# SNP Memo #2020-2021-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 4, 2020

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Operating the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in the 2020-2021 School Year through December 31, 2020

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the SFSP waivers issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on August 31, 2020. These waivers will support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. Local education agencies (LEAs) are utilizing virtual or hybrid education models for returning to school. In addition, some schools are planning in-person instruction and need to modify meal service to ensure student safety. Meal distribution and planning is proving to be challenging. These waivers will reduce the administrative burden for LEAs and provide benefits to students and parents. Non-school sponsoring organizations may elect to utilize these waivers as well.

### Waivers for the SFSP

The nine waivers include:

* Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020.
* Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites in the SFSP and the SSO – EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver to Waiver First Week Site Visits in the SFSP and SSO – EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in SFSP and SSO – EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the SFSP – EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate Feeding in the SFPS and SSO –EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick-up Meals for Children – EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers – EXTENSION.
* Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the SFSP and SSO – EXTENSION.

### Providing Meals under the SFSP

The *Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations through December 2020* allows states to grant approval for school food authorities (SFAs) and non-school sponsoring organizations to operate the SFSP until December 31, 2020. This waiver will allow sponsors to provide meals to children and teens in the community free of charge. The same flexibilities that were offered this summer will be extended through December 2020. Extension of these waivers will allow for easier access to meals. Meals can be served in non-congregate settings, are available to children and teens in areas below 50 percent free and reduced-price eligibility, may be picked up by parents or guardians, and served without time restrictions. Sponsors must request approval to use offer versus serve in the SFSP and also must request approval of any flexibilities to the meal pattern.

A summary of each waiver can be found in attachment A to this memo.

### Monitoring Waiver

A nationwide waiver was also issued to provide flexibilities in the monitoring requirements in the SFSP. *The Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for Sponsoring Organizations in the SFSP* allows sponsors of the SFSP to monitor their programs offsite.

### Implementing the SFSP

Sponsors can elect to start or extend the SFSP and claim meals starting on September 1, 2020. The [2020-2021 SFSP/SSO Waiver Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sfsp-sso-waivers) must be completed in order to operate the SFSP from September to December 2020. In addition, an approved fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 application must be on file to claim September meals. Sponsors must modify their existing FY 2019-2020 applications to include the month of September. The 2020-2021 fiscal year begins on October 1, 2020. Information on the FY 2020-2021 SFSP application will be forthcoming.

### Important note for SFAs operating the SFSP

The Code of Virginia, 8VAC20-580-20, requires all SFAs with 25 percent or more free or reduced-price meal eligible students to serve breakfast throughout the school year. This regulation applies to any meal program implemented during the academic school year, including the School Breakfast Program, SSO, and SFSP.

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs will provide sponsors additional information as it becomes available. Please contact your assigned regional specialist if you have any questions, or Maggie Parker, Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) Manager, by email at [maggie.parker@doe.virginia.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Caks88732%5CDownloads%5Cmaggie.parker%40doe.virginia.gov).

SCC/MVP/BDB/cc

**Attachment**

A: School Year 2020-2021 Waivers - SFSP