

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 Transitioning to Normal Child Nutrition Operations

Summary

Sponsors continue to face extensive supply chain and staffing challenges as they work to transition back to normal operations and face uncertainty in how to best streamline operations while responding to ongoing challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As sponsors continue to respond to and recover from the pandemic, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting 24 waivers to allow for additional flexibility when needed during school year 2022-23. These transitional flexibilities will support the CSDE's ability to focus on targeted technical assistance and training for sponsors as they navigate the supply chain, labor shortage, and health and safety challenges. They will allow sponsors to focus on: transitioning their services to pre-COVID operations; communicating changes to households, administrators, and the public; training staff to accept and approve meal applications; and navigating the ongoing COVID-19-related challenges.

Waiver Requests

The requested waivers below are specific to each Child Nutrition Program and will be implemented only when needed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The effective dates in italics are contingent on the date of USDA approval.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

- Waiver 1: Non-Congregate Meal Service during Summer 2022 [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15)] (*May 1, 2022-September 30, 2022*)
- Waiver 2: Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup during Summer 2022 [42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3), 7 CFR 210.10(a), 7 CFR 220.2, 7 CFR 220.8(a), 7 CFR 225.2, and 7 CFR 225.9(d)(7)] (*May 1, 2022-September 30, 2022*)

National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP):

- Waiver 3: Non-Congregate Meal Service [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A) and 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(A)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 4: Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup [7 CFR 210.10(a), 220.2 (Breakfast), and 220.8(a)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 5: Meal Service Times [7 CFR 210.10(l) and 220.8(l)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 6: Offer Versus Serve [42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(3) and 7 CFR 210.10(e)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)

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School Year Administration (NSLP/SBP/SFSP):

- Waiver 7: Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment [42 U.S.C. 1758b(b) and 7 CFR 210.31(e)(2)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 8: Food Service Management Company (FSMC) contract duration [7 CFR 210.16(d), 7 CFR 225.6(h)(7)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 9: Administrative Review Onsite Requirements [7 CFR 210.18] (*End of Public Health Emergency (PHE) * – June 30, 2023*)

Reporting Requirements (NSLP):

- Waiver 10: FNS-874 Second (Independent) Review of Applications [42 U.S.C. 1796(c)(b)(6)(E)(iii) and 7 CFR 245.11(b)(2)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 11: FNS-640 Administrative Review Data Report [42 U.S.C. 1769c(b)(1)(c)(iv) and 7 CFR 210.18(n)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)

Special Milk Program (SMP):

- Waiver 12: Non-Congregate Milk Service [42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(1) and 7 CFR 215.1] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 13: Parent/Guardian Milk Pickup [42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(7), 7 CFR 215.7(d)(2)(i), and 7 CFR 215.13a(a)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP):

- Waiver 14: Parent/Guardian FFVP Pickup [42 U.S.C. 1769a] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 15: Alternate Site [42 U.S.C. 1769a(a)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)

Unanticipated School Closures:

- Waiver 16: Non-Congregate Meal Service during Unanticipated School Closures in SY 2022-23 [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15)] (*October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 17: Parent and Guardian Meal Pick-Up during Unanticipated School Closures (SFSP/SSO) [42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3) and 7 CFR 210.10(a), 220.2 (Breakfast), 220.8(a), 225.2, and 225.9(d)(7)] (*October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 18: Meal Service Times for Unanticipated School Closures in SY 2022-23 [7 CFR 225.16(c)(1) and 225.16(c)(2)] (*October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 19: Meals at School Sites for Unanticipated School Closures in SY 2022-23 [42 U.S.C. 1761(c)(1) and 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv)] (*October 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023*)

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Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP):

- Waiver 20: Non-Congregate Meal Service [42 U.S.C 1753(b)(1)(A) and 7 CFR 226.19(b)(6)(iii)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 21: Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up [7 CFR 226.2] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 22: Meal Service Times [7 CFR 226.20(k)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 23: State Agency Onsite Monitoring Visits [7 CFR 226.6(b)(1) and 226.6(m)(6)] (*End of PHE* – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 24: Sponsoring Organization Onsite Monitoring Visits [7 CFR 226.16(d)(4)(iii)] (*End of PHE* – June 30, 2023*)

Additional Flexibilities (NSLP/SBP)

- Waiver 25: Paid Lunch Equity [42 U.S.C. 1760(p)(2) and 7 CFR 210.14(e)] (*July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023*)
- Waiver 26: Use of Prior Year Eligibility Determinations for School Year 2022-2023 Carryover [42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(C) and 7 CFR 245.6(c)(2)] (*July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023*)

- * Current nationwide waivers of onsite monitoring for NSLP, SBP, and CACFP remain in effect until 30 days after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). The end of the PHE will be declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement_2022_04_Public_Announcement_2022_04_Waiver_Transitioning_to_Normal_CNP_Operations.pdf. For more information, visit the “Operation of Child Nutrition Programs during Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreaks” section of the CSDE’s Child Nutrition Programs webpage.

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