

Summary of Changes made to the SLAQs/OAQ for FFY 2025

General Changes Made to All Assessment Questionnaires:

- Updated USDA required funding statement
- Corrected typos and clarified/added instructions as needed
- Syntax revisions:
 - o health or safety, instead of health and safety
- Language updates:
 - o Added/revise to “families”, “family members”, and/or “caregivers” (depending on context), rather than only “parents”
 - o Changed “children” to “students” when appropriate
- Simplified open-text question for describing health or safety emergencies at the end of each section
 - o Revised pre-categorized response options (COVID-19, wildfires, Other) into more general Yes or No with an open text field to describe all emergencies and the impacts on practices in the section.
 - o Reduces respondent burden; still provides space to capture emergency situations

Additional Questionnaire-Specific Changes Made, By Instrument

Change	Details	Rationale
School SLAQs		
<p>Combined elementary and secondary SLAQs into a single School SLAQ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast majority of questions are the same between the two versions to begin with • For questions that differ by grade level, instructions are included throughout word/pdf versions on how to skip questions that only apply to certain grade levels • Online Survey 123 version has programmed skip logic based on which grades respondent indicates assessment will apply to • Added these “mark all that apply” style questions to beginning of SLAQ to aid with skip logic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which grade levels are present at this school? ○ This SLAQ assesses the food and physical activity environment of which grades: ○ Response options are a checklist of grades *TK, K, 1st, 2nd, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline data collection and management processes • Datasets are often combined for analysis • Reduce confusion regarding which version to use
<p>Removed “N/A due to COVID” type response options throughout questionnaire</p>	<p>Response options removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A: All meals are pre-packaged because of COVID-19 - N/A: No on-campus meal service because of COVID-19 - N/A: Students are not on campus because of COVID-19 - N/A: No school events or celebrations because of COVID-19 	<p>The questions being removed were initially added to School SLAQs during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and are no longer relevant for the vast majority of sites completing the SLAQ.</p>
<p>Simplified questions around how often students are on campus</p>	<p>Removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the current week, under what model is this school operating? <i>In-person / Distance learning / Hybrid/ Other</i> • Under this model, what percentage of enrolled students are scheduled to attend on campus on a typical school day? <i>All (100%) / Half (50%) / A quarter (25%) / None (0%)</i> <p>Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students generally attend full days on campus Monday-Friday: <i>Yes/ No</i> 	<p>The questions being removed were initially added to School SLAQs during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and are no longer relevant for the vast majority of sites completing the SLAQ.</p>

Change	Details	Rationale
Q1.8 Added a response option	<p>Added “N/A: this school currently has no food waste reduction efforts in place” option to the list of response options for:</p> <p>1.8 Does the school use any strategies that reduce or recover waste from food or beverages that are not consumed by students? <i>Select all practices in use, even when reduction of food waste is not the primary motivation. Mark all that apply.</i></p>	<p>Adding a “not applicable” option ensures that all schools have a response option to mark, even if the school is not currently implementing any food recovery/food waste prevention strategies.</p> <p>Helps to distinguish between the question being skipped vs. no efforts in place.</p>
2.10-2.13 Added guidance	<p>Added the following guidance immediately following question stem for questions about milk:</p> <p>“Milk” includes dairy milks and nutritionally equivalent, plant-based alternatives.</p>	<p>Clarifies what counts as milk in school breakfast and lunch and is consistent with National School Lunch and Breakfast Program guidance.</p>
3.8 Added response options	<p>Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsweetened non-dairy milk alternatives (e.g. plant-based milks) that meet nutrient standards for fluid milk substitutes - Sweetened non-dairy milk alternatives (e.g. plant-based milks) that meet nutrient standards for fluid milk substitutes - Sweetened or unsweetened non-dairy milk alternatives (e.g. plant-based milks) that do NOT meet nutrient standards for fluid milk substitutes <p>To: 3.8 Beverages sold to students on campus, not as part of meals, during the school day include:</p>	<p>Updated list of competitive beverage options to include non-dairy milk options reflective of a best practice option, policy compliant option and non-compliant option.</p>
5.1 Clarified wording in question stem	<p>Changed: This school offers nutrition education to students</p> <p>To: Students at this school receive nutrition education</p>	<p>Revised language clarifies that the school itself doesn’t need to be the agency providing the nutrition education</p>
7.1 Revised question wording	<p>Removed “in 8th grade or under”:</p> <p>7.1 In addition to a lunch break, recess is provided for all students in 8th grade or under:</p>	<p>These revisions were made to align SLAQ with new recess legislation: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/it/sb291letter.asp</p>
7.3 New recess question	<p>7.3 Recess is withheld from one or more students when: <i>Mark one or more responses.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An individual student or group of students misbehave ▪ Students need to complete assignments or assessments ▪ There is insufficient space ▪ Weather or air quality are poor ▪ There is a field trip or other whole-school educational program ▪ There is an immediate threat to the safety of one or more students ▪ Other, please describe: _____ 	

