**Kitchen Infrastructure and Training for Schools (KITS) Study**

**The Issue:**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently unveiled new meal requirements that update nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program (NLSP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). As school food authorities (SFAs) nationwide prepare to meet the standards, they might face challenges in the areas of kitchen equipment, infrastructure, and staff training needed to comply with USDA requirements.

**Who is Mathematica?**
Mathematica is a highly regarded, nonpartisan research firm that has studied important issues in nutrition for more than 40 years, including its work with USDA on the School Nutrition Dietary Assessment (SNDA). Mathematica is conducting the KITS Study on behalf of the Kids’ Safe and Healthful Foods (KSHF) Project, a joint initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**What is the KITS Study about?**
The KITS Study will examine the types of equipment, training, and infrastructure resources needed for schools and kitchens to successfully meet USDA’s new nutrition standards.

**What data are being collected?**
You’ll be asked for some background information about your SFA and current food service operations, as well as how you are planning for the new meal pattern and nutrient requirements, considering your needs for staff training, meal preparation, and infrastructure changes. The information collected will be kept confidential.

**Who is participating?**
More than 4,000 SFA directors nationwide will be invited to participate in the KITS Study. Given the reach of this study, the results will be very useful to a variety of stakeholders, including policymakers in USDA and Congress.

**And why should I participate?**
Your answers will provide important information to policymakers and others about the costs of making changes to school kitchens and infrastructure to make healthier meals that meet USDA’s nutrition standards. The study results will be critical to future decisions about funding needed for these changes.

**How long will it take?**
The web survey will take only about 15 minutes of your time to complete. Mathematica will send you information about the study in August 2012.

**Who will see my answers?**
Your answers are confidential and will not be shared with your state agency or USDA. Answers from all participating SFAs will be combined and reported collectively on the national and state level.

**When will results be available?**
National findings and state profiles will be available in spring 2013. You can find updates on the study and the results at [www.healthyschoolfoodsnow.org](http://www.healthyschoolfoodsnow.org).

**How can I find out more?**
If you have questions about the study, you can contact Mathematica’s study director, Laura Kalb, at KITSSudy@mathematica-mpr.com. For more information about Mathematica, visit [http://www.mathematica-mpr.com](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com). To learn more about the KSHF Project, visit [www.healthyschoolfoodsnow.org](http://www.healthyschoolfoodsnow.org).