

Meal Pattern Waiver UPDATE

SY 2020-2021, NSLP/SBP

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MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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VISION

To create a world-class educational system that gives students the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and the workforce, and to flourish as parents and citizens

MISSION

To provide leadership through the development of policy and accountability systems so that all students are prepared to compete in the global community

Waiver Application Success

- We want to set you up for success when you are writing/submitting your waivers
- The scope of what we can approve is very limited
- Many Waiver Applications are being returned for revisions
- Form has been updated to be more user friendly

USDA Requirements

“the State Agency should consider requests that are targeted and justified based on plans to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing exposure to COVID-19 during SY 2020-2021.”

“FNS expects and strongly encourages Program operators to maintain and meet the nutrition standards for each program to the greatest extent possible”

Elements of a Waiver Application

Select the proposed changes - specific waiver request(s)

1. What **BARRIER** are you facing in meeting the regulatory requirement, related to COVID-19
2. How you support access to **NUTRITIOUS** meals, even with the waiver
3. How will it **MINIMIZE EXPOSURE** to COVID-19

Be specific about the proposed change to the meal pattern

- Common requests, such as sodium limits, vegetable subgroups, calorie limits, and milk choices are included on the form
- If needing a different Meal Pattern waiver, select “other” and be specific regarding the requirement to be waived

Describe the barrier/hardship you are facing in fulfilling the regulatory requirement

- EXAMPLE “I have built a Grab & Go menu that meets food safety standards and includes all components. I have had to rely some on higher sodium items, such as biscuits more often for breakfast, which has made it difficult to stay within regulatory requirements”

Information about how you will support access to nutritious meals

- If you can't meet the full requirement, what steps are you taking to get as **CLOSE AS POSSIBLE**, be specific
- EXAMPLE “We will continue to monitor sodium levels and provide lower sodium options to the greatest extent possible. When/if changing from Grab & Go, we will re-evaluate and request another waiver if needed”

How does your plan minimize potential exposure to COVID-19?

- Tell us specifically how your plan is designed to protect students and families. Staff convenience is NOT an acceptable reason to request a waiver.
- EXAMPLE “Grab & Go meals will limit staff and student interaction and reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in our schools”

DO NOT INCLUDE:

**“It is more convenient for my staff to do
this”**

REMINDER: Waivers are only approved for the specific circumstance described in the application!

For example, if you are doing Grab & Go items now, transition to using a serving line, then the waiver would no longer apply at that time.

Questions



Non- Discrimination Statement

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Full Statement

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/child-nutrition/usda-nondiscrimination-statement-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=2>



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