

# Waiver Request from the Connecticut State Department of Education to the U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Waivers for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for Summer 2026

### Summary

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is requesting waivers for certain statutory or regulatory requirements for SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing for 2026 summer operations (May 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026). These requests are intended to provide flexibility for sponsors to improve summer meals operations during specific circumstances.

### Waiver Request

The CSDE is requesting the waivers for summer 2026 below for SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing.

- **Air quality advisories effective May 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026:** Allow waivers for non-congregate meal service, meal service times, and parent/guardian meal pick up for approved outdoor meal sites without alternative indoor sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing certain air quality advisories.
- **Excessive heat effective May 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026:** Allow waivers to operate outdoor meal sites without temperature-controlled alternative sites as non-congregate sites on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area where the site is located.
- **Offer versus serve (OVS) effective May 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026:** Allow a waiver for OVS so that SFSP sponsors may use SFSP OVS meal service parameters by non-school food authority (SFA) sponsors on a case-by-case basis.

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This document is available in the "[CSDE Waiver Requests to USDA](#)" section of the CSDE's [Current School Year Operational Updates for School Nutrition Programs](#) webpage.



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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
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3. email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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