

Louisiana Believes

School Meal Programs
Starting School Year 2020-2021
July 23, 2020

School Reopening Guidance Links

A comprehensive overview of the Louisiana Department of Education Strong Start 2020 School Reopening Plan:

- [Strong Start 2020](#)
- [Strong Start 2020 Library](#)
- [Strong Start 2020 Guide: School Reopening Guidelines and Resources](#)
- [School Operations Guidance 2020-2021 Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ's)

Division of Nutrition Support Guidance is included in the Strong Start 2020 Library under Pre-K - 12 Resources and may also be accessed under page 3 of Resources on the Child Nutrition Program website:

- [Strong Start 2020 School Nutrition Reopening Toolkit](#)
- [Toolkit for Reopening School Meal Programs: Resources and Links](#)
- [PPE Vendors – OSP Reference](#)

Overview to Virtual Learning Due to Planned School Building Closures & Accountability in NSLP and SBP Meal Services

- The non-congregate waiver for NSLP, SBP, and CACFP, currently states that planned building closures, whether partial or full, do not count as unanticipated school closures.
- This means that schools and sponsors cannot continue using the SFSP or SSO to serve meals once schools reopen for School Year 2020-2021, even if schools remain fully remote for virtual learning.
- Schools may not continue to serve meals to all children in the community and may only serve meals to students enrolled in the school system.
- Point of service or alternate point of service procedures must include counting of meals by Free, Reduced and Paid eligibility for accurate claiming purposes.

Marking the Start of School Meals for SY 2020-2021 for School Lunch (NSLP) & School Breakfast (SBP)

Q1: If the official school calendar shows a start date in August 2020, but only virtual learning is in place with no students present at the schools, will SFAs be able to participate in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to serve meals during that time?

A1: No, the calendar start date of school virtual learning would mark the end of SFSP and SSO and the beginning of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), even if students are participating in virtual learning programs off-site.

SSO and SFSP Must End Before the Official Start of School

Q1: In the scenario that the official academic school year does not begin until September 2020 due to COVID-19 and is scheduled on the academic calendar, with **no virtual, face to face or other learning**, will SFAs be allowed to continue SSO and SFSP services through August 31, 2020?

A1: Yes, if the academic school year / school calendar does not indicate a start date until September 2020, SSO or SFSP may continue through August 31, 2020. Keep in mind that although SFAs may elect to continue SSO / SFSP in August 2020, the [Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver for SSO and SFSP](#) expires on **July 31, 2020**.

For an overview of waivers and their respective expiration dates, please refer to the [Summary of COVID-19 Child Nutrition Programs Nationwide Waivers for Louisiana](#)

Upcoming Training on Serving Meals While School Buildings are Closed: A Virtual Learning Model

Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar:

“Maintaining Customer Service While Serving at a Distance”

Thursday, July 30, 2020

3:00-4:00 pm ET; 2:00-3:00 pm CT; 1:00-2:00 pm MT; 12:00-1:00 pm PT

Learning Objective(s): Participants will be able to identify emerging best practices for maintaining high-quality customer service. Participants will also be able to determine the key strategies for back to school planning.

Webinar registration link:

https://theichn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vLT7onn9TcuomS0yhQVftw

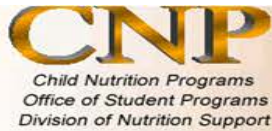
A continuing education certificate will be available after completion of the webinar.

School Year 2020-2021 Waivers Applicable to Child Nutrition Program Meal Distribution and Services

- There are Five (5) Nationwide Child Nutrition Program waivers applicable to meal distribution and service methods that are in effect throughout the **2020-2021 School Year** for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (CACFP). These waivers are summarized in the table on the next slide.
- School Food Authorities (SFAs) must apply to the State agency for approval for any necessary waivers on the CNP Website for NSLP and SBP, as part of the school year 2020-2021 Child Nutrition Program online application.
- [Memo SFS-20-x217 Waiver Submission Through the Child Nutrition Program Website for School Year 2020-2021](#) provides detailed instructions on electing waivers.
- The Child Nutrition Program online application for SY 2020-2021 is currently open and is due for submission on August 24, 2020. Please refer to other [Important Due Dates](#) for NSLP and SBP, posted under Resources on the CNP Website.
- Current USDA guidance states the five (5) waivers in the table below are effective July 1, 2020 through an **expiration date of June 30, 2021**.

School Year 2020-2021 Waivers Submission

Access SY 2020-2021 Waivers: Click waivers under **FORMS** on the green side bar once logged in.



