



School's Out, Food's In!

**Summer Meals 101:
Back to Basics &
USDA Update**

April 26, 2022





HOUSEKEEPING





Today's Agenda

Welcome and introductions

Overview of summer 2022 operational requirements for SFSP/SSO

- **Paige Pokorney**, Program Manager, Center for Best Practices, Share Our Strength

USDA Update

- **Alice McKenney**, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services
- **Andrea Farmer**, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services

Audience Q&A

Additional Resources



No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength. We are committed to ending childhood hunger in the United States by helping launch and improve programs that give kids the food they need to thrive.





center for BEST
PRACTICES

No Kid Hungry's Center for Best Practices provides information, tools, and resources designed to end childhood hunger.

bestpractices.nokidhungry.org



THANK YOU!



Paige Pokorney

Program Manager,
Center for Best Practices
Share Our Strength





Back to Basics

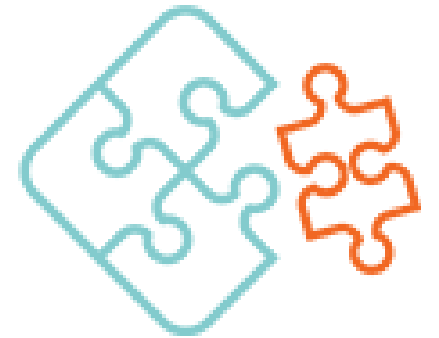
Comparison of
SFSP/SSO waiver vs.
non-waiver
operations

SUMMER MEALS: THE BASICS

The **Summer Food Service Program** (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered, and locally-sponsored program of the USDA that allows children to access nutritious meals free of charge when school is out. Schools have the option of serving summer meals through the SFSP or National School Lunch Program (NSLP) **Seamless Summer Option** (SSO).

Program details (SFSP+SSO):

- Serves children 18 and under
- Meals are served at no cost...no sign-up or ID required
- Meals are consumed on site (congregate meal requirement)
- Open sites must be located in an area eligible community
- Up to two meals/day (for most sites)





Who Sponsors SFSP/SSO?

SFSP

Both schools and non-profit organizations (e.g. YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, food banks, local government agencies etc.) can sponsor SFSP

SSO

Only schools can sponsor SSO

Program Differences – SSO vs. SFSP

Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

- Sponsorship available only to School Food Authorities (SFAs)
- Extension of existing NSLP sponsor agreement
- NSLP/SBP rules and meal patterns apply
- Meals served are reimbursed at the NSLP/SBP ‘free rates’
- Meals are open to all children 18 and younger

Less paperwork, school-year meal patterns, only schools can operate

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

- Sponsorship available to School Food Authorities (SFAs), government entities, and nonprofit organizations
- Simplified meal pattern
- Highest per-meal reimbursement of any Child Nutrition Program
- Meals are open to all children 18 and younger

Higher per-meal cash reimbursement, flexibility in the meal pattern, available to non-school sponsors

USDA Waiver Authority

Usual Program Provisions

- Cannot issue nationwide waivers
- Cannot approve state waiver requests that increase federal costs
- Cannot approve state waiver requests related to the meal pattern / nutritional quality

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

- Allowed to issue nationwide waivers
- Allowed to issue waivers that increase federal costs
- Allowed to issue waivers on the meal pattern requirements if related to supply chain issues caused by COVID-19

Congregate (Group) Meal Service

Usual Program Provisions

- Congregate meal service required (children must be served and eat on site in a supervised setting)

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

- Non-congregate meal service allowed
- Parent pick-up on child's behalf was allowed with verification of eligible child

Meal Times

Usual Program Provisions

- Only one meal may be served during each service time and service times must be established for each meal
- **SFSP**: three hours between the beginning of one meal service, including snacks, and the beginning of another meal service. Four hours between lunch and supper if no snack is served.
- **SSO**: breakfast must be served in the morning; lunch must be served 10am-2pm; supper service must begin before 7pm and end by 8pm; snacks must be adequately spaced between meals

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

- No federal mealtime restrictions, allowing states to approve more than one meal to be served at a time
- Sites could distribute meals for multiple days at one time, generally up to one week
- Meal distribution or delivery times had to be established

Site Eligibility

Usual Program Provisions

- Sites (including mobile stops) must be pre-approved by the state agency
- Sites must meet applicable health & safety standards
- **Open sites:** located in eligible areas with $\geq 50\%$ free/reduced-price eligible based on school or census data ([Averaged Eligibility Map](#))
- **Closed enrolled sites:** $\geq 50\%$ of those enrolled must be documented as free/reduced-price eligible

**Different for camps and migrant sites*

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

SAME, except

- In summer 2021, area eligibility was waived for all programs and sites.

