

Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Severe Weather Waiver

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

**Ohio Department of Education
and Workforce,
Office of Nutrition
Brigette Hires, Administrator
25. S. Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-425-9760
Brigette.Hires@education.ohio.gov**

2. **Region:**

Midwest

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

Ohio SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to operate outdoor meal sites without access to indoor alternative sites as non-congregate sites on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch for the area where the site is located during the timeframe that includes the meal service.

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]:**

The waiver would allow sponsors to pivot to a non-congregate meal operation on a day where there is a potential for severe weather as to be precautionary in nature and not have children out in conditions that could turn hazardous.

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

Non-Congregate Meal Service: [42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(D), and 7 CFR 225.6(i)(15)], meals must be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site.

Meal Service Times: [7 CFR 225.16(c)(1), (2), and (3)], Meals must follow meal service time requirements.

Parent or Guardian Meal Pickup: 42 U.S.C. 1761(f)(3), 7 CFR 225.2 (Meals), and 7 CFR 225.9(d)(7)], meals must be served to eligible children.

Sponsors may not change meal service times less than 24 hours in advance of previously scheduled meal service times. In addition, sponsors must post a printed notice at the site informing participants of the change; notify the community through appropriate channels, such as a school or neighborhood listservs. Sponsors will need to maintain a copy of the NWS declaration by either a screen shot or

printed page of the weather alert.

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

If the waiver is approved, will help prevent food waste, control costs, maintain program participation and limit the exposure of participating children to severe weather.

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 and Workforce does not anticipate challenges from the waiver. The waiver will allow the sponsors to still maintain meal service for children but limit their exposure to potential severe weather.

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:

Waiver implementation would start May 1 or the first day of sponsor operation for the summer program, whichever is later, and expire end of day September 15 or last day of meal service operation of the sponsor for the summer, whichever is first.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

State agency staff in the Office of Nutrition will monitor implementation of this waiver.

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

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce will adhere to all reporting requirements as prescribed by the 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]:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Food-and-Nutrition/Resources-and-Tools-for-Food-and-Nutrition/Food-and-Nutrition-Waivers>

14. Signature and title of requesting official:



Title: Administrator

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

Brigitte.Hires@education.ohio.gov

Phone: 614-466-0522

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

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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or**
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