Louisiana Department of Education

Our Vision: To create a world-class education system for all students in Louisiana

Our Mission: Improve academic performance for all students, eliminate achievement gaps and prepare students to be effective citizens in a global market

Home CACFP School Food Service Summer Feeding Fresh

- COVID-19 Waivers
- Reports
- Agreements
- Authorized Contacts
- Forms
 - Requirements
 - Waivers
 - Policy Checklist
 - Schedule A
 - Collection Procedure
 - Collection Officials
 - Labor Expenses
 - Income & Expenses
 - Menu Certifications
 - Submit Forms
- Claims
- Seamless Waiver
- Verification Summary
- Equipment Grants
- Grant Administration
- Program Administration

Waiver Elections

Waivers

Waiver	Status	Election		
Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in Child Nutrition Programs	Not-Started			Start
Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs	Not-Started			Start
Delivery of Meals to Households	Not-Started			Start
Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in NSLP	Not-Started			Start
Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children	Not-Started			Start

Meal Pattern Waivers (1 per use)

Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs	Not-Started			Start
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School Year 2020-2021 Waivers Submission

Elect or Decline Waivers, Save, and Submit: click “start” on each waiver, read each waiver carefully, elect or decline, and save and submit

Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children

Effective through June 30, 2021 for NSLP/ SBP and CACFP only.

What this waiver means: Children do not have to be present to pick up meals. Program operators must have a plan to ensure accountability and integrity. Requirements at 7 CFR 210.10(a), 220.2 (Breakfast) and 220.8(a), and 226.2 (Meals) are waived.

I DO wish to elect the use of this waiver. ▼

Please note: This waiver also applies to guardians picking up meals for adult participants in CACFP Adult Day Care programs.

Save

Submit

Close

REMINDER: Users should indicate “yes” or “no” to waiver usage on the sponsor meal info section of the Schedule A

2020-2021 Waiver Use

Will waivers be used for school year 2020-2021??

Yes ▼

School Year 2020-2021 Waivers Applicable to Child Nutrition Program Meal Distribution and Services

NSLP, SBP and CACFP * July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

I. Non-congregate Feeding Waiver	II. Meal Service Time Flexibility Waiver	III. Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver	IV. Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver
<p>Under this waiver, program operators may provide meals outside of the standard group setting in order to allow for safety measures to take place during COVID-19 related operations. Flexibilities for meal delivery methods fall under this waiver.</p> <p>USDA Extension #2 grants eligibility for this waiver.</p>	<p>Waiver of the typical meal service time requirements will allow program operators the ability to provide meals under the Child Nutrition Programs with appropriate safety measures in place. This waiver supports access to nutritious meals outside of the designated meal times in order to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>USDA Extension #2 grants eligibility for this waiver.</p>	<p>Provides access for program operators to waive specific meal pattern requirements in the instance that access to certain foods is limited due to COVID-19. This waiver allows for the service of nutritious meals that meet the meal pattern requirements in every way feasible while allowing a temporary flexibility in order to prevent interruption of CNP meal services to students.</p> <p>USDA Extension #4 grants eligibility for this waiver.</p>	<p>This waiver allows a parent or guardian to pick up meals to take home to their children, without the enrolled child being present. A documented process of accountability that links the parent or guardian to each student for which a meal is provided must be in place in order to maintain program integrity.</p> <p>USDA Extension #2 grants eligibility for this waiver.</p>
V. Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools			
<p>This flexibility waives the requirement for senior high schools to participate in Offer Versus Serve in the NSLP during school year 2020-2021. This waiver allows program operators to determine whether or not to elect Offer Versus Serve in grades K-12.</p> <p>USDA COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #37 grants eligibility for this flexibility.</p>			

Delivery Methods & Meal Patterns for Virtual Learning

The big picture of the waivers provided for NSLP and SBP for School Year 2020-2021 is that if school buildings are closed for virtual learning:

The regular School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal patterns must be followed. There is no option to use a different meal planning approach in this scenario.

If any part of the meal pattern is unavailable due to delivery or availability issues, each instance must be justified and a meal pattern waiver must be submitted based on each instance for approval by the State agency in order for those meals to be claimed.

Off-site meals may be delivered by a variety of service methods, including:

- Meals delivered to homes with a prior signed parent consent obtained / maintained on file
- Meals available for school site pick-up by Grab and Go or Curbside Pickup

References to assist in meal delivery options include:

A [Lunch Assist School Scheduling and Meal Service Options](#) google form provides an overview of equipment / supply needs, staffing details for review and student considerations.

[Meal Service Options for School Year 20-21](#) by No Kid Hungry

These links are for reference purposes only and do not supersede official guidance from USDA, LDOE, or the Division of Nutrition Support.

Is offer vs. serve still an option for NSLP and SBP in grades K-12 if alternative delivery methods are used?

- Yes, the procedure designed by the SFA must consistently validate that a reimbursable meal was served to an eligible student.
- A sample scenario would be that menus are sent home weekly with the student's name on it. An explanation of what constitutes a reimbursable meal should be included with the menu. Selection of a minimum of 3 items for breakfast and 3 components for lunch would be circled and returned to the school in advance of service.

Parent Pick-up of Meals for SBP and NSLP

- If students are not present when meals are picked up, a Parent / Guardian Meal Pickup Consent Form is required.
- This form must include, but is not limited to, student names and the student's enrolled school along with a parent signature for consent.
- Meals are provided to parents or guardians only for those enrolled students listed on the form with a parent signature.
- A prototype form will be posted to the CNP Website and SFAs enrolled in the DNS mailing list will receive an email notification.

