

Criteria for Establishing Sponsors in Good Standing for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Summer 2024

This policy is used by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [SFSP regulations](#). If any part of this policy conflicts with the SFSP regulations or memoranda issued by the USDA, the federal regulations and memoranda shall take precedence.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and policy permit certain allowances in the operation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for SFSP sponsors that are “in good standing,” as determined by the state agency. Per the federal regulations ([7 CFR 225.2](#)), “good standing” means the status of a program operator that meets its Program responsibilities, is current with its financial obligations, and, if applicable, has fully implemented all corrective actions within the required period of time.

Criteria for “Good Standing”

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will determine that a sponsor meets the federal “good standing” criteria when the sponsor has no serious management problems in its previous year operation of the SFSP and, as applicable, its previous year operation of the [National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\)](#) and [Child and Adult Food Program \(CACFP\)](#). If the sponsor is new to the SFSP, the CSDE will base the “good standing” status on having no serious management problems identified in the sponsor’s operation of the NSLP and CACFP, as applicable. New SFSP sponsors that do not participate in the NSLP or CACFP are not eligible for good standing status in the SFSP until after their first year of SFSP operations.

Management Problems Affecting “Good Standing”

Serious management problems that would result in a sponsor’s failure to be in “good standing” include but are not limited to the issues below.

1. The sponsor has been deemed seriously deficient in its operation of the SFSP.
2. The sponsor failed to return to the CSDE any advance payments that exceeded the amount earned for serving meals in the previous year.
3. The sponsor failed to demonstrate that site review findings were fully corrected to the CSDE’s satisfaction.

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4. The sponsor had systemic findings at its most recent CSDE site reviews.
5. The sponsor had systemic findings at its most recent CSDE Administrative Review of the SFSP.
6. The sponsor does not meet one or more of the financial viability, administrative capability, and program accountability (VCA) performance standards required in [7 CFR 225.6\(d\)](#).
7. The sponsor is deemed not in “good standing” in another Child Nutrition Program.

The CSDE will notify sponsors who are not in good standing prior to the annual SFSP application/renewal process.

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For information on the SFSP, visit the CSDE's [SFSP webpage](#) or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) at the CSDE's Bureau of Child Nutrition Programs, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841. This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/Criteria_Sponsors_in_Good_Standing_SFSP.pdf.

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1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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