appendix B – COVID-19 Waiver Effects on....

Table 7A. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on student access to meals							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	3.6%	4.8%	20.2%	23.8%	47.6%	1063
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	4.2%	11.5%	19.8%	24.0%	40.6%	96
	Midwest	2.2%	5.3%	24.9%	25.2%	42.3%	357
	Mountain Plains	5.5%	2.7%	18.2%	22.7%	50.9%	110
	Northeast	6.3%	6.3%	17.3%	22.0%	48.0%	127
	Southeast	2.7%	1.3%	20.8%	26.8%	48.3%	149
	Southwest	5.2%	1.0%	20.6%	19.6%	53.6%	97
	Western	2.4%	5.5%	11.0%	22.0%	59.1%	127
Free and Reduced %	<25%	5.0%	6.8%	20.0%	22.3%	45.9%	220
	25 - 50%	3.2%	4.4%	18.8%	25.6%	48.0%	504
	51 - 65%	2.2%	3.6%	24.2%	22.9%	47.1%	223
	>65%	5.2%	5.2%	19.0%	20.7%	50.0%	116
District Enrollment	<1,000	0.7%	5.0%	29.5%	22.3%	42.4%	139
	1,000 - 2,499	5.9%	5.2%	22.5%	25.1%	41.3%	271
	2,500 - 4,999	3.9%	4.7%	21.4%	24.5%	45.5%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	3.6%	5.5%	16.4%	23.0%	51.5%	165
	10,000 - 24,999	3.6%	3.6%	14.4%	22.3%	56.1%	139
	25,000+	0.0%	4.3%	12.0%	23.9%	59.8%	92



Table 7B. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on equity among students

		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	3.2%	2.4%	33.4%	19.4%	41.6%	1,056
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	7.3%	2.1%	44.8%	20.8%	25.0%	96
	Midwest	1.7%	2.5%	36.0%	23.2%	36.5%	353
	Mountain Plains	5.5%	2.7%	30.0%	18.2%	43.6%	110
	Northeast	3.2%	2.4%	28.8%	15.2%	50.4%	125
	Southeast	3.4%	2.0%	30.4%	18.2%	45.9%	148
	Southwest	5.1%	4.1%	30.6%	13.3%	46.9%	98
	Western	0.8%	0.8%	31.0%	19.0%	48.4%	126
Free and Reduced %	<25%	2.3%	5.0%	28.3%	19.2%	45.2%	219
	25 - 50%	3.2%	2.0%	32.4%	21.6%	40.8%	500
	51 - 65%	2.7%	1.4%	39.8%	17.2%	38.9%	221
	>65%	6.0%	0.9%	35.3%	14.7%	43.1%	116
District Enrollment	<1,000	2.2%	0.0%	51.1%	16.5%	30.2%	139
	1,000 - 2,499	3.7%	2.2%	37.5%	20.4%	36.1%	269
	2,500 - 4,999	2.0%	3.6%	32.8%	21.7%	39.9%	253
	5,000 - 9,999	3.0%	3.0%	27.3%	21.2%	45.5%	165
	10,000 - 24,999	5.8%	2.2%	27.5%	15.2%	49.3%	138
	25,000+	3.3%	2.2%	16.3%	17.4%	60.9%	92



Table 7C. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on student meal participation

		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	8.0%	13.6%	10.7%	38.7%	28.9%	1,061
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	12.5%	16.7%	18.8%	33.3%	18.8%	96
	Midwest	6.8%	16.3%	11.0%	35.8%	30.1%	355
	Mountain Plains	2.7%	9.1%	4.5%	44.5%	39.1%	110
	Northeast	10.3%	15.1%	7.9%	42.9%	23.8%	126
	Southeast	5.4%	9.4%	12.8%	43.0%	29.5%	149
	Southwest	2.1%	11.3%	10.3%	44.3%	32.0%	97
	Western	18.0%	12.5%	10.2%	32.8%	26.6%	128
Free and Reduced %	<25%	8.7%	14.2%	7.3%	33.3%	36.5%	219
	25 - 50%	7.4%	12.5%	9.1%	41.4%	29.6%	503
	51 - 65%	7.7%	16.7%	12.2%	41.0%	22.5%	222
	>65%	10.3%	11.1%	21.4%	33.3%	23.9%	117
District Enrollment	<1,000	5.1%	13.0%	15.9%	32.6%	33.3%	138
	1,000 - 2,499	7.0%	18.3%	8.4%	39.9%	26.4%	273
	2,500 - 4,999	7.8%	12.5%	8.6%	40.6%	30.5%	256
	5,000 - 9,999	8.5%	10.3%	11.5%	43.0%	26.7%	165
	10,000 - 24,999	11.7%	13.9%	13.1%	35.8%	25.5%	137
	25,000+	9.8%	8.7%	10.9%	35.9%	34.8%	92