Area Eligibility

For an open site to be eligible to run SFSP or SSO, they must be located in an “area eligible” region (>50%).

Two primary sources of data can be used to determine area eligibility*:

- School data

- Census data – [Averaged Eligibility Map](#)

Area eligibility must be determined every five years (regardless of transition from one CN program to another).

Once determined an approved site, the site’s area eligibility is locked in for five years.

Note: Only school data can be used to determine eligibility in CACFP At-risk (Afterschool Meals).

Meals Reimbursed

Usual Program Provisions

- Per child per day, up to:
 - Breakfast + lunch/supper OR
 - Any one meal + snack

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

- ***Same except:***
 - Sites permitted to serve for multiple days at the same time

Note: Different for camps and migrant sites

Days of Operation

Usual Program Provisions

- Allows weekend service and service up to seven days per week
- Allows service on holidays during summer break or intersession breaks for year-round schools
- Cannot be used during planned school closures or non-school days during the regular school year (like spring break)

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

- In spring 2020, service during planned school closures and non-school days was permitted
- In SY20-21, serving meals through SFSP/SSO was permitted on any day regardless of school operating status
- In SY21-22, schools were permitted to serve meals through SSO on school days and during unanticipated closures. Use of SFSP was limited to unanticipated school closures without virtual instruction

Unanticipated School Closures

Usual Program Provisions

- Available from October through April
- Sponsor must be approved within current or past two calendar years for state to waive application
- States may opt not to conduct pre-operational visits to sponsors operating during closures
- States need a waiver for schools to be sites

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

SAME except:

- Unanticipated school closure operations could continue through the end of SY19-20

*Note: During SY21-22, SFSP waivers could be used during unanticipated school closures **if the school was without virtual learning***

Participant Eligibility

Usual Program Provisions

- Free meals for all children & teens ages 18 and under at open or closed enrolled sites
- Open sites operate on a drop-in basis
- Closed enrolled sites require advance enrollment

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

SAME

**Different for camps*

Meal Requirements

Usual Program Provisions

- **SFSP:** See meal pattern on next slide
- **SSO:** Same as NSLP – see next slide
- **Offer Versus Serve (OVS):** Except where waivers are granted, OVS is permitted only for school food authority sponsors

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

Same except:

- Meal pattern flexibility available if operators cannot source items needed to meet meal pattern requirements
- Operators did not need to offer multiple milk types and could serve meals without milk if emergency conditions prevent them from obtaining milk
- OVS offered to all sponsor types
- Bulk item distributions allowed

SFSP MEAL PATTERN

Simplified meal pattern with four meal components: (1) milk, (2) fruit and/or vegetable, (3) grain, and (4) meat/meat alternate.

USDA resources:

- [Summer Food Service Program Nutrition Guide](#)

Breakfast Meal Pattern

Select All Three Components for a Reimbursable Meal

1 milk	1 cup	fluid milk
1 fruit/vegetable	1/2 cup	juice, ¹ and/or vegetable
1 grains/bread ²	1 slice 1 serving 3/4 cup 1/2 cup 1/2 cup	bread or cornbread or biscuit or roll or muffin or cold dry cereal or hot cooked cereal or pasta or noodles or grains

¹ Fruit or vegetable juice must be full-strength.

² Breads and grains must be made from whole-grain or enriched meal or flour. Cereal must be whole-grain or enriched or fortified.

Lunch or Supper Meal Pattern

Select All Four Components for a Reimbursable Meal

1 milk	1 cup	fluid milk
2 fruits/vegetables	3/4 cup	juice, ¹ fruit and/or vegetable
1 grains/bread ²	1 slice 1 serving 1/2 cup 1/2 cup	bread or cornbread or biscuit or roll or muffin or hot cooked cereal or pasta or noodles or grains
1 meat/meat alternate	2 oz. 2 oz. 2 oz. 1 large 1/2 cup 4 Tbsp. 1 oz. 8 oz.	lean meat or poultry or fish ³ or alternate protein product or cheese or egg or cooked dry beans or peas or peanut or other nut or seed butter or nuts and/or seeds ⁴ or yogurt ⁵

¹ Fruit or vegetable juice must be full-strength.

