

Waiver Request from the Connecticut State Department of Education to the U. S Department of Agriculture

Operation of Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Congregate and Non-school Sites Requirements

Summary

This request is to waive the congregate requirement for the SFSP and SSO, and waive the requirement to serve SFSP and SSO meals at a non-school site during school closures related to COVID-19.

Waiver Requests

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act authorizes the provision of meals to children who are not in school during unanticipated school closures through the SFSP or the National School Lunch Program's SSO. Under normal circumstances, these meals must be offered in a congregate setting (7 CFR 225.6(e)(15) and at non-school sites (7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv)). However, during a public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus, social distancing may be necessary to avoid spread of the virus. To address this important issue, states may request a waiver from the USDA enabling sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting and at school sites during closures related to the coronavirus. The CSDE is requesting the two waivers below.

- Waive the congregate requirement for SFSP and SSO.
- Waive the requirement to serve meals at a non-school site.

Once the U. S Department of Agriculture (USDA) approves the waivers, the Connecticut State Department of Education will notify schools of the process for operating during school closures related to the coronavirus.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public-Announcement1_Waiver_SSO_SFSP.pdf. For more information, visit the CSDE's [Operation of Child Nutrition Programs during Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Outbreaks](#) section of the CSDE's Child Nutrition Programs webpage.



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