Table 7D. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on paperwork/administrative burden

		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	23.7%	25.7%	19.5%	19.5%	11.7%	1,064
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	18.8%	21.9%	25.0%	18.8%	15.6%	96
	Midwest	21.3%	28.0%	19.9%	20.4%	10.4%	357
	Mountain Plains	27.3%	32.7%	11.8%	20.0%	8.2%	110
	Northeast	22.8%	26.0%	16.5%	18.9%	15.7%	127
	Southeast	25.0%	19.6%	20.9%	18.9%	15.5%	148
	Southwest	21.4%	25.5%	26.5%	20.4%	6.1%	98
	Western	32.0%	22.7%	17.2%	17.2%	10.9%	128
Free and Reduced %	<25%	24.1%	30.9%	15.9%	19.5%	9.5%	220
	25 - 50%	21.2%	24.0%	20.8%	21.6%	12.5%	505
	51 - 65%	26.6%	24.3%	20.7%	18.0%	10.4%	222
	>65%	28.2%	25.6%	18.8%	12.8%	14.5%	117
District Enrollment	<1,000	13.7%	25.9%	20.1%	26.6%	13.7%	139
	1,000 - 2,499	18.8%	25.4%	19.1%	22.4%	14.3%	272
	2,500 - 4,999	24.1%	26.5%	21.0%	17.9%	10.5%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	27.9%	26.1%	18.8%	17.0%	10.3%	165
	10,000 - 24,999	37.0%	20.3%	19.6%	15.9%	7.2%	138
	25,000+	24.7%	31.2%	17.2%	14.0%	12.9%	93



Table 7E. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on time in line to get meals

		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	18.7%	16.9%	39.6%	18.7%	6.0%	1,062
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	18.8%	19.8%	43.8%	11.5%	6.3%	96
	Midwest	16.5%	17.1%	37.8%	21.8%	6.7%	357
	Mountain Plains	17.3%	26.4%	32.7%	18.2%	5.5%	110
	Northeast	19.7%	10.2%	42.5%	21.3%	6.3%	127
	Southeast	20.9%	14.9%	43.2%	16.9%	4.1%	148
	Southwest	14.3%	17.3%	40.8%	21.4%	6.1%	98
	Western	26.2%	14.3%	39.7%	13.5%	6.3%	126
Free and Reduced %	<25%	17.3%	15.9%	34.5%	25.5%	6.8%	220
	25 - 50%	16.5%	19.4%	37.5%	19.0%	7.5%	504
	51 - 65%	19.7%	14.8%	48.0%	14.8%	2.7%	223
	>65%	29.6%	11.3%	42.6%	12.2%	4.3%	115
District Enrollment	<1,000	16.5%	12.9%	41.0%	25.9%	3.6%	139
	1,000 - 2,499	16.5%	15.8%	42.9%	19.4%	5.5%	273
	2,500 - 4,999	17.3%	18.5%	41.3%	16.1%	6.7%	254
	5,000 - 9,999	24.4%	18.3%	32.3%	17.1%	7.9%	164
	10,000 - 24,999	20.9%	18.7%	38.8%	16.5%	5.0%	139
	25,000+	19.4%	16.1%	37.6%	19.4%	7.5%	93



Table 7F. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on physical contact between students/staff							
		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	30.3%	25.8%	33.1%	6.3%	4.4%	1,062
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	35.4%	21.9%	30.2%	8.3%	4.2%	96
	Midwest	24.6%	31.0%	34.1%	6.1%	4.2%	358
	Mountain Plains	24.5%	29.1%	37.3%	3.6%	5.5%	110
	Northeast	41.7%	19.7%	29.9%	3.1%	5.5%	127
	Southeast	30.8%	24.0%	34.2%	8.2%	2.7%	146
	Southwest	23.5%	26.5%	41.8%	6.1%	2.0%	98
	Western	40.9%	18.9%	24.4%	8.7%	7.1%	127
Free and Reduced %	<25%	30.0%	27.7%	33.6%	5.5%	3.2%	220
	25 - 50%	29.7%	26.3%	32.3%	6.7%	5.0%	505
	51 - 65%	30.0%	23.6%	37.3%	6.4%	2.7%	220
	>65%	34.2%	23.9%	28.2%	6.0%	7.7%	117
District Enrollment	<1,000	25.9%	20.1%	40.3%	9.4%	4.3%	139
	1,000 - 2,499	32.4%	30.5%	29.4%	4.0%	3.7%	272
	2,500 - 4,999	27.3%	31.6%	29.3%	7.0%	4.7%	256
	5,000 - 9,999	36.6%	23.2%	29.9%	4.9%	5.5%	164
	10,000 - 24,999	28.8%	20.9%	42.4%	7.2%	0.7%	139
	25,000+	30.4%	16.3%	35.9%	7.6%	9.8%	92



