

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 Request to Waive Administrative Review Requirements in Child Nutrition Programs and Implement Alternative Oversight Procedures

Summary

In response to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting to waive the administrative review (AR) requirements in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) and implement alternative oversight procedures for sponsors in good standing. This waiver request includes the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The anticipated implementation for the monitoring waiver is effective upon approval and will remain in effect through June 30, 2022, for the NSLP, SBP, and SSO; and through September 30, 2022, for the CACFP.

Waiver Request

The public health emergency due to COVID-19 has created a series of challenges to implementing ARs and monitoring for the CNPs. Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued important nationwide waivers that allow state agency personnel and program operators some flexibility in how these reviews are conducted, the constantly shifting landscape of COVID-19 and the implementation of CNP flexibilities has required an unprecedented level of technical assistance and support. The CNPs are operating in ways they have never operated before. Therefore, implementing the same type of ARs and monitoring within the typical periods is not entirely relevant nor practicable.

The CSDE requests to waive the AR requirements in CNPs and to implement alternative oversight procedures for sponsors in good standing. This will reduce the burden for sponsors and allow the continued provision of meals to children in a manner that minimizes potential exposure to and spreading of COVID-19. The alternative oversight procedures will maintain program compliance and integrity.



This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/COVID-19/Public_Announcement_2022_01_Waiver_Administrative_Review_CNPs.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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