



Updated March 2021

Quick Guide to Federal Children Nutrition Program Rule Waivers

The United States Department of Agriculture has extended rule flexibilities for all child nutrition programs to make it easier for schools, community organizations and local government to feed children during the COVID pandemic. Following is a quick summary of key rule waivers for the following programs:

NSLP = National School Lunch Program

SBP = School Breakfast Program

SFSP = Summer Food Service Program

SSO = Seamless Summer Option

CACFP = Child and Adult Care Food Program

WIC = Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

Rule Flexibility: Allows meals to be served outside of normal service hours

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: NSLP, SBP, CACFP, SFSP, SSO

Extended to Sept. 30, 2021 for SFSP and SSO.

Rule Flexibility: Allows meals to be served outside of group settings (meals can be distributed at a site where families pick up the meals, as well as be delivered to children's homes)

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: NSLP, SBP, CACFP, SFSP, SSO

Extended to Sept. 30, 2021 for SFSP and SSO.

Rule Flexibility: Allows schools and program sponsors to serve meals that do not strictly meet USDA nutrition guidelines

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: NSLP, SBP, CACFP, SFSP

Extended to Sept. 30, 2021 for SFSP and SSO.

Rule Flexibility: Allows parents to pick up meals without their children being present

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: NSLP, SBP, CACFP, SFSP and SSO

Extended to Sept. 30, 2021 for SFSP and SSO.

Rule Flexibility: Allows schools and other organizations to serve afterschool snacks and suppers outside of a structured environment. Organization can also provide a virtual or take-home activity for educational or enrichment purposes, rather than an on-site activity.

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: CACFP

Rule Flexibility: Allows schools and other organizations to serve children through Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: SFSP and SSO

Rule Flexibility: Allows schools and other organizations to serve all children for free, regardless of the community's level of poverty (Known as area eligibility)

Extended Through: 2020-21 School Year

Affected Programs: SFSP and SSO

Extended to Sept. 30, 2021 for SFSP and SSO.

Rule Flexibility: Allows participants to be approved for WIC without being physically present in a local office, provides remote issuance of benefits to any participant, offers flexibility in food purchasing requirements, including milk, yogurt and whole wheat or whole grain bread, allows current WIC recipients to have benefits added to their eWIC accounts without any further action and can use current eWIC cards for ongoing food benefits

Extended Through: 30 days after the end of the nationally-declared public health emergency

Affected Program: WIC

For more information on each waiver, visit

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/new-jersey#cn>.

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