

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. 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
PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
907-465-8708

2. Region: Western Region

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

This waiver is limited to CACFP sponsors in good standing to operate At-Risk sites in areas utilizing modes of eligibility traditionally reserved for SFSP such as eligibility by census and low-income housing.

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

Due to school closure and statewide shelter in place issued by Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy, Child Nutrition Programs is requesting a waiver for CACFP At-Risk sponsors to increase area eligibility. The sponsors are traditionally CACFP At-Risk during the school year and SFSP in the summer months. SFSP has an increased access to low-income students in the ability to target sites by census and low-income housing; these options are not open to CACFP At-Risk sites.

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

7 CFR 226.17a (b)(iv) Except for *Emergency shelters* as defined in §226.2, be located in an eligible area, as described in paragraph (i) of this section.

6. 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 CACFP sponsors on the waiver process; affected CACFP Sponsors will be required to apply for the waiver. The use of the waiver will be limited to times of documented closures due to state and/or local shelter in place closures as a result of COVID-19.

Existing Sponsors

- Be in good standing
- Located in an area experiencing a documented unanticipated school closure
- Sponsor must maintain this documentation
- Sponsor must document site eligibility

7. 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]:

DEED has issued provided technical assistance to support sponsors in providing At-Risk meal programs in areas eligible by school site data; this eligibility limits the access these sponsors have in their communities. The national waiver on enrichment activities supports flexibility for the sponsors.

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

None at this time.

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(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

There is no anticipated increase in costs to the federal government; despite the waiver if approved, we anticipate a drop in participation from what was expected previous to COVID-19.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period: For the remainder of the federal fiscal year, to be revisited if COVID-19 remains an issue.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures: DEED does not plan on conducting any additional monitoring as a result of the waiver, but will require reporting on sites and meals. We may also review documentation from these meal services at a regularly scheduled CACFP and/or SFSP review, such as meal count forms, production records, and cycle menus.

12. Proposed reporting requirements: DEED will review final meal counts when they are submitted with claims for reimbursement in the SFSP Child Nutrition Database. Additionally DEED will report this data in the FNS 44 reports as applicable and fulfill any additional WRO/FNS data requests.

13. Link to or a 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)

14. 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(I)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA**

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: