

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

Meal Service at School Sites During Unanticipated School Closures

The Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Child Nutrition is requesting to allow School Food Authorities (SFAs) which are also sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to serve meals at school sites during unanticipated school closures.

Without the waiver, the SFAs can serve these meals only at sites other than schools. Allowing the meals to be served at schools is expected to increase the availability of the meals in the community.

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

Posted: March 18, 2022

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST

Meal Service at School Sites During Unanticipated School Closures

The Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Child Nutrition is requesting to allow School Food Authorities (SFAs) which are also sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to serve meals at school sites during unanticipated school closures. These meals will comply with SFSP requirements and be claimed through SFSP.

1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

Name of State agency: Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Child Nutrition
State Agency Staff Contact: Scott Clements
Mailing address: P.O. Box 771, Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0771
Telephone number: 601-576-5000
Email address: sclements@mdek12.org

2. Region:

Southeast Region (SERO)

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

The State Agency requests a statewide waiver. The State Agency will ensure that each SFA seeking to serve meals under the waiver is in good standing when the SFA's request is made.

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]:

The goal of the waiver is to allow meals to be served at familiar (to parents and children), safe, and adequately sized sites during unanticipated school closures. SFA sponsors of SFSP are in the best position to serve these meals. They are operating the school-based child nutrition programs throughout the year and have food and staff available. Parents and children will feel safe with the children eating at a school. The primary expected outcome of the waiver is that children are more likely to have meals available during unanticipated school closures.

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

The requirement to be waived is that SFSP meals served during unanticipated school closures are only reimbursable if served at non-school sites - Section 13(c)(1) of the NSLA.

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

The SFA/SFSP-sponsor will need to amend their application in the State Agency's claims system. The SFA will maintain records of the meals served during the unanticipated school closure for inspection by the State Agency.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

Filing this statewide waiver request. Notifying the SFA/SFSP sponsors of the availability of SFSP during unanticipated school closures.

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

Because this set of sponsors is experienced with SFSP, challenges are expected to be minimal. The State Agency will be responsive to any questions the SFAs have about meal requirements or the application/claim.

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 costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

SFA sponsors of SFSP are already allowed to serve meals during unanticipated school closures at non-school sites. Allowing them to serve at school sites will not increase program cost. (The reimbursement will be the same.)

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

The waiver will be implemented as soon as it is approved. Most Mississippi schools operate a traditional school year; therefore, the State Agency is requesting the waiver through June 30, 2025.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

Meals served at school sites during unanticipated school closures will be reviewed

for compliance (i.e. meal pattern, record-keeping, counting and claiming) during the next regularly-scheduled SFSP monitoring review.

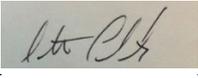
12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):

The State Agency will report annually the number of SFAs serving these meals, total number of days meals were served by SFAs, and total number of meals served by type.

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

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

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

Signature:  _____
Scott Clements

Title: State Director

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response: sclements@mdek12.org

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

Explanation: