



Summary of Food and Nutrition Service COVID-19 Waivers

October 2, 2020

Definitions

Automatic approval: The waiver automatically applies to all sponsoring organizations and programs without the need to apply to MDE for use.

CACFP: Child and Adult Care Food Program

FFVP: Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

MDE: Minnesota Department of Education

MDE approval needed: Sponsor needs to apply for and be granted approval from MDE before being allowed to utilize the waiver.

Minnesota-specific waiver: A waiver that only applies to sponsors and programs operating in the state of Minnesota.

Nationwide waiver: A waiver that is automatically applied to any state that chooses to utilize it.

NSLP: National School Lunch Program

SBP: School Breakfast Program

SFA: School Food Authority

SFSP: Summer Food Service Program

SMP: Special Milk Program

SSO: Seamless Summer Option

Public-Facing Waivers

Waiver	Nationwide vs. Minnesota	Applicable Program(s)	Approval	Expiration Date	Summary
CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Area Eligibility Waiver	Nationwide	CACFP	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows school food authorities to serve meals and snacks to students after the regular school day regardless of the site location.
SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows SFSP and SSO operations to continue through the end of 2020 or earlier if funding is exhausted.

Waiver	Nationwide vs. Minnesota	Applicable Program(s)	Approval	Expiration Date	Summary
Extended Area Eligibility	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	Automatic for SFAs	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Waives area eligibility requirements to allow sponsors to operate open SFSP or SSO sites through the end of 2020 or earlier if funding is exhausted.
Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in SFSP and SSO	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows SFSP or SSO closed enrolled sites to determine site eligibility through area eligibility without collecting income eligibility applications during the public health emergency.
Meal Pattern Flexibility in SFSP and SSO	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	MDE Approval Needed	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Waives SFSP and SSO meal pattern requirements, including milk variety, as needed due to the pandemic.
Non-congregate Feeding for SFSP and SSO	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows non-congregate feeding in SFSP and SSO.
Meal Service Time Restrictions in SFSP and SSO	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows meal service time flexibility in SFSP and SSO.
Parent and Guardian Meal Pick Up in SFSP and SSO	Nationwide	SFSP and SSO	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows parents and guardians to pick up meals for children in SFSP and SSO.
SFSP First Week Site Visits	Nationwide	SFSP	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Waives the first week visit requirement for sites that successfully operated SFSP in the previous year and sponsors that successfully participate in CACFP or NSLP.
SFSP Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities	Nationwide	SFSP	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows the use of SFSP OVS meal service parameters by both non-SFA and SFA sponsors in good standing.
SFSP Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Approval and Pre-Approval Visits Waiver	Nationwide	SFSP	Automatic	Thursday, December 31, 2020	Allows MDE to reimburse SFSP sponsors for meals served prior to notification of approval and waives requirement for SFSP pre-approval visits.
Parent and Guardian Pick Up for SMP	Minnesota Specific	SMP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows parents and guardians to pick up milk for children participating in SMP.
FFVP Parent and Guardian Snack Pick Up	Minnesota Specific	FFVP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows for parents and guardians to pick up FFVP snack without children present.

Waiver	Nationwide vs. Minnesota	Applicable Program(s)	Approval	Expiration Date	Summary
FFVP Alternate Site Waiver	Minnesota Specific	FFVP	MDE Approval Needed	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows FFVP snacks to be served out of a non-elementary site when the approved elementary site is closed due to COVID-19.
School Meals Program Onsite Monitoring Requirements	Nationwide	NSLP, SBP and SMP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Waives onsite monitoring requirements for state agencies and SFAs in NSLP, SBP and SMP to support social distancing.
Waiver of Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment in the NSLP and SBP	Nationwide	NSLP and SBP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows for the Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment due date to be pushed back from June 30, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
Meal Pattern Flexibility for CACFP, NSLP, and SBP	Nationwide	CACFP, NSLP and SBP	MDE Approval Needed	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Waives CACFP, NSLP and SBP meal pattern requirements as needed due to the pandemic.
Parent and Guardian Meals Pick Up For CACFP, NSLP, and SBP	Nationwide	CACFP, NSLP and SBP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows parents and guardians to pick up CACFP, NSLP and SBP meals and snacks for children.
NSLP Offer Versus Serve Flexibility	Nationwide	NSLP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Waives the requirement for senior high schools participating in NSLP to participate in OVS.
Non-congregate Feeding for CACFP, NSLP, and SBP	Nationwide	CACFP, NSLP and SBP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows non-congregate feeding in the CACFP, NSLP and SBP.
Meal Service Time Flexibilities for CACFP, NSLP, and SBP	Nationwide	CACFP, NSLP and SBP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows meal service time flexibility in CACFP, NSLP and SBP.
Non-congregate Feeding for SMP	Minnesota Specific	SMP	Automatic	Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Allows non-congregate feeding in the SMP.
CACFP Sponsor Onsite Monitoring Requirements	Nationwide	CACFP	Automatic	Thursday, September 30, 2021	Waives onsite monitoring requirements for sponsors in the CACFP to support social distancing.
SFSP Sponsoring Organization Onsite Monitoring Requirements	Nationwide	SFSP	Automatic	Thursday, September 30, 2021	Waives onsite monitoring requirements for sponsoring organizations in the SFSP to support social distancing.

State Agency (MDE) Waivers

Waiver	Nationwide vs. Minnesota	Applicable Program(s)	Approval	Expiration Date	Summary
School Year 2020-21 NSLP USDA Foods Entitlement Calculations	Nationwide	NSLP	Automatic	N/A	Allows State agencies to use school year 2018-19 lunch counts to calculate the entitlement value for school year 2020-21 to minimize the impact of coronavirus related school closures.
CACFP State Agency Onsite Monitoring Requirements	Nationwide	CACFP	Automatic	Thursday, September 30, 2021	Waives requirement that CACFP State agency monitoring activities be conducted onsite to support social distancing.
SFSP State Agency Onsite Monitoring Requirements	Nationwide	SFSP	Automatic	Thursday, September 30, 2021	Waives requirement that SFSP State agency monitoring activities be conducted onsite to support social distancing.