Change	Details	Rationale
7.4 Revised question and response options	<p>Additions in yellow:</p> <p>7.4 Free time during, before, and/or after school (including recess) is characterized by the provision of: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ample loose equipment (e.g., balls, jump ropes, hula hoops) ▪ fixed sports and play equipment (e.g., climbing walls, slides, monkey bars, basketball hoops, soccer goals, volleyball nets, stationary bikes) ▪ strategic playground or game markings (e.g., stencils, four square, hopscotch) 	Combined elementary and secondary school versions into one question with wording and examples that fit all school levels.
7.6 Updated question wording	<p>Revised to (additions in yellow):</p> <p>7.6 Teachers and staff are discouraged or prevented from using or withholding physical activity to punish or manage behavior, such as assigning a student to run a mile or do push-ups.</p>	Revised wording to differentiate from 7.3 about withholding recess.
8.2a, 8.3a New questions on caregiver education	<p>8.2a When nutrition education is offered to caregivers, it includes: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities with active participant engagement (e.g., live nutrition lessons offered in-person or online; interactive activities that engage participants such as through cooking, taste testing, or goal setting) ▪ Opportunities without active participant engagement (e.g., printed or digital recipes or other materials, pre-recorded demonstrations or nutrition lessons, social media posts, non-interactive demonstrations) ▪ Other: _____ <p>8.3a When physical activity opportunities or promotions are offered to caregivers, they include: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opportunities with active participant engagement (e.g., live physical activity lessons offered in-person or online; interactive activities that engage participants such as through games, activities, or goal setting) ▪ Opportunities without active participant engagement (e.g., printed or digital activity instructions or other materials, pre-recorded demonstrations or lessons, social media posts, non-interactive demonstrations) ▪ Other: _____ 	Previously, only asked about frequency of caregiver education, without collecting additional information on what types of education/opportunities and whether best practice is being implemented.
School District OAQ		

Change	Details	Rationale
6. Added response options	<p>Added 3 new response options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring access to drinking water <input type="checkbox"/> Maximizing access to and benefits of recess for all students <input type="checkbox"/> Strategies to avoid withholding recess (unless for safety concerns or school-wide programs) <p>To: 6. During the past year, districtwide training has been/will be offered to school site personnel in the following areas: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p>	<p>Response options to cover new training needs based on new CA legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB 291: Pupil Rights: Recess - AB 2638 (drinking water access and promotion)
OST SLAQ		
Updated links to meal programs and nutrition standards throughout	<p>Added/updated links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For information about CACFP, visit: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/meals-and-snacks - For information about NSLP, visit: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/nslp.asp - For information about the California Nutrition Standards for ASP, visit: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/as/afterschoolnutstan.asp 	<p>Updates were needed regarding names and/or links for most relevant state and federal nutrition program guidance for meals and snacks served in afterschool programs.</p>
2.6, 2.12, 3.8 Added response options	<p>Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unsweetened non-dairy milk alternatives (e.g. plant-based milks) that meet nutrient standards for fluid milk substitutes - Sweetened non-dairy milk alternatives (e.g. plant-based milks) that meet nutrient standards for fluid milk substitutes - Sweetened or unsweetened non-dairy milk alternatives (e.g. plant-based milks) that do NOT meet nutrient standards for fluid milk substitutes <p>To:</p> <p>2.6 Beverages served to students during meals include: 2.12 Beverages served to students during snacks include: 3.8 Beverages served to students for parties and celebrations include:</p>	<p>Updated list of competitive beverage options to include non-dairy milk options reflective of a best practice option, policy compliant option, and non-compliant option.</p>

