

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Waiver Request

State Agency (SA) and Region: South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Southeast Region	SA Contact Person and Title: Ronald Jones Director Office of Health and Nutrition (OHN)	Date of Request Submission: March 25, 2020
Email Address: rfjones@ed.sc.gov	Phone Number: 803-734-8205	Name and Title of SA Authorizing Official: Ronald Jones Director Office of Health and Nutrition
Program/ Waiver Type: School Food Authority (SFA) - SSO or SFSP sites to be located in non-area eligible sites	Waiver Request #: SC-#5	
<p>Provide the justification for why the Program waiver is necessary. Include details on how the waiver will improve services under the Program and/or address or remove impediments to the efficient operation and administration of the Program.</p> <p>The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), School Nutrition Program State agency is seeking to increase more SFSP and SSO sites, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(l)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA] As of March 15, 2020, school districts have been implementing National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to children in South Carolina impacted by the unanticipated closure of schools due to COVID-19 conditions. In keeping with Program regulations and the guidance that accompanied SP 08_SFSP 04-2020, Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks, South Carolina school districts have established meal service sites at schools or in areas where 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This process has disenfranchised students who would have, but for the unanticipated school closures, been able to avail themselves of meals through the SBP or NSLP during the normal school day. South Carolina is requesting a waiver for SSO and SFSP sites to operate open sites in non-area eligible locations so that all students traditionally accustomed to receiving meals through the school meal programs can be served during the unanticipated school closures related to COVID-19.</p>		
<p>Identify the statutory or regulatory requirements requested to be waived.</p> <p>SCDE is asking for the flexibility to waive the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 CFR 225 (a) The attendance area of a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children have been determined eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program; • 7 CFR 225 (b) A geographic area where, based on the most recent census data available or information provided from a department of welfare or zoning commission, at least 50 percent of the children residing in that area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program; • 7 CFR 225 (c) A geographic area where a site demonstrates, based on other approved sources, that at least 50 percent of the children enrolled at the site are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. 		
<p>Description of any steps taken to address statutory and regulatory barriers at the State level.</p> <p>SCDE does not anticipate any barriers at the State level upon approval of the said waiver request.</p>		

[Type here]

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Waiver Request

Provide a description of the alternative procedures to be followed by SA staff in order to carry out the requested waiver of Program requirements and the anticipated impact these procedures will have on Program access and agency operation, including technology, SCDE systems, and monitoring, if the waiver is granted.

SCDE does not foresee any anticipated impact on program operations. SCDE will continue to conduct program monitoring in accordance with 7 CFR 210.18 throughout the implementation period of the waiver.

Describe anticipated challenges SCDE may face when implementing the waiver.

Because SFAs plan to use a variety of non-congregate meal distribution strategies, the method of counting and claiming meals may also vary. Many SFAs have networked point of service (POS) systems for counting meals served under this waiver. To ensure the accuracy of claims, SCDE will need to provide additional guidance to SFAs on how to accurately count and claim meals and ensure that each household receives the appropriate number of meals. SCDE plans to communicate this guidance directly to each SFA that requests this flexibility.

Provide the anticipated implementation date and time period for which the waiver is needed.

SCDE does not anticipate any barriers at the State level or eligible service provider level upon approval of the said waiver request. Waivers granted by SCDE will only remain in place during the school closure period. SCDE is proactively making this request based on the best available information to date.

Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall costs of the Program. If the waiver will increase the overall costs, provide details on how the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds.

As this waiver will provide only the meals an SFA normally provides, SCDE does not anticipate an increase to Program costs.

Provide the SA's proposed monitoring review procedures that will ensure proper oversight and integrity of the Program. If applicable, include monitoring details on how the agency will ensure increased costs of the Program will not be paid from Federal funds.

SCDE will maintain a tracking system to identify all operators granted a waiver. SCDE will follow-up with operators routinely to verify that the conditions underlying the waivers continue to exist. SCDE will also provide technical assistance throughout the duration of the waivers.

Provide the SA's proposed reporting requirements of the outcome of the waiver implementation, if it is approved. Include details on how the effect of the waiver on the efficient operation and administration of the Program will be evaluated by the agency. The SA will report this information to FNS after the end of Program operation for the current year.

SCDE will track and report the following to USDA as required:

- Number of operators granted the waivers
- Number of meals served/claimed by operators granted a waiver
- Length of time granted waivers were in effect per site

This data will be analyzed to determine (1) overall impact of COVID-19 on meal service across the state and (2) impact on Program participation.

[Type here]

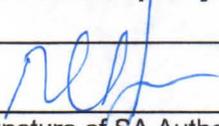
Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Waiver Request

Provide information to support how the agency has provided notice and information to the public regarding the proposed waiver.

Public notice and information of this waiver request is posted on SCDE OHN's web site at <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/nutrition/meal-programs/request-for-waiver-covid-19/>

This CNP waiver request applies to: All CNP Program Operators All CACFP Institutions
 All SNP SFAs All SFSP sponsors

If not all then specify all that apply:



Signature of SA Authorizing Official

3/31/2020

Date

Regional Office Response

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State Agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.

Check this box to confirm that the State Agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

Approved

Effective date of approval _____ Expiration date of approval _____

Denied

Reason for denial:

Signature

Title

Date

[Type here]