Table 7G. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on stigma on low-income students

		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	44.2%	18.4%	31.3%	2.4%	3.6%	1,063
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	34.4%	20.8%	40.6%	1.0%	3.1%	96
	Midwest	42.0%	19.3%	32.8%	2.0%	3.9%	357
	Mountain Plains	44.5%	19.1%	29.1%	3.6%	3.6%	110
	Northeast	45.7%	21.3%	25.2%	2.4%	5.5%	127
	Southeast	49.7%	19.5%	28.9%	0.0%	2.0%	149
	Southwest	44.9%	12.2%	33.7%	4.1%	5.1%	98
	Western	49.2%	14.3%	29.4%	5.6%	1.6%	126
Free and Reduced %	<25%	48.9%	23.3%	22.4%	2.3%	3.2%	219
	25 - 50%	43.8%	17.5%	31.9%	2.6%	4.2%	504
	51 - 65%	43.0%	14.8%	37.7%	1.3%	3.1%	223
	>65%	39.3%	20.5%	33.3%	4.3%	2.6%	117
District Enrollment	<1,000	28.3%	14.5%	47.8%	5.1%	4.3%	138
	1,000 - 2,499	41.2%	19.9%	32.4%	2.2%	4.4%	272
	2,500 - 4,999	45.1%	19.5%	29.6%	3.1%	2.7%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	47.9%	14.5%	30.3%	2.4%	4.8%	165
	10,000 - 24,999	53.2%	20.1%	25.2%	0.7%	0.7%	139
	25,000+	54.3%	21.7%	19.6%	0.0%	4.3%	92



Table 7H. What effect, if any, have the COVID-19 waivers permitting schools to serve all students meals at no charge since spring 2020 had on unpaid meal charges/debt

		Decrease Greatly	Decrease Slightly	No Effect	Increase Slightly	Increase Greatly	n=
	Overall	66.0%	11.4%	17.1%	1.3%	4.2%	1,066
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	53.1%	18.8%	24.0%	1.0%	3.1%	96
	Midwest	61.7%	14.0%	18.7%	1.1%	4.5%	358
	Mountain Plains	66.4%	16.4%	12.7%	1.8%	2.7%	110
	Northeast	67.7%	11.0%	13.4%	2.4%	5.5%	127
	Southeast	73.2%	8.1%	12.8%	1.3%	4.7%	149
	Southwest	71.4%	7.1%	13.3%	2.0%	6.1%	98
	Western	73.4%	1.6%	22.7%	0.0%	2.3%	128
Free and Reduced %	<25%	66.4%	13.2%	14.1%	3.2%	3.2%	220
	25 - 50%	64.2%	12.3%	17.4%	0.8%	5.3%	506
	51 - 65%	69.1%	10.3%	16.6%	0.9%	3.1%	223
	>65%	67.5%	6.0%	22.2%	0.9%	3.4%	117
District Enrollment	<1,000	59.0%	10.1%	23.7%	2.2%	5.0%	139
	1,000 - 2,499	64.8%	11.7%	16.8%	1.1%	5.5%	273
	2,500 - 4,999	61.9%	14.8%	18.7%	1.9%	2.7%	257
	5,000 - 9,999	67.9%	10.3%	17.6%	1.2%	3.0%	165
	10,000 - 24,999	73.4%	9.4%	12.9%	0.7%	3.6%	139
	25,000+	77.4%	7.5%	8.6%	0.0%	6.5%	93



Appendix C – Challenges in Meeting Target 2 Sodium Limits

Table 10A. How much of a challenge are pandemic disruptions in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	8.2%	34.1%	57.7%	1,336
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	8.8%	36.0%	55.2%	125
	Midwest	5.3%	35.6%	59.1%	413
	Mountain Plains	12.6%	30.3%	57.1%	119
	Northeast	9.5%	39.9%	50.7%	148
	Southeast	6.6%	29.2%	64.2%	243
	Southwest	11.9%	32.8%	55.2%	134
	Western	10.4%	34.4%	55.2%	154
Free and Reduced %	<25%	7.9%	41.9%	50.2%	227
	25 - 50%	9.4%	31.8%	58.8%	519
	51 - 65%	7.6%	36.1%	56.3%	288
	>65%	7.0%	30.1%	62.9%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	9.0%	38.6%	52.4%	189
	1,000 - 2,499	8.5%	38.7%	52.8%	354
	2,500 - 4,999	7.0%	31.6%	61.4%	316
	5,000 - 9,999	9.8%	30.2%	60.0%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	7.9%	27.3%	64.8%	165
	25,000+	7.5%	35.5%	57.0%	107