Change	Details	Rationale
<p>6.3, 6.4 Replaced with more detailed questions</p>	<p>New questions:</p> <p>6.3 The following nutrition education is offered to parents or caregivers at least once a year: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities with active participant engagement (e., live nutrition lessons offered in-person or online; interactive activities that engage participants such as through cooking, taste testing, or goal setting) - Opportunities without active participant engagement (e.g., printed or digital recipes or other materials, pre-recorded demonstrations or nutrition lessons, social media posts, non-interactive demonstrations) - Other: _____ - None <p>6.4 The following physical activity education is offered to parents or caregivers at least once a year: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities with active participant engagement (e.g., live physical activity lessons offered in-person or online; interactive activities that engage participants such as through games, activities, or goal setting) - Opportunities without active participant engagement (e.g., printed or digital activity instructions or other materials, pre-recorded demonstrations or lessons, social media posts, non-interactive demonstrations) - Other: _____ - None <p>Replacing these old questions:</p> <p>6.3 Nutrition education (workshops, activities, and take-home materials) is offered to parents at least once a year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>6.4 Physical activity opportunities or promotions (workshops, activities, and take-home materials) are offered to parents at least once a year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	<p>Updated these questions to encourage participant/community engagement and collect information on types of education/opportunities offered to families of students enrolled.</p>
ECE SLAQ		

Change	Details	Rationale
<p>6.3, 6.4 Replaced with more detailed questions</p>	<p>New questions:</p> <p>6.3 The following nutrition education is offered to parents or caregivers at least once a year: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities with active participant engagement (e.g., live nutrition lessons offered in-person or online; interactive activities that engage participants such as through cooking, taste testing, or goal setting) - Opportunities without active participant engagement (e.g., printed or digital recipes or other materials, pre-recorded demonstrations or nutrition lessons, social media posts, non-interactive demonstrations) - Other: _____ - None <p>6.4 The following physical activity education is offered to parents or caregivers at least once a year: <i>Mark all that apply.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities with active participant engagement (e.g., live physical activity lessons offered in-person or online; interactive activities that engage participants such as through games, activities, or goal setting) - Opportunities without active participant engagement (e.g., printed or digital activity instructions or other materials, pre-recorded demonstrations or lessons, social media posts, non-interactive demonstrations) - Other: _____ - None <p>Replacing these old questions:</p> <p>6.3 Nutrition education (workshops, activities, and take-home materials) is offered to parents at least once a year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>6.4 Physical activity opportunities or promotions (workshops, activities, and take-home materials) are offered to parents at least once a year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	<p>Updated these questions to encourage participant/community engagement and collect information on types of education/opportunities offered to families of students enrolled.</p>

Change	Details	Rationale
Requested translations for revisions throughout	<p>Translations requested in: Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Arabic, Farsi, Russian, Hmong</p> <p>For updated questions in row above (6.3, 6.4), and for questions with updated family/caregiver wording.</p>	To ensure that the word doc and Survey 123 versions of each translated version of the ECE SLAQ reflects latest English version.
Retail SLAQ		
Updated links throughout	Checked and updates links to definitions in document and links to external websites	Some links were broken and others had new or more relevant web resources to link to.
Added definition	Added a definition for lean meat and poultry to definitions section	Improve clarity and interpretation for stores/community organizations using the instrument.