Enrichment program requirement for the NSLP After School Snack Program, CACFP At-Risk Snack Program and CACFP At-Risk Supper Program

- After school enrichment programs will likely be limited due to Phase 2 requirements; however the requirement of an enrichment program for participation in NSLP After School Snack Program, CACFP At-Risk Snack Program and CACFP At-Risk Supper Program remains in place.
- At this time, there is currently no waiver or flexibility in place to serve program snacks or supper for reimbursement.
- According to current guidance, virtual learning will not be considered as an on-site enrichment activity.

What signage must be visible to Child Nutrition Program Participants?

1. And Justice for All Poster
2. A poster explaining what constitutes a reimbursable meal for SBP and NSLP
3. Permit to Operate
4. Latest Health Inspection
5. Menu

Policies should be developed at the local level in order to meet the specific requirements of the site and facility where meals are provided.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Q1: Will SFAs be required to accommodate special diets for students with disabilities on the first calendar day of school?

A1: Yes. Based on the current USDA guidance, this accommodation must be made for students with disabilities, regardless of the delivery method for school meals. For a review of the requirements, please refer to the manual [USDA-FNS Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meal Programs](#).

Q2: Will SFAs receive reimbursement for a modified meal outside of the Program meal pattern when the modification is supported by a medical statement signed by a State licensed healthcare professional?

A2: In many cases, special diets for students with disabilities can be managed within the Program meal pattern. However, if the meal pattern cannot be met due to the dietary restrictions, the SFA will be reimbursed based on the child's eligibility for free, reduced price, or paid meals. Additional costs may be paid from the nonprofit food service account. (Modifications Outside of the Meal Pattern, page 14 of [USDA-FNS Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meal Programs](#))

Who should I call about access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

- For access to PPE, including masks, hand sanitizers, and other items needed to ensure a safe start for school meals?
 - Contact your [Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness \(OHSEP\)](#)
 - Access [PPE Vendors](#) from the Office of State Procurement for a list of vendors by items or equipment needed.

Procurement by Non Competitive Proposal

Procurement by non competitive proposal is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and can be used when the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation

2 CFR 200,320(f)(2)

Procurement during the Pandemic

Proclamation 84 JBE 2019 State of Emergency

Louisiana Public Bid Law and the corresponding rules and regulations continue to be suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any goods or services necessary to respond to this emergency

Prices charged or value received for goods and services sold may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the emergency

Exception for market fluctuations

SY 20-21 CEP Elections

- Final confirmation of CEP elections for SY 2020-2021 is due by **August 31, 2020**.
- This is available for completion through the CNP website now.
- The SFA MUST confirm CEP elections for SY 20-21.
- **If this step is not completed, the SFA will NOT be able to elect or re-establish CEP for SY 20-21.**

Please refer to memo [SFS-20-x218](#) for more information.

SY 2020-2021 Online Application

The 2020-2021 Applications are now open!

Applications are due by August 24, 2020

TANF (COMING SOON)

- For SY 20-21 SNAP and TANF will be loaded in eScholar
- Districts should load SNAP only into the Food Service Software
- LDOE will provide districts a file of TANF students who are not SNAP recipients
The file will be placed on the DM FTP folder for security coordinators to access
Local SIS staff and food service can manually enter these students into their systems

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!

SY 20-21 Reimbursement Rates

SCHOOL PROGRAMS							
MEAL, SNACK AND MILK PAYMENTS TO STATES AND SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES							
Expressed in Dollars or Fractions Thereof							
Effective from: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021							
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ¹		LESS THAN 60%	LESS THAN 60% + 7 cents ²	60% OR MORE	60% or MORE+ 7 cents ²	MAXIMUM RATE	MAXIMUM RATE+ 7 cents ²
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	0.33	0.40	0.35	0.42	0.41	0.48
	REDUCED PRICE	3.11	3.18	3.13	3.20	3.28	3.35
	FREE	3.51	3.58	3.53	3.60	3.68	3.75
SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM				NON-SEVERE NEED		SEVERE NEED	
CONTIGUOUS STATES		PAID		0.32		0.32	
		REDUCED PRICE		1.59		1.96	
		FREE		1.89		2.26	
AFTERSCHOOL SNACKS SERVED IN AFTERSCHOOL CARE PROGRAMS							
CONTIGUOUS STATES			PAID			0.08	
			REDUCED PRICE			0.48	
			FREE			0.96	

Refer to Memo [SFS-20-x223](#)

Important Reminders

- Point of service or alternate point of service procedures must include counting of meals by Free, Reduced and Paid eligibility for accurate claiming purposes.
- Schools may not continue to serve meals to all children in the community and may only serve meals to students enrolled in the school system.
- Schools and sponsors cannot continue using the SFSP or SSO to serve meals once schools reopen for School Year 2020-2021, even if schools remain fully remote for virtual learning.
- Child Nutrition Programs continue to be reimbursed only on meals served to eligible students

Questions

Division of Nutrition Support

225-342-9661

childnutritionprograms@la.gov