

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 Area Eligibility in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

Summary

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting that the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waives the definition of area eligibility in the SFSP, which is defined as an area where at least 50 percent of the children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19; and allow SFSP and SSO sponsors to serve meals to any child ages 18 and younger at any authorized SFSP or SSO meals distribution location.

Waiver Request

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 SSO of the National School Lunch Program. Under normal circumstances, SFSP area eligibility is defined in [42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(A)(i)(I)] as an area where at least 50 percent of the children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

However, during a public health emergency due to COVID-19, all children 18 years old and younger might not be able to access meal distribution locations in area eligible locations. Additionally, this waiver will reduce administrative burdens for SFSP and SSO sponsors serving children 18 and younger in areas where less than 50 percent of the children are determined eligible for free or reduced-price meals. To address these important issues, the CSDE has requested a waiver from the USDA enabling sponsors to serve meals to any child ages 18 and younger at any authorized SFSP or SSO meals distribution location during school closures related to COVID-19.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement5_Waiver_Area_Eligibility_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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