² Breads and grains must be made from whole-grain or enriched meal or flour. Cereal must be whole-grain or enriched or fortified.

³ A serving consists of the edible portion of cooked lean meat or poultry or fish.

⁴ Nuts and seeds may meet only one-half of the total meat/meat alternate serving and must be combined with another meat/meat alternate to fulfill the lunch or supper requirement.

⁵ Yogurt may be plain or flavored, unsweetened or sweetened

SSO MEAL PATTERN

SSO uses the SBP/NSLP meal pattern

USDA resources:

- [Lunch/Supper Meal Pattern Chart](#)
- [Breakfast Meal Pattern Chart](#)

Breakfast Meal Pattern				
	Preschool	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Food Components	Amount of Food per Week (minimum per day)			
Fruits (cups)	2½ (½)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
Vegetables (cups)	May count toward Fruits requirement.	May credit toward Fruits requirement. ¹		
Grains (oz. eq. unless otherwise indicated)	1 ¼ slices/servings (½ slice/serving) or 1¼ cup (¼ cup)	7-10 (1)	8-10 (1)	9-10 (1)
Meats/Meat Alternates (oz. eq.)	May substitute for Grains up to 3 times per week.	May credit toward Grains requirement if at least 1 oz. eq. of Grains is offered.		
Fluid milk (cups)	3 ¾ (¾)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
Other Specifications: Daily Amount Based on the Average for a 5-Day Week				
Min-Max Calories (kcal)	N/A	350-500	400-550	450-600
Saturated Fat (% of total calories)	N/A	<10	<10	<10
Other Specifications: Daily Amount Based on the Average for a 5-Day Week				
Sodium Target 1 (mg) (through SY 2023-24)	N/A	≤540	≤600	≤640
Sodium Target 2 (mg) (effective July 1, 2024)	N/A	≤485	≤535	≤570
<i>Trans</i> fat	N/A	Nutrition label or manufacturer specifications must indicate zero grams of <i>trans</i> fat per serving. (This does not apply to naturally occurring <i>trans</i> fats, present in some meat and dairy products.)		

¹ Vegetables are not required in the SBP, but schools may choose to offer vegetables in place of fruits. To offer starchy vegetables in place of fruits, at least 2 cups of red/orange, dark green, legumes, or "other" vegetable subgroups must also be offered on a menu within the week. Effective February 15, 2019, through June 30, 2021, Federal funds may not be used to enforce this provision. This means that, through June 30, 2021, schools may offer any vegetable in place of fruits at breakfast, including potatoes and other starchy vegetables, without including vegetables from other subgroups in the weekly menus (Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Section 749).

Lunch Meal Pattern				
	Preschool	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Food Components	Amount of Food per Week (minimum per day)			
Fruits (cups)	1¼ (¼)	2½ (½)	2½ (½)	5 (1)
Vegetables (cups)	1¼ (¼)	3¾ (¾)	3¾ (¾)	5 (1)
Dark Green	N/A	½	½	½
Red/Orange		¾	¾	1¼
Beans and Peas (Legumes)		½	½	½
Starchy		½	½	½
Other		½	½	¾
Additional Vegetables to Reach Total		1	1	1½
Grains (ounce equivalents (oz. eq.), unless otherwise indicated)	1 ¼ slices/servings (½ slice/serving) or 1¼ cup (¼ cup)	8-9 (1)	8-10 (1)	10-12 (2)
Meats/Meat Alternates (oz. eq.)	7½ (1½)	8-10 (1)	9-10 (1)	10-12 (2)
Fluid Milk (cups)	3¾ (¾)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
Other Specifications: Daily Amount Based on the Average for a 5-Day Week				
Min-Max Calories (kcal)	N/A	550-650	600-700	750-850
Saturated Fat (% of total calories)	N/A	<10	<10	<10
Sodium Target 1 (mg) (through SY 2023-24)	N/A	≤1,230	≤1,360	≤1,420
Sodium Target 2 (mg) (effective July 1, 2024)		≤935	≤1,035	≤1,080
<i>Trans</i> Fat	N/A	Nutrition label or manufacturer specifications must indicate zero grams of <i>trans</i> fat per serving. (This does not apply to naturally occurring <i>trans</i> fats, present in some meat and dairy products.)		

