



Summary Federal and State Waivers (COVID-19)

Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs

NSLP: National School Lunch Program, SBP: School Breakfast Program, SSO: Seamless Summer Option, CACFP: Child and Adult Care Food Program

Expiring June 30, 2022		
Waiver Summary	Effective Dates	Programs Included
National Waiver – Non-congregate Meals Waives requirement for congregate meal, allowing participants to take meals off site. Agencies must obtain written consent from households before initiating delivery.	March 20, 2020 through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/ SBP • SSO • CACFP (all) • FCC
National Waiver – Meal Service Time Flexibility Waives the requirement that specific periods elapse between meals, allowing agencies to distribute multiple meals at one time.	March 20, 2020 through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSL/SBP • SSO • CACFP (all) • FCC
National Waiver – Meal Pattern Flexibility Allows agencies to request a waiver of specific meal pattern requirements. This waiver is more limited than the previous waivers addressing meal pattern flexibility. Requires prior approval from MSDE.	Effective once approved by MSDE through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO • CACFP (all) • FCC
National Waiver - Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Waives the requirement that MSDE take fiscal action for meal pattern violations when those violations are due to supply chain disruptions.	September 15, 2021 through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO
National Waiver – Parent/Guardian Pick Up of Meals Allows parents and guardians to pick up meals on behalf of their children. Also includes guardians picking up food on behalf of adult participants in the CACFP. Requires prior approval from MSDE.	Effective once approved by MSDE through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO • CACFP (all) • FCC

Expiring June 30, 2022

Waiver Summary	Effective Dates	Programs Included
National Waiver – Expanded Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and Family Child Care Allows participating agencies, regardless of their site locations, to serve at-risk afterschool meals and snacks to children. Allows all NSLP snacks to be claimed at the free rate. Allows all children enrolled in FCC homes to be claimed at the Tier I rate.	September 18, 2020 through June 30, 2022 (CACFP – At Risk) July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (NSLP Snack and FCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP Snack • CACFP – At Risk • FCC
National Waiver – Offer versus Serve in the National School Lunch Program Waives the requirement that high schools serve meals using offer versus serve.	July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO
National Waiver – Seamless Summer Option Allows LEA to operate the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during the school year.	July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO
National Waiver – Seamless Summer Option Reimbursement Rates Meals and snacks claimed in the SSO will be paid at SFSP reimbursement rates.	July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSO

Expiring 30 Days After the End of the Federal Public Health Emergency

Waiver Summary	Effective Date	Programs Included
National waiver – Monitoring (National School Lunch Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program) Waives on-site monitoring requirements, allowing sponsoring organizations to conduct reviews off site.	March 25, 2020 through 30 days after the end of the federal public health emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO • CACFP (all) • FCC
National Waiver – MSDE Monitoring (National School Lunch Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program) Waives on-site monitoring requirements, allowing MSDE to conduct reviews off site.	March 25, 2020 through 30 days after the end of the federal public health emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSLP/SBP • SSO • CACFP (all) • FCC

For information about MSDE waiver requests, please see our website:

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/SchoolandCommunityNutrition/Pages/COVID19.aspx>