

# 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

### Waiver to Allow Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Day Care Homes to use the School Year 2019-20 School-based Area Eligibility List to Determine Tier I Day Care Homes

#### Summary

In response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting a waiver to allow CACFP day care home sponsoring organizations to use the school year 2019-20 school-based area eligibility (AE) list to determine tier I day care homes (DCHs). This waiver will be implemented immediately, and will be in effect through **February 15, 2022**.

#### Waiver Request

Almost 90 percent of all public school districts in Connecticut have opted in to operating either the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for school year (SY) 2020-21. As a result, most public school district either did not collect income eligibility applications for free or reduced-priced school meals, or experienced a drastic reduction in the amount of applications submitted by households as compared to prior school years. Therefore, the SY 2020-21 school year data used to determine the school Area Eligibility (AE) list:

- will not be a robust tool for determining tier I DCHs;
- will negatively impact the ability of DCHs to continue operating; and
- will drastically decrease nutrition access for children in low-income areas during the public health emergency due to COVID-19.

The CSDE requests a waiver of the USDA regulations 7 CFR 226.15(f) to allow CACFP day care home sponsors in good standing to use the school AE data from the prior year (SY 2019-20) for making tier I DCH determinations.



This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public\\_Announcement26\\_Waiver\\_CACFP\\_School\\_Based\\_Area\\_Eligibility\\_TierI\\_Determination.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement26_Waiver_CACFP_School_Based_Area_Eligibility_TierI_Determination.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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