Procurement

Usual Program Provisions

- Operators must comply with applicable procurement standards and procedures for the size of the purchase or contract

COVID-19 Flexibilities

- Non-competitive procurement allowed (always allowable during public emergencies)
- In SY 2022-23, State agencies may request a 12(I) waiver for an extension of expiring FSMC contracts through June 30, 2023

Daily Records

Usual Program Provision

Meal counts, separated by meal type and by:

- First meals served to eligible children
- Second meals served to eligible children
- Meals served to adults performing food service labor (*allowable cost but not reimbursed*)
- Meals served to non-program adults, if any (*neither allowable cost nor reimbursable*)
- Excess or leftover meals
- Non-reimbursable meals
- Count of meals prepared or delivered, by type
- Menus

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

SAME

Site Monitoring

Usual Program Provisions

Except where waivers are granted, SFSP sponsors are required to conduct:

- A pre-operational site visit,
- A first week site visit, and
- A review of the site's food service within the first four weeks of the site's operations

Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities

- Desk audits could replace on-site visits and reviews
- First week site visits could be waived in certain circumstances



**Alice McKenney &
Andrea Farmer**

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Food
and Nutrition Services



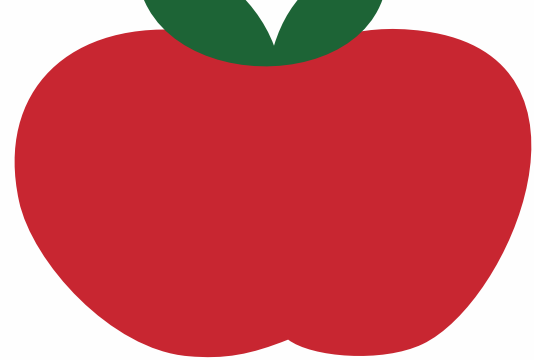


Summer Meals 101: USDA Update

Alice McKenney
Chief, Community Meals
Policy Branch

Andrea Farmer
Chief, Community Meals
Monitoring Branch





POLICY UPDATE



Nationwide Waiver Authority

- Congress did not extend FNS' nationwide waiver authority
- Current nationwide authority only permits FNS to issue nationwide waivers that apply to the 2021-22 school year
- FNS identified options for supporting schools and program operators in transitioning back to "normal" operations

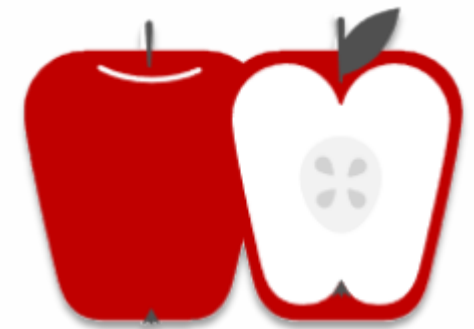
12(I) Waiver Authority

Waivers **may be granted** provided certain conditions are met, including:

- Waiver request supports the purpose of the Program;
- Requester provides notice and information to public; and
- Waiver will not increase overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government.

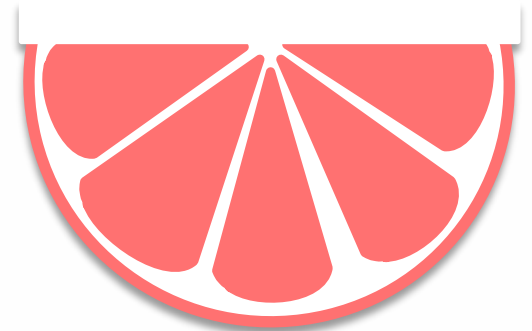
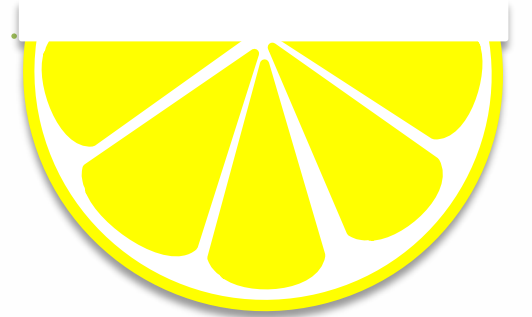
The Secretary **cannot waive** certain requirements, including:

- Nutritional content of meals served
- Federal reimbursement rates
- Provision of free and reduced price meals



Common Summer Waivers

- First week site visits
- Offer versus serve
- Meal service time restrictions
- Area eligibility for closed enrolled sites



COVID-19 Operational Waivers

SFSP and SSO State waivers that may be available through September 30, 2022:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service
- Parent Pick Up of Meals



Note: Meal service times is part of the rescinded memo waivers. If this waiver was requested and approved, it expires April 30, 2023.

