

# Public Notification of Summer Meals Policy Waiver Request

To ensure access to Summer Meals by Connecticut residents, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has submitted policy waiver requests to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) seeking approval to continue practices that support the availability and provision of safe, healthy meals to Connecticut's children during the summer months.

On October 11, 2018, the USDA FNS issued policy memorandum [SFSP 01-2019](#). As part of an ongoing review, and in response to a 2017 USDA Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) [report](#) concerning FNS's oversight of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), four policies previously waived for all states now require each state to request its own waiver requests to FNS. The OIG report indicated that the process by which the FNS granted these policy waivers was in question, not the program flexibilities themselves. The state-level policy waiver requests allow the CSDE to explain to the FNS how these practices support the efficient and effective operations of a compliant SFSP in Connecticut. The CSDE has requested to waive the four policy flexibilities below.

- **Waiver 1:** [7 CFR 225.15\(d\)\(2\)](#), which requires sponsors to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of SFSP operation. The waiver request specifically applies to:
  - sites that have operated successfully in the previous year;
  - sponsors that successfully participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and
  - sponsors that successfully participate in the national School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- **Waiver 2:** [42 U.S.C. 1761\(f\)\(7\)](#) and [7 CFR 225.16\(f\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#), which extends the offer versus serve meal service model to school food authority (SFA) and non-SFA sponsors using the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meal pattern.
- **Waiver 3:** [7 CFR 225.16\(c\)\(1\)](#) and [\(c\)\(2\)](#), which waives mealtime requirements regarding the minimum amount of time that must elapse between meals/snacks, and the maximum amount of time for meal service being 1 hour for breakfast/snack or 2 hours for lunch/supper, while maintaining that sponsors must continue to establish meal-service times.
- **Waiver 4:** [42 U.S.C. 1761\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)\(i\)\(iii\)](#) and [7 CFR 225.15\(f\)](#), which extends area eligibility to closed enrolled sites without collecting income eligibility applications to determine that 50 percent of enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The program flexibilities listed above were previously in place nationally, but no longer apply. The CSDE has requested to continue these policies to prevent significant and immediate burden on many Connecticut Summer Meals sponsors, allow for effective and efficient meal service at Summer Meals sites, and ensure access to Summer Meals by Connecticut residents.

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For information on the SFSP, visit the CSDE's [SFSP](#) webpage or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/Public\\_Notification\\_Summer\\_Meals\\_Policy\\_Waiver\\_Request.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/Public_Notification_Summer_Meals_Policy_Waiver_Request.pdf).

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- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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