



#136-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #136-21**

DATE: May 21, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **USDA Releases Nationwide COVID-19 Waivers for School Year 2021-2022**

On April 20, 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) announced the release of 12 new nationwide waivers to provide flexibility to school food authorities (SFAs) and community sponsors implementing federal child nutrition programs and the At Risk Afterschool Meal program of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for school year 2021-2022. This round of waivers focuses on maximizing flexibilities such as operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) rather than the NSLP and reimbursing meals at a streamlined, higher reimbursement rate than the NSLP. The waivers continue to allow non-congregate feeding and parent/guardian pickup of meals to ensure children, their families, and program operators adhere to social distancing guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP), has elected to offer all twelve waivers and offered a webinar on planning for school year 2021-2022 on **Thursday, May 13, 2021**. A recording will be disseminated to SFAs and community sponsors. All newly released waivers are attached to this email, as well as the Question and Answer Memo on monitoring and oversight requirements issued by the USDA-FNS.

School Year 2021-2022 COVID-19 Nationwide Waivers

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow the SSO through School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Time Requirements for School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians Pick-up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the CACFP for School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022.
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs - Revised - EXTENSION 3.
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the CACFP - EXTENSION 3.
- Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the CACFP - EXTENSION 5.

Further, the USDA-FNS released Memo CACFP 09-2021, SP 10-2021, SFSP 05-202, *Questions and Answers Regarding Child Nutrition Program Oversight, Administration, and Reporting during COVID-19*, a monitoring resource for state agencies and local operators. As the USDA-FNS releases additional guidance and clarification, the VDOE-SNP will evaluate the impact of such guidance and distribute it to SFAs and community sponsors.

For more information

Those interested in additional information may contact their VDOE-SNP regional specialist or email the SNP Policy Mailbox at SNPPolicy@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/SCC/CEJ/cc