

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

Extending the Nationwide Area Eligibility Waiver for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) through September 30, 2020

Summary

In response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting a waiver of the area eligibility requirements for SFSP and SSO sites. This will allow SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to provide meals at sites operating in July and August 2020 and until school is in session in areas that do not meet area eligibility requirements.

Waiver Request

During the current COVID-19 public health emergency, the CSDE requests a waiver of area eligibility in SFSP regulations [42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(A)(i)(I)] that define area eligibility as an area where at least 50 percent of the children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. This waiver would apply to any CSDE-approved SFSP or SSO sponsor in good standing, operating during September 2020 until the start of school year 2020-21.

The USDA's nationwide area eligibility waiver for SFSP and SSO sponsors expires on August 31, 2020. School reopening plans are continually and rapidly changing in response to the exceptional circumstances created by this public health emergency and many school districts across Connecticut are planning a delayed opening for mid-September or later. Connecticut sponsors cannot continue serving children in the areas made eligible through the nationwide area eligibility waiver unless the waiver is extended to allow SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing to continue their operations in September and until school begins.



This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement19_Waiver_SFSP_SSO_Area_Eligibility.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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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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