

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), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Unitized Meal Requirements

Summary

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow bulk distribution of meals that do not meet the unitized meal requirements. Bulk distribution of food items allows SFSP, SSO, and CACFP sponsors to provide households with the necessary food items to meet meal pattern compliance in the required portion sizes, limiting the additional work and costs needed to prepare and individually package unitized meals. This will also reduce the amount of time food service staff spend in close contact with one another; decrease the frequency of meal distributions and contact between food service staff and households; decrease costs associated with individual meal packaging containers; and decrease the household capacity needed to safely store individual containers for multiple days.

Waiver Request

The CSDE requests a waiver of 7 CFR 225.6(h)(3), 7 CFR 226.6(i)(11) and the requirement included in question 10 of the USDA's Questions and Answers (Q&A) attachment to USDA memo SP 08-2020 and SFSP 04-2020 (released on March 6, 2020), which requires that SFSP, SSO, and CACFP meals served during COVID-19 must be unitized.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement11_Waiver_UnitizedMealRequirements_SFSP_SSO_CACFP. 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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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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