

Good afternoon SFSAs,

USDA has issued an additional waiver, Child Nutrition Response #57, and the first Q&A regarding the use of the SFSP during SY 2020-2021. These have both been posted on our website:

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

The waiver (Child Nutrition Response #57) allows SFAs to claim Meals previously served during SY 2020-2021 under the SFSP. This is optional and each SFA will make their own decision. Please see below for considerations and instructions.

### **Option 1, Retroactive Claiming under SFSP:**

- Do not file a NSLP/SBP claim for reimbursement
- Select a date for beginning the SFSP
  - Most SFAs will select the beginning date of school
  - Other dates, such as September 1, may be chosen
  - MARS contract must accurately report days for each program
- Amend SFSP contract to include prior days of operation and all sites that participated
- Only 2 meal types may be claimed for SFSP
  - If claiming Breakfast and Lunch, snack meals may not be claimed
  - CACFP At Risk meals have not been approved for retroactive reimbursement, see below for more information
- Establish a system for refunds for Paid and Reduced students
  - Per USDA Q&A ***“any student who paid for their meals must receive a refund for their meal payments”***
- Upon approval of the SFSP contract/amendment, claim meals under the SFSP

To claim prior meals under the SFSP, your SFSP contract must be complete and include August days of operation. **Attempting to file an August SFSP claim before MARS approval of August sites and days of operation will cause an error and delay your reimbursement.**

### **Option 2, Transitioning from NSLP/SBP to SFSP**

- Verify the NSLP/SBP contract is complete and approved
- Select a future date (not retroactive) for transitioning to the SFSP
- All meals served prior to the transition date will be claimed under NSLP/SBP
- ASCP snacks may be claimed during the NSLP/SBP period, but not when SFSP begins
- No Paid or Reduced meal payments will be collected from students after the SFSP start date

### **Snacks and At Risk Meals**

As noted above, only two meal types may be claimed for the SFSP. Most MS schools are eligible to participate in the CACFP At Risk Meals Program, which includes snacks and/or suppers. The OCN has provided one At Risk training event and will host another on Thursday, September 17, 2020. You must attend training to participate in this program.

For sites that have already served snacks, this will be part of the decision about when to transition to the SFSP and/or utilizing retroactive claiming. Although snack meals may not be claimed for reimbursement for the SFSP, **the increase in overall revenue due to higher SFSP**

**reimbursements may outweigh the loss of revenue from not claiming snack meals.** Each SFA will need to weigh the benefits when deciding which option to implement.

### **Submission of Claims for Reimbursement**

MDE OCN was officially offered and accepted Waiver 57, *Nationwide Waiver to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval and Provide Flexibility for Pre-Approval Visits in the Summer Food Service Program*, on September 15, 2020. The OCN recognizes the delays incurred by SFAs regarding the submissions of Claims for Reimbursement while waiting for USDA guidance. The OCN is waiving the 10 day filing period for Claims for the month of August 2020. **All August Claims for Reimbursement, NSLP/SBP and/or SFSP should be submitted by September 30, 2020.** Please keep a copy of this extension for your records.

Please contact the School Support team if you have questions or need assistance.

We hope everyone remains safe, especially our costal residents as Sally moves through, Scott

Scott Clements, **State Director**  
Office of Child Nutrition and Healthy Schools