Expired Nationwide Waivers

- Area Eligibility
- Waivers of meal pattern requirements



Area Eligibility

- The Secretary does not have authority to offer area eligibility waivers
- Schools that operated regular NSLP during SY 2021-2022 **will** have school data to determine area eligibility
- Schools that operated SSO during SY 2021-2022 may **not** have collected free and reduced-price applications, therefore no eligibility information is available to make area eligibility determinations for summer 2022
- As a reminder, SFSP sites can use census data to determine area eligibility for summer 2022



Area Eligibility



Option 1:

- Use School Year 2019-2020 free and reduced-price application data
- Area Eligibility determinations made with School Year 2019-2020 data will be valid for the next two program years (through summer 2024)

Option 2:

- Use a process like the schools Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- Can *only* be used to qualify sites for area eligibility in summer 2022

Note: these options only apply to summer 2022 and SY 22/23 – these options are not available to use in future years without FNS guidance or approval.

Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data

Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data by Visual Observation and Identification (CACFP 11-2021, SFSP 07-2021):

Removes visual observation and identification as an allowable practice in obtaining race and ethnicity data from CACFP and the Summer Food Service Program participants



Research Studies

Recently Published

- Summer Meals Study 2018

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/usda-summer-meals-study>

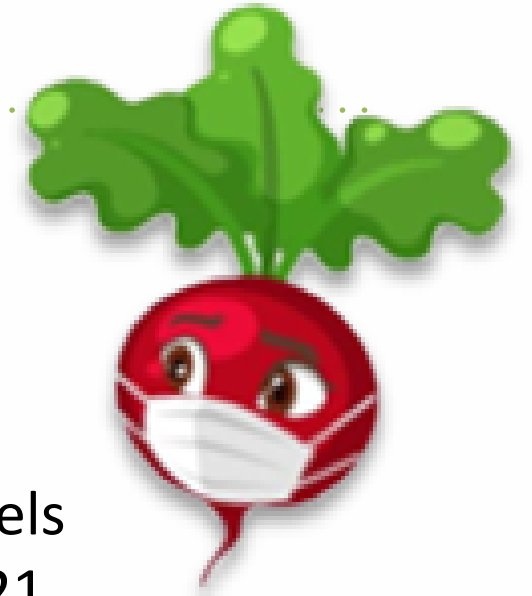
In Progress

- School Meals Operations Study (SMO-I and SMO-II)



Turnip the Beet 2021

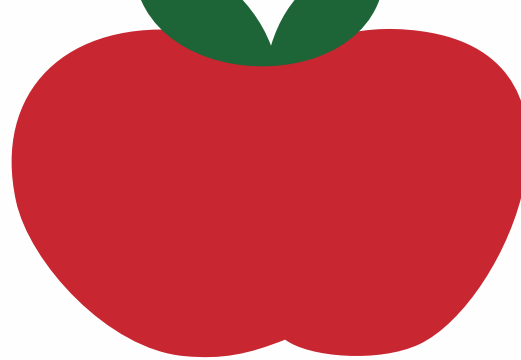
- Recognition program for Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option sponsors striving to serve nutritious, appealing meals
 - Voluntary at both the State agency and sponsor levels
 - Updated questions and criteria in program year 2021
- Information on the 2022 Turnip the Beet award is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/turnip-the-beet>



Summer Site Finder Text Number

- Summer Meals text number has changed!
- Now **914-342-7744** (no longer 97779)





Program Monitoring & Operational Support Division Update



State Agency Oversight Waivers and Plans



COVID-19 Public Health Emergency created need for flexibilities



FNS provided waivers to State Agencies

State Agency Oversight Waivers and Plans



Includes waiving onsite monitoring requirements



State agencies and sponsors

State Agency Oversight Waivers and Plans

13 SFSP waiver requests approved for FY22



State Agency Oversight Waivers and Plans

Many States Requested



Plans Included



Moving Forward



Continue to work closely with FNS



Looking to the future



FNS appreciates your effort!



Questions?





Q&A

New Resource!

Communicating with Parents and Families About Changes to Summer Meals 2022 Operations

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!



Communicating With Parents and Families About Changes to Summer Meals 2022 Operations

This toolkit was created to help you communicate to families about changes to your summer meals program. It includes two sections of customizable content - one for [providers changing \(but still operating\)](#) a summer meals program and one for [providers ceasing summer meals operations](#).

