

**School Year 20-21 Non-Congregate Meals Waiver Request for Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors to Operate Meal Service During Unanticipated School or Center Closures and Online Student Instruction Due to COVID-19**

1. **State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:**

**Ohio Department of Education  
Office of Integrated Student Supports  
Brigitte Hires, Child Nutrition Program Manager  
25. S. Front St.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
614-425-9760  
Brigitte.Hires@education.ohio.gov**

2. **Region:**

**Midwest**

3. **Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:**

**Any Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsor in good standing approved by the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Integrated Student Supports who wish to provide CACFP non-congregate meal service during an unanticipated school or center closure due to COVID-19.**

**CACFP sponsors that would fall under this waiver would follow USDA and Ohio Department of Education guidance.**

4. **Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, 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]:**

**In school year 20-21 due to COVID-19, Ohio schools and day care centers may have an unanticipated school or center closure due to a COVID -19 outbreak or may have some students in schools unable to participate in an afterschool at risk program because they are required to receive instruction online to minimize risk to COVID-19. The Ohio Department of Education is requesting this waiver to support CACFP sponsors to provide access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure.**

5. **Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:**

**The Ohio Department of Education is requesting waiver of the requirements at 7 CFR 226.19(b)(6)(iii) to serve meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program in a congregate setting.**

**6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:**

**If approved, the Ohio Department of Education will provide technical assistance to CACFP sponsors experiencing a unanticipated school or center closure to provide meal services in a non-congregate manner or are servicing schools in the afterschool at risk program who has students in online instruction to minimize risk to COVID-19. There are no impacts on technology, State systems, or monitoring.**

**7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:**

**There are currently no State level regulatory barriers related to this specific issue.**

**8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:**

**At this time, the Ohio Department of Education does not anticipate challenges from the establishment of this state-wide waiver at the state or sponsor level. Rather, it is anticipated the waiver will allow CACFP sponsors to provide nutritious meals to students who will have online instruction and during unanticipated school closures.**

**9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:**

**The establishment of this waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government.**

**10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:**

**Anticipated waiver implementation start date is: July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 or until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer affecting school or center operations.**

**11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:**

**State agency staff in the Office of Integrated Student Supports will monitor implementation of this waiver.**

**12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):**

Ohio Department of Education will report to FNS all requested data for the waiver in the timelines required by USDA.

**13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:**

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Supporting-Whole-Child-Nutrition>

**14. Signature and title of requesting official:**



Title: Child Nutrition Program Manager

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

[Brigitte.Hires@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Brigitte.Hires@education.ohio.gov)

Phone: 614-466-0522

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:**

*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.*

**Date request was received at Regional Office:**

**Date Received:**.....

**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**

**• Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations:**

**Recommend Approval**

**Recommend Denial**