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| Department of Education and Early Development Logo | **Agreement to Waive Regulatory Requirement of Congregate Feeding, Meal Time Flexibility, Parent Pick-Up, SSO, and Offer Versus Serve due to COVID-19** | *Child Nutrition Programs**Finance and Support Services**P.O. Box 110500**Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500**Phone (907) 465-8709**Fax (907) 465-8910* |

Alaska Child Nutrition Programs has been authorized to provide waivers for the following for school food authorities wishing to transition to SSO as a result of COVID-19:

* **Congregate feeding** for enrolled students regulatory program flexibility. To qualify for this wavier SFAs must develop meal distribution methods to ensure accountability and integrity. This would include paid and reduce price meal charging. Meal distribution methods may vary by districts risk levels. This is a waiver of federal regulation 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15): Maintain children on-site while meals are consumed.
* **Meal Service Time Flexibility** to align meal service times as necessary. Under Program regulations at 7 CFR 225.16(c)(1), 7 CFR 225.16(c)(2) Child Nutrition Programs meals must follow meal service time requirements. However, FNS recognizes that for school year 2021-2022, waiving the meal service time requirements will support safer access to nutritious meals.
* **Parent or guardian pick-up** for meals for their enrolled children. Sponsors will need to notify the State of their plan to maintain accountability and program integrity. This is a waiver of federal regulation 7 CFR 225.2 (meals), and 7 CFR225.9 (d)(7).
* **SSO Option** for program flexibility FNS has allowed SFAs to utilize the SSO option for SY2021-2022 to ensure safe provision of meals by eliminating the need to collect meal payments, including cash payments, at meal sites thereby reducing contact and potential exposure to COVID-19. This waiver gives school food service professionals greater flexibility to distribute meals at a variety of safe meal sites and provide a more efficient method of meal service in SY2021-2022.
* **Offer Versus Serve** for program flexibility under NSLP. Program operators of senior high schools (as defined by the State education agency) must participate in offer versus serve. However, FNS recognizes that for school year 2021-2022, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, waiving the offer versus requirement will support safe access to nutritious meals. Therefore, for SY2021-2022, FNS waives, the requirement at 7 CFR 225.16(f)(1)(ii) to serve meals using offer versus serve principles to all senior high school students.
* **Offer Versus Serve** for program participants under SSO. Offer Versus Serve is optional under the SSO, but if elected to use, must follow OVS requirements of NSLP and SBP. Program operators participating in SSO you must receive approval from the state agency to elect offer versus serve.

| **Sponsor Name** |
| --- |
| Click or tap here to enter sponsor name. |

Sites that will participate in non-congregate meals as a result of the waiver (*attach additional page for additional sites*):

| **Site Name** |
| --- |
| Click or tap here to enter site name. |
| Click or tap here to enter site name. |
| Click or tap here to enter site name. |

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| **Meals to be offered: *(Breakfast, Lunch, Snack)*** |
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| **Meal Service Time Flexibility (*including parent/guardian pick-up and meal delivery*):** |
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| **Meal Delivery Methods *(Curbside pick-up, Mobile sites, Home Delivery):*** |
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| **Meal *Options (Full week of meals at one time, 2-3 days at one time, Weekend meals, Bulk Food, Shelf-stable meals)*:** |
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| **Meal Counting Method *(Standard POS, Mobile technology, Paper roaster, clicker):*** |
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| **Parent or Guardian Pick-Up *(Describe processes in place to ensure that meals are distributed only to parents or guardians of enrolled children, and that duplicate meals are not distributed* *or attach written procedures)*** |
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| **Election of SSO Option:**  |
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| Yes [x]  |
| No [ ]  |

| **Offer Versus Serve*:*** ***NSLP: Sponsor elects to waive the OVS requirements for High School students*** |
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| Yes [ ]  |
| No [ ]  |
| **Offer Versus Serve*:*** ***SSO: Sponsor elects to implement OVS for selected sites*** |
| Yes [ ]  |
| No [ ]  |

**The sponsor agrees to provide DEED Child Nutrition Programs with the following information at the end of the school year.**

* **A summary of the use of the non-congregate feeding flexibilities by local program operators,**
* **A summary of the use of the parent or guardian pick-up flexibilities by local program operators,**
* **A summary of the use of the meal-time flexibilities by local program operators,**
* **A summary of the use of the SSO option by local program operators,**
* **A summary of the use of the offer versus serve flexibilities by local program operators,**
* **A description of how each waiver resulted in improved services to program participants.**

 **Failure to comply may result in the State Agency denying future waiver requests.**

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Name of Authorized Representative Date

A name below signifies approval of the waiver request by DEED Child Nutrition Programs

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Name of DEED Child Nutrition Programs Date