Table 10B. How much of a challenge is product/ingredient availability in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	5.4%	32.6%	62.0%	1,345
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	5.5%	37.8%	56.7%	127
	Midwest	4.1%	31.6%	64.3%	415
	Mountain Plains	6.7%	31.9%	61.3%	119
	Northeast	6.1%	33.1%	60.8%	148
	Southeast	3.3%	24.5%	72.2%	245
	Southwest	7.4%	29.6%	63.0%	135
	Western	8.3%	46.8%	44.9%	156
Free and Reduced %	<25%	5.7%	31.4%	62.9%	229
	25 - 50%	5.0%	33.0%	62.1%	522
	51 - 65%	3.1%	31.8%	65.1%	292
	>65%	7.9%	33.8%	58.3%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	6.3%	35.1%	58.6%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	3.1%	31.4%	65.5%	357
	2,500 - 4,999	4.1%	33.1%	62.8%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	8.3%	31.2%	60.5%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	5.5%	32.7%	61.8%	165
	25,000+	9.3%	33.6%	57.0%	107



Table 10C. How much of a challenge is naturally occurring sodium in foods (e.g. milk, low-fat cheese, meat) in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	6.9%	37.4%	55.6%	1,346
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	6.3%	37.0%	56.7%	127
	Midwest	5.5%	39.5%	54.9%	415
	Mountain Plains	10.1%	31.9%	58.0%	119
	Northeast	7.4%	39.6%	53.0%	149
	Southeast	3.3%	33.1%	63.7%	245
	Southwest	9.6%	40.7%	49.6%	135
	Western	11.5%	38.5%	50.0%	156
Free and Reduced %	<25%	5.7%	34.1%	60.3%	229
	25 - 50%	7.6%	38.8%	53.5%	523
	51 - 65%	5.1%	35.3%	59.6%	292
	>65%	8.3%	39.7%	52.0%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	9.9%	41.9%	48.2%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	5.9%	37.8%	56.3%	357
	2,500 - 4,999	5.9%	39.1%	55.0%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	7.8%	33.0%	59.2%	206
	10,000 - 24,999	6.1%	36.4%	57.6%	165
	25,000+	7.5%	33.6%	58.9%	107



Table 10D. How much of a challenge is student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	4.5%	22.1%	73.4%	1,344
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	7.1%	19.8%	73.0%	126
	Midwest	2.9%	22.4%	74.7%	415
	Mountain Plains	4.2%	26.3%	69.5%	118
	Northeast	10.1%	36.2%	53.7%	149
	Southeast	0.8%	14.3%	84.9%	245
	Southwest	3.7%	16.3%	80.0%	135
	Western	7.7%	23.7%	68.6%	156
Free and Reduced %	<25%	4.4%	17.5%	78.2%	229
	25 - 50%	4.8%	23.5%	71.7%	523
	51 - 65%	3.1%	19.0%	77.9%	290
	>65%	5.3%	26.2%	68.5%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	5.8%	31.4%	62.8%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	3.9%	22.8%	73.2%	355
	2,500 - 4,999	3.4%	19.7%	76.9%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	6.8%	15.5%	77.7%	206
	10,000 - 24,999	3.0%	21.2%	75.8%	165
	25,000+	4.7%	24.3%	71.0%	107



Table 10E. How much of a challenge are sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce) in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	4.5%	31.1%	64.4%	1,344
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.2%	32.0%	64.8%	125
	Midwest	3.9%	31.3%	64.8%	415
	Mountain Plains	4.2%	32.8%	63.0%	119
	Northeast	3.4%	34.2%	62.4%	149
	Southeast	3.3%	25.7%	71.0%	245
	Southwest	6.7%	30.4%	63.0%	135
	Western	9.0%	34.6%	56.4%	156
Free and Reduced %	<25%	4.8%	31.6%	63.6%	228
	25 - 50%	3.1%	33.7%	63.2%	522
	51 - 65%	2.7%	26.0%	71.2%	292
	>65%	8.6%	31.1%	60.3%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	6.3%	38.7%	55.0%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	3.6%	27.7%	68.6%	357
	2,500 - 4,999	3.1%	30.0%	66.9%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	4.4%	27.9%	67.6%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	5.5%	37.0%	57.6%	165
	25,000+	7.5%	29.0%	63.6%	107



Table 10F. How much of a challenge are higher costs in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	7.4%	34.4%	58.2%	1,344
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	8.7%	34.1%	57.1%	126
	Midwest	5.0%	36.3%	58.7%	416
	Mountain Plains	9.2%	36.1%	54.6%	119
	Northeast	11.4%	36.2%	52.3%	149
	Southeast	4.9%	26.6%	68.4%	244
	Southwest	8.1%	32.6%	59.3%	135
	Western	11.0%	40.0%	49.0%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	5.7%	40.6%	53.7%	229
	25 - 50%	7.9%	31.4%	60.7%	522
	51 - 65%	5.5%	34.7%	59.8%	291
	>65%	9.9%	34.4%	55.6%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	6.8%	43.5%	49.7%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	6.7%	31.4%	61.9%	357
	2,500 - 4,999	5.3%	33.5%	61.1%	319
	5,000 - 9,999	11.7%	34.0%	54.4%	206
	10,000 - 24,999	8.5%	32.9%	58.5%	164
	25,000+	7.5%	33.6%	58.9%	107



Table 10G. How much of a challenge is negative impact on student participation in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	6.9%	26.5%	66.5%	1,345
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	7.1%	27.6%	65.4%	127
	Midwest	7.0%	26.7%	66.3%	416
	Mountain Plains	4.2%	26.9%	68.9%	119
	Northeast	12.8%	40.3%	47.0%	149
	Southeast	2.0%	18.8%	79.2%	245
	Southwest	5.2%	21.5%	73.3%	135
	Western	12.3%	28.6%	59.1%	154
Free and Reduced %	<25%	6.6%	25.9%	67.5%	228
	25 - 50%	5.7%	29.1%	65.2%	523
	51 - 65%	6.2%	23.6%	70.2%	292
	>65%	9.9%	25.5%	64.6%	302
District Enrollment	<1,000	11.5%	29.8%	58.6%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	6.2%	26.3%	67.5%	357
	2,500 - 4,999	5.6%	28.4%	65.9%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	7.8%	21.5%	70.7%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	4.8%	26.1%	69.1%	165
	25,000+	6.5%	26.2%	67.3%	107



Table 10H. How much of a challenge are scratch cooking limitations (e.g. staffing, infrastructure, schedule) in working toward meeting Target 2 sodium limits?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	14.0%	39.4%	46.5%	1,341
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	11.0%	38.6%	50.4%	127
	Midwest	14.0%	39.4%	46.6%	414
	Mountain Plains	16.8%	35.3%	47.9%	119
	Northeast	22.3%	39.9%	37.8%	148
	Southeast	6.6%	38.7%	54.7%	243
	Southwest	14.2%	46.3%	39.6%	134
	Western	17.9%	38.5%	43.6%	156
Free and Reduced %	<25%	17.6%	33.9%	48.5%	227
	25 - 50%	15.0%	38.4%	46.6%	521
	51 - 65%	9.9%	43.5%	46.6%	292
	>65%	13.6%	41.5%	44.9%	301
District Enrollment	<1,000	16.8%	43.5%	39.8%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	12.1%	39.3%	48.6%	354
	2,500 - 4,999	11.9%	40.0%	48.1%	320
	5,000 - 9,999	17.6%	34.1%	48.3%	205
	10,000 - 24,999	13.3%	41.2%	45.5%	165
	25,000+	16.0%	38.7%	45.3%	106



Appendix D – Challenges in Working Toward Final Target Sodium Limits

Table 13A. How much of a challenge is product/ingredient availability in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	1.9%	23.3%	74.8%	1329
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	0.8%	26.0%	73.2%	123
	Midwest	1.2%	23.8%	74.9%	411
	Mountain Plains	0.9%	23.1%	76.1%	117
	Northeast	3.4%	28.1%	68.5%	146
	Southeast	0.8%	18.9%	80.3%	244
	Southwest	3.8%	17.3%	78.9%	133
	Western	3.9%	27.7%	68.4%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	1.8%	22.1%	76.1%	226
	25 - 50%	1.7%	24.5%	73.8%	515
	51 - 65%	1.0%	21.5%	77.5%	289
	>65%	3.0%	24.1%	72.9%	299
District Enrollment	<1,000	3.1%	36.6%	60.2%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	1.4%	22.5%	76.1%	351
	2,500 - 4,999	0.6%	22.8%	76.6%	316
	5,000 - 9,999	3.4%	22.1%	74.5%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	0.6%	17.9%	81.5%	162
	25,000+	3.8%	14.3%	81.9%	105



Table 13B. How much of a challenge is naturally occurring sodium in foods (e.g. milk, low-fat cheese, meat) in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	3.7%	27.8%	68.5%	1,330
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	4.1%	32.5%	63.4%	123
	Midwest	2.9%	29.4%	67.6%	411
	Mountain Plains	3.4%	24.8%	71.8%	117
	Northeast	4.1%	29.3%	66.7%	147
	Southeast	2.0%	25.4%	72.5%	244
	Southwest	6.8%	25.6%	67.7%	133
	Western	5.2%	26.5%	68.4%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	4.4%	23.0%	72.6%	226
	25 - 50%	4.1%	28.3%	67.6%	515
	51 - 65%	1.7%	27.3%	70.9%	289
	>65%	4.3%	31.0%	64.7%	300
District Enrollment	<1,000	5.8%	35.6%	58.6%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	3.1%	29.9%	67.0%	351
	2,500 - 4,999	2.8%	25.9%	71.3%	317
	5,000 - 9,999	2.9%	27.9%	69.1%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	4.3%	22.8%	72.8%	162
	25,000+	4.8%	20.0%	75.2%	105