For the most up-to-date information and resources on summer 2022 operations, please visit the [No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices website](#).

This document features sample language, in both English & [Spanish](#), that you can use as-is or customize to best fit the needs of your school or organization.
Just copy & paste!

For Programs Changing Operations

★ *Tip: If possible, communicate anticipated program changes to families ahead of summer's start. If [mid-summer](#) changes are anticipated, be sure to communicate with families again about program changes. In either case, include updates across multiple communication channels.*

Check your website to ensure that information about your summer meals program is up-to-date and easy for families to find.

- Ideally, this information should be located on the homepage.
- Make sure the information includes details about the times and locations of meals being served; any activities provided; and menus of planned meals.
- Be sure to include contact information so that families can reach out with any questions.

To Include on Posters and Flyers

The summer meals program is a federal program. Due to changes at the federal level, our program will be changing for summer 2022. We are no longer able to offer [\[TYPE OF MEAL - GRAB&GO/DELIVERY/PARENT PICK-UP/MULTI-DAY MEALS\]](#) but will be offering [\[MEAL TYPES\]](#) to kids and teens 18 and under. We are dedicated to still serving children and the community, and we plan to serve

New Resource!

SFSP & SSO Requirements - Comparison Chart of Usual vs. COVID-19 Waiver Operations

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!

Comparison of Usual Summer Meal Program Provisions vs. Expired Flexibilities Permitted in Response the COVID-19 Pandemic



USDA issued a suite of nationwide waivers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **These waivers will not be available for summer 2022 SFSP/SSO operations.** Please follow the link to see the waiver language or review our [nationwide waiver summary chart](#) for the nationwide waivers referenced below. Contact your state agency for more information. This resource was last updated 3/29/2022.

Program	Provision	Usual Program Provisions	Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities
USDA	Waiver Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot issue nationwide waivers• Cannot approve waiver requests that increase federal costs• Cannot approve waiver requests related to the meal pattern / nutritional quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowed to issue nationwide waivers• Allowed to issue or approve waivers that increase federal costs• Allowed to issue waivers from the meal pattern requirements if related to supply chain issues caused by COVID-19
SFSP / SSO	Congregate (Group) Meal Service	Congregate meal service required (children must be served & eat each meal on site in a supervised setting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-congregate meal service allowed (waiver COVID-19 #75)• Parent meal pick-up on child's behalf was allowed with verification of eligible child (waiver COVID-19 #76)
	Meals Reimbursed	Per child per day, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast + lunch/supper OR• Any one meal + snack *Different for camps and migrant sites	SAME, except <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sites permitted to serve meals for multiple days at the same time (within usual per child per day limits)
	Days of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows for weekend service and service up to seven days per week• Allows for service on holidays during summer break or intersession breaks for students attending year-round schools• Service during planned school closures or non-school days during the regular school year (like spring break) is not permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Spring 2020 when operators were utilizing SFSP/SSO under the unanticipated school closure provision, service during planned school closures and non-school days was permitted• In School Year 2020-2021, serving meals through SFSP/SSO was permitted on any day regardless of school operating status• In School Year 2021-2022, schools were permitted to serve meals through SSO on school days and during unanticipated closures. Use of SFSP was limited to unanticipated school closures

Additional Resources

[Staffing Up: Strategies for Working Through Labor Shortages and Challenges](#)
(resource – [related webinar](#))

[Tips for Staffing Summer Meals Programs](#) (resource)

[Tips for Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions](#) (resource)

[Materials for Communicating with Your School Community](#) (sample language in English and Spanish)

[Rural Communities Leading the Way: Introducing Local Foods to Meal Service](#)
(resource)

From SNA: [Supply Chain Resources](#) (website)

From USDA: [Planning for a Dynamic School Environment](#) (website)

School's Out, Food's In!

Summer Webinar Series

March 30 @3pm EST – Planning for Summer Meals: Strategies to navigate no-waiver operations

April 13 @1pm EST – Reaching Hard to Reach Communities: Leveraging Innovation and Partnership

May – Promoting Your Summer Meals Program: Strategies and Tips to Promote Your Summer Meals Program

June – Evaluating and Incorporating Feedback into Your Summer Meals Programs: Tips and Promising Practices

July – Thinking 365: Transitioning Your Summer Meals Program to an Afterschool Program through CACFP At-risk



Stay in Touch!

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www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit the CBP website:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org



THANK YOU

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