

TO Sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

FROM Vonda Ramp, M.S., R.D.
State Director, Child Nutrition Programs

DATE July 27, 2020

RE USDA Waiver Requests for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

MESSAGE:

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is seeking waivers from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) due to COVID-19:

- Meal Pattern Flexibility for SFSP
 - PDE is requesting a waiver of the regulation 225.16(d) that requires meals of the SFSP meet meal pattern requirements. This waiver would allow sponsors of the SFSP the ability to submit a waiver request to the State Agency for meal pattern flexibility when experiencing justified disruptions in the availability and accessibility of food products that meet meal pattern requirements. This waiver would also permit the continued provision of nutritious meals to children while maintaining physical distancing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - The Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CNPs – EXTENSION 31, expires July 31, 2020, and is not included in The Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CNPs'-Extension 4. PDE is requesting meal pattern flexibility for SFSP from August 1, 2020-September 30, 2020, or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first.
- Non-Congregate Meal Service for SFSP
 - PDE is requesting a waiver of the regulation 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15) that requires meals to be served in a congregate setting. This waiver would allow sponsors of the SFSP the ability to serve children in non-congregate settings so that they may continue to have access to nutritious meals while maintaining physical distancing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - The Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs – EXTENSION #2 does not include SFSP. PDE is requesting meal pattern flexibility for SFSP from August 1, 2020-September 30, 2020, or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first.

- Pick-up of Meals by Parent/Guardian for SFSP
 - PDE is requesting a waiver of the regulations 225.2 (Meals), 225.9(d)(7), and 226.2 (Meals) to serve meals directly to children. This waiver would allow sponsors of the SFSP the ability allow parents or guardians to pick up meals for children while ensuring there is a plan to maintain program integrity and accountability. This waiver would also permit the continued provision of nutritious meals to children while maintaining physical distancing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - The Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children – EXTENSION #2 does not include SFSP. PDE is requesting meal pattern flexibility for SFSP from August 1, 2020-September 30, 2020, or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first.

- Area Eligibility for SFSP and SSO
 - PDE is requesting a waiver of regulations and 7 CFR 225.2, 225.6(c)(2)(i)(G), 225.6(c)(3)(i)(B), 225.6(d)(1)(i), 225.14(c)(3), and 225.16(b)(4) in order to allow areas that previously operated under the Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers through August 31, 2020, to continue to operate throughout the remainder of SFSP and SSO open sites.
 - The current Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers expires August 31, 2020. PDE is requesting a waiver of the area eligibility requirements from September 1-September 30, 2020, or until the beginning of the school year, whichever come first.

This is a required public notice that PDE submitted a request to USDA for these waivers and does not imply the waivers have been approved at this time.

Questions may be directed to Vonda Ramp at vramp@pa.gov.