Table 10C. How much of a challenge is student acceptance of reduced sodium menu options in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	2.6%	16.0%	81.4%	1,330
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	2.4%	15.4%	82.1%	123
	Midwest	1.7%	16.3%	82.0%	411
	Mountain Plains	4.3%	11.1%	84.6%	117
	Northeast	7.5%	27.2%	65.3%	147
	Southeast	0.0%	11.9%	88.1%	244
	Southwest	1.5%	15.0%	83.5%	133
	Western	3.9%	16.1%	80.0%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	4.0%	12.8%	83.2%	226
	25 - 50%	2.7%	17.3%	80.0%	515
	51 - 65%	1.0%	14.2%	84.8%	289
	>65%	2.7%	18.0%	79.3%	300
District Enrollment	<1,000	6.3%	19.9%	73.8%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	2.3%	20.8%	76.9%	351
	2,500 - 4,999	0.9%	16.1%	83.0%	317
	5,000 - 9,999	3.4%	12.3%	84.3%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	1.2%	10.5%	88.3%	162
	25,000+	1.9%	8.6%	89.5%	105



Table 10D. How much of a challenge are sodium levels in condiments (e.g. ketchup, salad dressing, hot sauce) in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	1.8%	20.8%	77.4%	1,329
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	0.8%	17.9%	81.3%	123
	Midwest	1.0%	21.7%	77.4%	411
	Mountain Plains	1.7%	17.9%	80.3%	117
	Northeast	2.7%	24.7%	72.6%	146
	Southeast	0.4%	19.7%	79.9%	244
	Southwest	3.0%	21.1%	75.9%	133
	Western	5.2%	20.6%	74.2%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	2.7%	18.1%	79.2%	226
	25 - 50%	1.2%	22.5%	76.3%	515
	51 - 65%	1.0%	20.4%	78.5%	289
	>65%	3.0%	20.1%	76.9%	299
District Enrollment	<1,000	4.2%	27.2%	68.6%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	1.7%	21.1%	77.2%	351
	2,500 - 4,999	0.6%	19.3%	80.1%	316
	5,000 - 9,999	1.5%	19.6%	78.9%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	2.5%	19.1%	78.4%	162
	25,000+	1.0%	17.1%	81.9%	105



Table 10E. How much of a challenge are higher costs in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	4.0%	26.9%	69.1%	1,327
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.3%	33.3%	63.4%	123
	Midwest	4.1%	26.8%	69.0%	410
	Mountain Plains	4.3%	26.5%	69.2%	117
	Northeast	6.2%	29.5%	64.4%	146
	Southeast	2.5%	23.0%	74.6%	244
	Southwest	3.0%	25.6%	71.4%	133
	Western	5.2%	27.3%	67.5%	154
Free and Reduced %	<25%	4.9%	26.1%	69.0%	226
	25 - 50%	4.3%	25.7%	70.0%	513
	51 - 65%	3.1%	30.1%	66.8%	289
	>65%	3.7%	26.4%	69.9%	299
District Enrollment	<1,000	3.2%	41.6%	55.3%	190
	1,000 - 2,499	3.4%	21.8%	74.8%	349
	2,500 - 4,999	3.2%	23.7%	73.2%	317
	5,000 - 9,999	7.8%	27.5%	64.7%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	3.7%	26.5%	69.8%	162
	25,000+	2.9%	26.7%	70.5%	105



Table 10F. How much of a challenge is negative impact on student participation in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	3.0%	18.3%	78.7%	1,326
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.3%	22.8%	74.0%	123
	Midwest	2.4%	18.0%	79.5%	410
	Mountain Plains	3.4%	18.8%	77.8%	117
	Northeast	8.2%	28.1%	63.7%	146
	Southeast	0.4%	12.3%	87.2%	243
	Southwest	2.3%	15.8%	82.0%	133
	Western	3.9%	17.5%	78.6%	154
Free and Reduced %	<25%	3.6%	15.7%	80.7%	223
	25 - 50%	3.1%	20.8%	76.1%	515
	51 - 65%	1.7%	14.5%	83.7%	289
	>65%	3.7%	19.7%	76.6%	299
District Enrollment	<1,000	8.9%	21.1%	70.0%	190
	1,000 - 2,499	1.7%	22.3%	76.0%	350
	2,500 - 4,999	1.6%	16.5%	81.9%	315
	5,000 - 9,999	3.9%	17.6%	78.4%	204
	10,000 - 24,999	1.2%	14.2%	84.6%	162
	25,000+	1.9%	13.3%	84.8%	105



