# SNP Memo #2020-2021-23

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**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 Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the 2020-2021 School Year through December 31, 2020

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the latest round of 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.

### Waivers for the SSO

The nine waivers are:

* 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 of Meal Service Time Restrictions in SFSP and SSO – 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) to operate the SSO until December 31, 2020. This waiver will allow sponsors to provide meals to students 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, available to students in areas below 50 percent free and reduced-price eligibility, picked up by parents or guardians, and served without time restrictions. Sponsors must request approval of any flexibilities to the meal pattern. A summary of the waivers is attachment A to this memo.

### Implementing the SSO

Sponsors can elect to start the SSO 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 SSO from September to December 2020. In addition, an approved application must be on file to claim September meals. Sponsors must modify their existing applications to add the months of September through December.

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.

Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. Please contact the specialist assigned to your region if you have any questions.

SCC/BDB/cc

**Attachment**

A: School Year 2020-2021 Waivers - SSO