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

Meal Patterns for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Summary
The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting that the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive the meal pattern requirements for the SFSP, SSO, and CACFP, to allow authorized SFSP, SSO, and CACFP sponsors to provide nutritious meals and snacks, pending the availability of meal pattern components during closures related to COVID-19.

Waiver Request
Under normal circumstances, meals served in the SFSP and SSO, and meals and snacks served in the CACFP, must contain the required daily amounts of specific food components, as defined in the meal patterns under 7 CFR 210.10(c), 7 CFR 220.8(c), 7 CFR 225.16(d), and 7 CFR 226.20. In addition, SSO meals must meet the required weekly amounts and dietary specifications of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) meal patterns.

However, during a public health emergency due to COVID-19, limited inventories, deliveries, and food supply throughout the food chain, may create shortages of certain meal components and minimum daily and weekly serving sizes. To address this issue, the CSDE has requested a waiver of the meal pattern requirements at eligible and authorized SFSP, SSO, and CACFP meal distribution locations during closures related to COVID-19.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement6_Waiver_MealPatterns_SSO_SFSP_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.
In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(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.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education’s nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 607, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.