Table 10G. How much of a challenge are scratch cooking limitations (e.g. staffing, infrastructure, schedule) in working toward meeting Final Target sodium limits?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	10.1%	32.3%	57.6%	1,328
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	9.0%	32.8%	58.2%	122
	Midwest	9.5%	32.8%	57.7%	411
	Mountain Plains	13.7%	25.6%	60.7%	117
	Northeast	19.2%	32.9%	47.9%	146
	Southeast	5.3%	28.3%	66.4%	244
	Southwest	9.0%	36.8%	54.1%	133
	Western	9.7%	37.4%	52.9%	155
Free and Reduced %	<25%	10.7%	29.3%	60.0%	225
	25 - 50%	11.1%	31.8%	57.1%	515
	51 - 65%	7.3%	36.0%	56.7%	289
	>65%	10.7%	31.8%	57.5%	299
District Enrollment	<1,000	16.2%	39.3%	44.5%	191
	1,000 - 2,499	8.8%	31.1%	60.1%	351
	2,500 - 4,999	6.6%	32.8%	60.6%	317
	5,000 - 9,999	10.4%	27.7%	61.9%	202
	10,000 - 24,999	9.9%	34.0%	56.2%	162
	25,000+	13.3%	28.6%	58.1%	105



Appendix E – Whole Grain Mandate Challenges

Table 15A. How much of a challenge is product or ingredient availability for you in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	7.2%	44.3%	48.5%	915
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	9.8%	57.3%	32.9%	82
	Midwest	5.7%	40.4%	53.9%	282
	Mountain Plains	5.7%	51.7%	42.5%	87
	Northeast	10.0%	51.4%	38.6%	70
	Southeast	4.2%	38.7%	57.1%	212
	Southwest	13.3%	44.9%	41.8%	98
	Western	9.5%	44.0%	46.4%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	7.8%	42.6%	49.6%	141
	25 - 50%	6.4%	47.5%	46.1%	360
	51 - 65%	6.3%	43.3%	50.5%	208
	>65%	9.2%	40.8%	50.0%	206
District Enrollment	<1,000	9.2%	49.2%	41.5%	130
	1,000 - 2,499	4.0%	43.2%	52.8%	250
	2,500 - 4,999	4.5%	43.6%	51.8%	220
	5,000 - 9,999	10.6%	42.6%	46.8%	141
	10,000 - 24,999	12.6%	45.0%	42.3%	111
	25,000+	7.9%	42.9%	49.2%	67



Table 15B. How much of a challenge is recipe functionality in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	6.6%	44.8%	48.6%	915
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	3.7%	61.0%	35.4%	82
	Midwest	7.5%	44.8%	47.7%	281
	Mountain Plains	4.6%	48.3%	47.1%	87
	Northeast	12.9%	48.6%	38.6%	70
	Southeast	3.8%	38.0%	58.2%	213
	Southwest	10.2%	39.8%	50.0%	98
	Western	6.0%	45.2%	48.8%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	6.4%	43.3%	50.4%	141
	25 - 50%	6.4%	48.3%	45.3%	360
	51 - 65%	7.7%	40.9%	51.4%	208
	>65%	5.8%	43.7%	50.5%	206
District Enrollment	<1,000	9.2%	46.2%	44.6%	130
	1,000 - 2,499	4.4%	45.4%	50.2%	249
	2,500 - 4,999	5.0%	45.5%	49.5%	220
	5,000 - 9,999	8.5%	40.4%	51.1%	141
	10,000 - 24,999	7.2%	49.5%	43.2%	111
	25,000+	9.4%	39.1%	51.6%	64



Table 15C. How much of a challenge is cultural/regional/ethnic preference in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?					
		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	13.1%	40.3%	46.5%	913
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	11.0%	57.3%	31.7%	82
	Midwest	17.9%	41.6%	40.5%	279
	Mountain Plains	8.0%	41.4%	50.6%	87
	Northeast	15.7%	51.4%	32.9%	70
	Southeast	9.4%	31.9%	58.7%	213
	Southwest	14.3%	30.6%	55.1%	98
	Western	10.7%	41.7%	47.6%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	16.4%	45.0%	38.6%	140
	25 - 50%	15.0%	42.2%	42.8%	360
	51 - 65%	8.7%	39.1%	52.2%	207
	>65%	12.1%	35.0%	52.9%	206
District Enrollment	<1,000	23.1%	33.1%	43.8%	130
	1,000 - 2,499	11.7%	47.6%	40.7%	248
	2,500 - 4,999	14.6%	43.4%	42.0%	210
	5,000 - 9,999	9.2%	35.5%	55.3%	141
	10,000 - 24,999	9.0%	40.5%	50.5%	111
	25,000+	9.4%	26.6%	64.1%	64



