# Superintendent’s Memo #003-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 10, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Meal Service During Unanticipated School Closures

The purpose of this memo is to provide updated guidance on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) flexibilities available during unanticipated school closures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided recent guidance that School Food Authorities (SFAs) are no longer able to serve meals to students at school sites during unanticipated closures using the Summer Food Service Program.

These unanticipated closures prevent children from receiving educational instruction and the nutritious meals that they would normally receive. Previous policy guidance allowed School Food Authorities (SFAs) to serve meals to students at school sites using the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during unanticipated closures. This option is no longer available. Effective immediately, SFSP and SSO meals served during an unanticipated closure may no longer be served at school sites, per 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv), without a waiver approved by USDA, Food Nutrition Services (FNS). If an SFA wants to provide SFSP or SSO meals during an unanticipated school closure, they must either provide meals at a non-school site or request a waiver from FNS through the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Office of School Nutrition Programs (SNP) during unanticipated closures.

### Operating the Summer Meal Programs

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs, has applied to USDA FNS for a waiver to be able to approve sponsors to operate the SFSP and SSO during unanticipated closures on a case-by-case basis. SFAs must revise their current application in SNPWeb to enter all potential feeding sites. If you anticipate providing meals to students during a school closure, please reach out to your community partners to discuss plans for providing meals to meet your community’s needs. If a non-school site would meet the needs of the community, the SFA should add that site to their SFSP application and notify their regional specialist at VDOE. If the SFA decides that a school site would be the best option, the SFA must submit a waiver to VDOE. [Superintendent’s Memorandum 254-18](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2018/index.shtml), provides details for submitting a waiver to serve SFSP or SSO meals. The Virginia Department of Education is applying for a statewide waiver to allow all SFAs to serve SFSP and SSO meals during an unanticipated closure. Until a determination is made by FNS regarding the statewide waiver, SFAs must submit a waiver to the VDOE to allow SFAs to serve SFSP and SSO meals at schools during an unanticipated closure.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional specialist or email SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov with any questions.

JFL/SCS/BDB/cc