

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

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program

Summary

Due to COVID-19 related closures, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive regulations for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program (suppers), which require maintaining attendance and offering structured afterschool education and/or enrichment activities concurrent to supper and snack service.

Waiver Request

Under normal circumstances, CACFP afterschool suppers and snacks are intended to be consumed in settings where organized groups of children are gathered to eat in an area-eligible location, while offered the opportunity to participate in an education or enrichment activity. This means that supper meals and snacks must be consumed on-site during an afterschool program in order for meals and snacks to be reimbursable. During unanticipated closures due to COVID-19-related circumstances, people are advised to implement social distancing. To that end, Connecticut's Governor ordered all public schools in the state closed from March 17-31, 2020, effectively canceling all afterschool programs.

To address this important issue, the CSDE has requested a waiver from the USDA for the following CACFP supper and snack regulations:

- 7 CFR 226.15(e)(4) requiring daily records indicating the number of participants in attendance;
- 7 CFR 226.17a(b)(ii) requiring CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Programs to have organized, regularly scheduled activities; and,
- 7 CFR 226.17a(b)(iii) requiring CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Programs to include education or enrichment activities.

Non-congregate meal service would make attendance and providing an educational or enrichment activity impossible. Waivers of these regulations allow approved CACFP supper sponsors to serve meals and snacks to children ages 18 and younger who are participating in CACFP suppers in a non-congregate setting, while maintaining social distancing by eliminating the requirement for a concurrent afterschool education or enrichment activity, and also waiving the requirement to maintain daily attendance records. These waivers are specific to the unanticipated closures of CACFP-participating entities related to COVID-19.

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This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement4_Waiver_CACFP_Supper_Education_Enrichment_Activities.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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