Table 15D. How much of a challenge is general student acceptance in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	1.6%	24.5%	73.9%	916
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	1.2%	35.4%	63.4%	82
	Midwest	1.4%	25.5%	73.0%	282
	Mountain Plains	2.3%	24.1%	73.6%	87
	Northeast	1.4%	38.6%	60.0%	70
	Southeast	0.5%	18.3%	81.2%	213
	Southwest	1.0%	17.3%	81.6%	98
	Western	6.0%	22.6%	71.4%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	2.1%	24.8%	73.0%	141
	25 - 50%	1.4%	26.3%	72.3%	361
	51 - 65%	2.4%	19.2%	78.4%	208
	>65%	1.0%	26.2%	72.8%	206
District Enrollment	<1,000	2.3%	22.3%	75.4%	130
	1,000 - 2,499	1.6%	23.6%	74.8%	250
	2,500 - 4,999	0.5%	27.7%	71.8%	220
	5,000 - 9,999	0.7%	22.0%	77.3%	141
	10,000 - 24,999	4.5%	25.2%	70.3%	111
	25,000+	1.6%	25.0%	73.4%	64



Table 15E. How much of a challenge is negative impact on student participation in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	2.4%	28.6%	69.0%	913
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	2.5%	40.7%	56.8%	81
	Midwest	3.6%	27.5%	68.9%	280
	Mountain Plains	2.3%	39.1%	58.6%	87
	Northeast	4.3%	45.7%	50.0%	70
	Southeast	0.5%	18.3%	81.2%	213
	Southwest	2.0%	20.4%	77.6%	98
	Western	2.4%	31.0%	66.7%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	3.6%	29.5%	66.9%	139
	25 - 50%	1.9%	31.7%	66.4%	360
	51 - 65%	2.4%	21.2%	76.4%	208
	>65%	2.4%	30.1%	67.5%	206
District Enrollment	<1,000	3.8%	27.7%	68.5%	130
	1,000 - 2,499	2.8%	24.9%	72.3%	249
	2,500 - 4,999	0.9%	30.1%	68.9%	219
	5,000 - 9,999	1.4%	28.6%	70.0%	140
	10,000 - 24,999	3.6%	35.1%	61.3%	111
	25,000+	3.1%	28.1%	68.8%	64



Table 15F. How much of a challenge are higher costs in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	5.4%	36.3%	58.3%	912
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	7.3%	42.7%	50.0%	82
	Midwest	3.6%	32.9%	63.6%	280
	Mountain Plains	3.5%	43.0%	53.5%	86
	Northeast	8.6%	41.4%	50.0%	70
	Southeast	4.7%	34.9%	60.4%	212
	Southwest	7.1%	35.7%	57.1%	98
	Western	8.3%	34.5%	57.1%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	5.0%	35.0%	60.0%	140
	25 - 50%	5.3%	34.3%	60.4%	359
	51 - 65%	5.3%	38.6%	56.0%	207
	>65%	5.8%	38.3%	55.8%	206
District Enrollment	<1,000	2.3%	41.5%	56.2%	130
	1,000 - 2,499	2.8%	34.8%	62.3%	247
	2,500 - 4,999	4.1%	37.3%	58.6%	220
	5,000 - 9,999	9.2%	32.6%	58.2%	141
	10,000 - 24,999	9.0%	40.5%	50.5%	111
	25,000+	11.1%	28.6%	60.3%	63



Table 15G. How much of a challenge are pandemic disruptions in meeting the mandate that all grains be whole grain rich?

		Not a Challenge	Moderate Challenge	Significant Challenge	n=
	Overall	11.3%	37.6%	51.1%	914
USDA FNS Region	Mid-Atlantic	11.0%	42.7%	46.3%	82
	Midwest	10.3%	36.3%	53.4%	281
	Mountain Plains	12.6%	40.2%	47.1%	87
	Northeast	14.3%	44.3%	41.4%	70
	Southeast	8.5%	34.4%	57.1%	212
	Southwest	14.3%	36.7%	49.0%	98
	Western	14.3%	38.1%	47.6%	84
Free and Reduced %	<25%	14.9%	39.0%	46.1%	141
	25 - 50%	11.1%	37.1%	51.8%	361
	51 - 65%	11.1%	38.5%	50.5%	208
	>65%	9.3%	36.8%	53.9%	204
District Enrollment	<1,000	13.2%	32.6%	54.3%	129
	1,000 - 2,499	7.2%	40.4%	52.4%	250
	2,500 - 4,999	9.1%	40.5%	50.5%	220
	5,000 - 9,999	16.4%	32.9%	50.7%	140
	10,000 - 24,999	11.7%	39.6%	48.6%	111
	25,000+	18.8%	34.4%	46.9%	64