



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 16, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Nationwide Waivers for Child Nutrition Programs

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided multiple nationwide and state-level waivers for implementation of the child nutrition programs to assist with COVID-19 response. For Summer 2020, the following are important to note:

<u>Waiver</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Program(s) Effected</u>	<u>Date Waiver Expires</u>
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #15: Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the Summer Food Service Program</a>	Waives the requirement that Summer Food Service Program sponsors are required to visit each of their sites at least once during the first week of operation.	Summer Food Service Program	9/30/2020
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #16: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the Summer Food Service Program</a>	Waives the requirements regarding the use of Offer Versus Serve (OVS).	Summer Food Service Program	9/30/2020
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #17: Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions in the Summer Food Service Program*</a>	Waives the meal service time requirements allowing meals served outside of the standard mealtimes.	Summer Food Service Program	9/30/2020

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<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #21: Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations Through June 30, 2020</a>	Allows Unanticipated School Closure meals to be served through June 30, 2020	Summer Food Service Program	6/30/2020
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #22: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs -- EXTENSION</a>	Waives the requirements to serve congregate meals.	All child nutrition programs	8/31/2020
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #23: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program -- EXTENSION TO August 31, 2020</a>	Extends the waiver to allow meal service time flexibility.	All child nutrition programs	8/31/2020
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #24: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs -- EXTENSION to July 31, 2020*</a>	Extends the waiver to allow meal pattern flexibility.	All child nutrition programs	7/31/2020
<a href="#">COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #25: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals For Children -- EXTENSION to August 31, 2020</a>	Extends the waiver to allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for children.	All child nutrition programs	8/31/2020

\*link to be provided at a later date

Sponsors **do not** need to apply for waivers #15-17, #21-23, and #25 through the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Participation in these waivers remains a local decision, but pre-approval to participate is not required by MDE. Waiver #24 (meal pattern flexibility) requires pre-approval by MDE.

### What does this mean for sponsors?

1. The unanticipated school closure SFSP meals has ended.
2. While all sponsors are eligible to participate, only those sponsors approved in the traditional summer food service program (SFSP) have transitioned to SFSP. All meals served through August 31:
  - o can be distributed at approved SFSP locations.

- can be picked up by parents or guardians without children present.
  - can include multiple meals per distribution. Under the SFSP, two meals or one meal plus one snack are allowable per child per day, up to seven days. The only meal combination **not** allowable is lunch and supper.
3. Please note: no meals served prior to an approved SFSP application in place can be reimbursed. Please submit SFSP applications in MEGS+ as soon as possible.
  4. Sponsors that experience a documented supply chain issue may request approval from MDE to claim meals that do not meet meal pattern requirements. Sponsors must make every effort to provide complete, nutritious meals to children; therefore, pre-approval is required prior to using the meal pattern waiver.

Thank you for your continued efforts to feed children. MDE is seeking approval for additional waivers from USDA to assist districts in planning and providing school meals.

For more information regarding these waivers, please contact the Office of Health and Nutrition Services, School Nutrition Programs unit, at [MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-SchoolNutrition@michigan.gov). For additional information on the summer food service program, please visit [www.michigan.gov/sfsp](http://www.michigan.gov/sfsp).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors