

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

## Summer 2026

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. For information on the SFSP, visit the CSDE's [SFSP webpage](#) or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#).



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 section [7 CFR 225.2](#) of the SFSP regulations. “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 “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.

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## 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.
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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Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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