Parental Release Waiver for All Approved Sponsoring Organizations Operating Food Service During Unanticipated School Closures Due to COVID-19
Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Division of Nutrition Support (DNS)

1. State Agency staff contact information:

Louisiana Department of Education Division of Nutrition Support
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2. Region: Southwest Region

3. Eligibility service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

Any LDOE DNS approved sponsoring organization in good standing, operating food service during an unanticipated school closure due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes sponsors operating, but not limited to, the following programs: CACFP, NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, FFVP, ASP.

Since all schools in the State of Louisiana are closed, all approved sponsoring organization that would operate under this waiver are operating in communities where schools are closed in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak.

4. Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

Challenge:
As of 1:00pm on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Louisiana issued a mandate closing all public schools across the State starting Monday, March 16, 2020.

Additionally, on March 24, 2020, President Donald J. Trump approved the Major Disaster Declaration for Louisiana.

Goal:

Louisiana is requesting a waiver for the requirement to obtain parental consent when meals are provided for delivery in schools that are area eligible. Since all students are eligible for free meals in area eligible schools, individual student status is not needed. Households will have the option to opt-out of receiving meals. Additionally, once P-SNAP is available in Louisiana, the delivery to the households will not be needed.

Expected Outcomes:
If allowed, children would continue to be fed much needed meals that otherwise are not available due to a school closures.

Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Division of Nutrition Support (DNS) request to waive the guidance at COVID-19 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority, Question 4 and 7 CFR 225.15(k)(1)-(2).

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:

If approved, LDOE DNS will provide technical assistance to sponsors on the process and procedure for providing meals through home delivery. There are no impacts on technology, State systems, or monitoring.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section (I)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

There are currently no State level regulatory barriers related to this specific issue.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

Our agency does not anticipate that the establishment of this statewide waiver will pose any additional challenges at the state or sponsor level. Alternatively, we anticipate this waiver will reduce challenges faced by regular school sites that experience unanticipated school closure because of COVID-19. Children can still benefit from meal service and schools can use encumbered resources.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the cost will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

The establishment of this statewide waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government since these programs would be operating in situations where normal USDA Child Nutrition programs (NSLP/SBP) are closed due to COVID-19. There are no additional staff costs to implement this waiver.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

The anticipated waiver implementation start date is March 25, 2020 and is to remain in effect for 180 days after the submission of the June 2020 claim. If the federally declared public health emergency extends beyond June 30, 2020, the State will submit an extension to this waiver.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

State agency staff who will approve sponsor's written requests to implement the waiver will monitor implementation of this waiver.

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due dates(s) to FNS:

At a date to be determined, LDOE DNS will report to FNS the number of school districts that used home delivery for meals, including the number of unanticipated operating days and meals claimed.

13. Link to or copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

Notice to be released:

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Division of Nutrition Support (DNS) is seeking waivers from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services. The purpose of these waivers is to support schools and communities in providing meals to children in areas experiencing extended school closures in response to COVID-19.
https://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov/breakingnews/Parental%20Release%20Waiver.pdf

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

John Dupre
Director, Child Nutrition Programs
Louisiana Department of Education Division of Nutrition Support
(225)342-3720

TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.

Date request was received at Regional Office:

- Date Received: _____

  ☐ **Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA**

- **Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations:**

  ☐ Recommend Approval

  ☐ Recommend Denial