

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF:  
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM  
STATE WAIVER REQUEST**

**Offer versus Serve and First Week Site Visits**

The Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Child Nutrition is requesting waivers to allow Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors in good standing to implement the following waivers:

- Offer versus Serve
- First Week Visits for returning sites in good standing

Without these waivers, Program operators may experience higher costs, related to administrative labor and food costs. By opting into these waivers, the State Agency expects to see higher meal service participation and increased Program integrity.

The full waiver request is attached, along with relevant USDA guidance. For any questions, please contact Scott Clements at [sclements@mdek12.org](mailto:sclements@mdek12.org).

Posted: March 25, 2022

## Susie Evans

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**From:** SM.FN.CACFP-SummerResponses <SM.FN.CACFP-SummerResponses@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 12:16 PM  
**To:** Susie Evans  
**Subject:** Summer Food Service Program Waiver Request Receipt

**Importance:** High

Hello,

Thank you for submitting your Summer Food Service Program waiver via the 2022 Summer Food Service Program Waiver Request Form. Here's a summary of your request. If you see that any details are not correct or if you wish to change your submission, please contact your Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.

Regards,

The Food and Nutrition Service Waiver Team

Region:  
SERO

State:  
Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Child Nutrition

Name of State director:  
Scott Clements

State agency mailing address:  
P. O. Box 771 Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Name and title of person completing this form:  
Susie Q. Evans-Gater, Director CACFP/SFSP

Do you have authority to complete this waiver request on behalf of the State director?  
Yes, I have the authority.

Email address of person completing this form:  
susie.evans@mdek12.org

Email address for each State agency staff for FNS to include on the waiver response:  
mchauvin@mdek12.org; mburks@mdek12.org; sclements@mdek12.org

Waiver type:  
First Week Site Visits requirement at 7 CFR 225.15(d)(2)

Statewide or specific service provider:  
Statewide

Name of service provider, if applicable:

Is the service provider in good standing, if applicable:

What challenges would sponsors face without the waiver?

["Increase in administrative burden.", "Increase in labor costs.", "Exacerbation of staffing shortages."]

How will the waiver benefit sponsors?

["Streamline processes", "Control costs", "Support program integrity by facilitating in-depth and effective technical assistance for new sites during the first week of operations."]

Regulations and statute to be waived:

I agree this request is to waive the regulations at 7 CFR 225.15(d)(2), only.

Describe the program procedures that will be in place under the waiver:

The State Agency will be able to waive the first week site visit requirement for sites that operated successfully during the previous summer (or other most recent period of operation) and were not designated as problematic sponsors the prior year. Sponsors will still be required to review sites within the first four weeks of operation and at a reasonable level thereafter.

Describe any anticipated challenges under the waiver:

The State Agency does not anticipate that the waiver will present any challenges to the agency or sponsors as these flexibilities will increase Program integrity and financial management.

Waiver period:

I agree to the waiver period of May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

Describe the steps the State agency of service provider will take to successfully implement the waiver:

The State Agency and eligible service providers will provide Program training, including but not limited to, recordkeeping, meal service requirements, claims for reimbursement, and Civil Rights. Eligible service providers will conduct monitoring in accordance with all other federal requirements. The State Agency will assess compliance with monitoring requirements during scheduled compliance reviews.

Please provide a link to the public notice:

<https://www.mdek12.org/OCN>

Signature and title of requesting official:

Susie Q. Evans-Gater

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## Susie Evans

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**From:** SM.FN.CACFP-SummerResponses <SM.FN.CACFP-SummerResponses@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Susie Evans  
**Subject:** Summer Food Service Program Waiver Request Receipt

**Importance:** High

Hello,

Thank you for submitting your Summer Food Service Program waiver via the 2022 Summer Food Service Program Waiver Request Form. Here's a summary of your request. If you see that any details are not correct or if you wish to change your submission, please contact your Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office.

Regards,

The Food and Nutrition Service Waiver Team

Region:  
SERO

State:  
Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Child Nutrition

Name of State director:  
Scott Clements

State agency mailing address:  
P. O. Box 771 Jackson, MS 39205-0771

Name and title of person completing this form:  
Susie Q. Evans-Gater

Do you have authority to complete this waiver request on behalf of the State director?  
Yes, I have the authority.

Email address of person completing this form:  
susie.evans@mdek12.org

Email address for each State agency staff for FNS to include on the waiver response:  
sclements@mdek12.org; mchauvin@mdek12.org, mburks@mdek12.org

Waiver type:  
Offer Versus Serve requirement at 42 U.S.C.1761(f)(7) and 7 CFR 225.16(f)(1)(ii)

Statewide or specific service provider:  
Statewide

Name of service provider, if applicable:

Is the service provider in good standing, if applicable:

What challenges would sponsors face without the waiver?

["Increase in food waste", "Reduction in sponsor participation.", "Increase in costs for State systems.", "Revision of sponsor or site applications or monitoring or training materials."]

How will the waiver benefit sponsors?

["Reduce food waste", "Improves meal satisfaction, which increases program participation.", "Control costs", "Streamline processes"]

Regulations and statute to be waived:

I agree with waiving 42 U.S.C.1761(f)(7) and the regulations at 7 CFR 226.16(f)(1)(ii), only.

Describe the program procedures that will be in place under the waiver:

Sponsors will be able to opt into this waiver when completing the sponsor application in our online system, MARS. Sponsors should have decreased food waste and be able to control costs more efficiently when utilizing this waiver. Sites may also see increased participation.

Describe any anticipated challenges under the waiver:

The State Agency does not anticipate that the waiver will present any challenges to the agency or sponsors as these flexibilities will increase Program integrity and financial management.

Waiver period:

I agree to the waiver period of May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

Describe the steps the State agency of service provider will take to successfully implement the waiver:

The State Agency will provide technical assistance to all eligible service providers implementing the OVS waiver. Eligible service providers will provide training to all SFSP operational and administrative staff on the proper implementation of OVS. The State Agency will observe the implementation of OVS during on-site visits for applicable sponsors.

Please provide a link to the public notice:

[www.mdek12.org/OCN](http://www.mdek12.org/OCN)

Signature and title of requesting official:

Susie Q. Evans-Gater

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