

# 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 Meals Service during Scheduled Breaks and Holidays in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program

### Summary

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive the definition of unanticipated school closures and waive the requirement that schools must affirmatively postpone or cancel spring breaks to serve meals through the SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program. If approved, the waiver will allow sponsors of the SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program to provide uninterrupted meal service through previously scheduled holidays and breaks during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19.

### Waiver Request

USDA memo [SP 04-2020](#), [CACFP 03-2020](#), and [SFSP 03-2020](#): *Meal Service During unanticipated School Closures*, issued November 5, 2019, defines unanticipated school closures as “Unanticipated school closures prevent children from receiving educational instruction and the nutritious meals they would normally receive.” Unanticipated school closures do not include scheduled breaks and holidays. However, the extended, unanticipated school closures now overlap with previously scheduled school breaks, while simultaneous demand for meals has drastically increased due to the resulting layoffs, business closures, and other economic pressures created by the COVID-19 emergency.

Schools are not enacting the previously scheduled breaks and holidays as they would otherwise during a regular school year, therefore, scheduled breaks and holidays and should not be considered “anticipated” for these purposes. Children in these circumstances are at-risk of food insecurity without access to nutritious meals through SFSP, SSO, and CACFP meal distributions during breaks previously scheduled to occur during unanticipated school closures due to COVID-19.

This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public\\_Announcement9\\_Waiver\\_Scheduled\\_Breaks\\_SSO\\_SFSP\\_CACFP](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement9_Waiver_Scheduled_Breaks_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.



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- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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