

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST

- **State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:**

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Child Nutrition Programs
[Jo Dawson](#), Program Manager
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Juneau, AK 99811-0500
907-465-8708

- **Region:** Western Region
- **Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:**

All Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Program (DEED CNP) sponsors approved to operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in good standing.

- **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(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:**

In Alaska, operating the SFSP during unanticipated school closures is most easily performed at school sites. School sites contain stocks of food, proper equipment, and staff that are more readily available. Additionally, in Alaska, many SFSP sites are in rural communities and the school building is the primary community building, and may be the only reasonable option for preparing and serving multiple meals at the same time. During the event of an unanticipated school closure, school sites may often still be safe and easily accessible. For example, the district may experience an unanticipated closure due to a teacher strike. The school is safely accessible to students, a central location, and contains the proper resources and equipment to operate. Not being able to operate at the school site would cause administrative burden for the sponsor, who would need to either find a nearby eligible location to serve at or, more likely, elect to not operate during the closure, potentially wasting food and not feeding children who relied on school meals for food.

The goal of this waiver request is to minimize the administrative burden on SFSP sponsors and expand the number of sites eligible to operate the SFSP during an unanticipated school closure.

By extending the option to operate the SFSP at school sites during unanticipated school closures,

availability of meals to children may be expanded. Administrative burden for sponsors will also be reduced as the school sites are already equipped to serve meals.

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

The Alaska DEED CNP is requesting to waive statutory provision of Section 13(c)(I) of the NSLA (42 U.S.C. 1761(c)(I)) and 7 CFR 225.6(d)(I)(iv), to extend the option to operate the SFSP at school sites during unanticipated school closures.

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

Alaska DEED/CNP will provide detailed information and instructions to the SFSP/SSO sponsors on the waiver process; affected SFSP/SSO Sponsors will be required to apply for the waiver. The use of the unanticipated school closure waiver will be limited to times of documented school closures.

Program sponsors would be required to meet the following criteria in order to be approved by the state agency for a waiver:

Existing Sponsors

- Be in good standing
- Participated in SFSP in current year or prior two years
- Located in an area experiencing a documented unanticipated school closure
 - Sponsor must maintain this documentation
- Sponsor must ensure that the site supervisor is available at the site to document the number of meals served and ensure the integrity of meal service
- Meals served in sealed containers such as sealed sack lunch bags must contain all required meal components

New Sponsors

- Exempt from SFSP application submission deadline
- Area eligibility requirements still apply

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

No barriers have been identified at the state agency level. There are currently no state-level regulatory barriers related to this specific issue. The state agency will be in contact with program sponsors with sites impacted by unanticipated school closures.

- **Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:**

Alaska DEED CNP does not anticipate this waiver will present any challenges to the state agency

or sponsoring organizations. The challenge Alaska DEED CNP and sponsors may face if the waiver is not approved include:

- Absence of meals provided to children during unanticipated school closure
- **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(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:**

Alaska DEED CNP does not anticipate that this waiver will increase the overall cost of the program to the Federal government. The waiver will allow program sponsors and Alaska DEED CNP to continue meal service operations in areas impacted by unanticipated school closures.

- **Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:**

To be effective for the 2020 program year and for the subsequent two years, through September 2022, for a total of three years.

- **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**

Alaska DEED CNP will work with approved sponsors on the application and reporting on this waiver. Monitoring will include documentation of unanticipated school closure. Implementation of this waiver will be monitored by state agency staff during both the application process and through Administrative Reviews.

- **Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS);**

DEED CNP will report to FNS by the following information by December 31st each year that the waiver is in place:

1. The number of sponsors that operated at school sites during unanticipated school closures
2. The number of school sites that operated during unanticipated school closures
3. The number of meals served at school sites during unanticipated school closures

- **Link to or copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:**

[Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs \(https://education.alaska.gov/cnp\)](https://education.alaska.gov/cnp)

- **Signature and Title of requesting official:**



Name: [Jo Dawson](#)

Title: Child Nutrition Programs Manager

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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:

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: