

# CHILD NUTRITION

## Seamless Summer Option - SSO

Maine Department of Education  
Child Nutrition Programs  
July 22, 2021  
Updated



Child Nutrition  
Maine Department of Education

# Abbreviations

- ▶ SSO - Seamless Summer Option
- ▶ NSLP - National School Lunch Program
- ▶ SBP - School Breakfast Program
- ▶ SFSP - Summer Food Service Program
- ▶ SFA - School Food Authority
- ▶ USDA - United States Department of Agriculture
- ▶ P-EBT - Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

# Normally SSO:

- ▶ Operates when school is out
- ▶ Offers NSLP & SBP reimbursable meals
- ▶ Has NSLP & SBP reimbursement rates
- ▶ USDA Foods Commodity value is received at NSLP level
  
- ▶ For other aspects of the summer meal operation, SFAs implementing the SSO must follow the SFSP requirements, such as site determination.

# What is SSO SY 2022?

- ▶ SSO offers school food authorities (SFAs) operating the NSLP and/or SBP a streamlined option for providing summer meals by continuing to follow several of the same operational requirements, such as the NSLP/SBP meal patterns and procedures for filing claims and determining student eligibility, while allowing all meals served to be claimed as Free.
- ▶ SSO allows claiming of two meal types
- ▶ Receive SFSP Reimbursement Rates

# Covid-19 Child Nutrition Response # 85

- ▶ Allows Schools to operate SSO during the regular School Year for SY 2022, all students claimed as free
  - ▶ Eliminates need to collect money from students for reimbursable meals served
  - ▶ Reduces meal service time and contact
  - ▶ Allows tick sheet for meal accountability
    - ▶ Yes, Electronic POS is allowed
      - ▶ Need to change the amount charged for the eligibility status of students if using electronic POS

# Covid-19 Child Nutrition Response # 86

Allows School operating SSO to receive Summer Food Service Program reimbursement during the regular school year:

SSO Meal Type	Current Rate
Breakfast	2.4625
Lunch or Supper	4.3175
SSO Snack*	1.0200

\* A maximum of two meals (excluding lunch and supper) may be served under SSO; NSLP snack can be offered along with SSO breakfast and SSO lunch under the NSLP at the SY 22 free rate - 1.00

# SSO Beginning

- ▶ SY 2022
- ▶ SSO begins with the start of SY 2022
  - ▶ Follows NSLP meal pattern with waiver # 90 Meal Pattern Waiver: If needed.
  - ▶ All reimbursable meals free
    - ▶ Breakfast, Lunch & After School Snack

# SY 2022 SSO Reimbursement Rates

- ▶ Will be at the higher Summer Reimbursement rates for every District opting to participate in SSO
- ▶ Will not include \$0.07 Performance Based Reimbursement
- ▶ Will earn USDA foods commodity value at NSLP rate
- ▶ Will receive State matching funds in a bulk amount



# SSO Reimbursement rates

- ▶ Summer reimbursement rates are based on a calendar year.

SSO Meal Type	Current Rate
Breakfast	2.4625
Lunch or Supper	4.3175
SSO Snack	1.0200

- ▶ The reimbursement rates will change January 2022.

# District or School

A District can operate SSO or NSLP/SBP in any school in the District, it is not required all Schools operate the same Program.

One School SSO

One School NSLP/SBP

# Types of sites to operate

- ▶ Open - all children are allowed to receive meals, enrolled or not. Pick up meals or deliver.
- ▶ Restricted Open - see next page
- ▶ Enrolled - Students enrolled in the school

# Closed Enrolled

- ▶ A school may operate a CLOSED ENROLLED feeding site at their school
- ▶ This site would only serve meals to children enrolled in that School

# Open Site

- ▶ Feed any child 18 and younger
- ▶ Feed children not enrolled
  - ▶ Home school
  - ▶ Younger children
- ▶ Can use parent pick up if opt into waiver

# Restricted Open Site

- ▶ An open site for reasons of space, security, safety or control has limited access to meals
- ▶ In recognition of these circumstances, these types of sites operate as restricted open sites. The sponsors must make known publicly that site is open on a first-come first-serve basis to all children of the community at large, but that the meal service will be limited as stated above.

# May SFAs operate SSO at non-school sites in SY 2021-2022

Yes, SFAs participating in SSO have maximum flexibility to serve meals in a way that prioritizes health and safety, including serving meals at non-school sites. However, FNS encourages SFAs to operate SSO at school sites when possible. As schools transition back to in-person learning, SFAs may choose to offer meals only at their school sites. -Recommended

For Enrolled Students

# Private Schools

- ▶ Can operate as a site under your District
- ▶ Can receive vended meals
  
- ▶ Can apply to participate in NSLP and operate under SSO



# Meal Delivered to Homes

Meals can be delivered to homes if feasible with State Agency Approval using the Non-Congregate feeding waiver

The child does not need to be present to receive the meal. The District must have written consent from the family.

# Which Program to offer during the Summer Feeding - July - School Start

- ▶ Summer Food Service Program
  - ▶ Summer meal pattern, no waivers. Once School starts, SSO or NSLP/SBP
- ▶ Seamless Summer Option
  - ▶ NSLP meal pattern, waivers to use for specific items in meal pattern
- ▶ All receive the same reimbursement rates.

# Applications

- ▶ SSO students do not have an eligibility status
- ▶ Applications will still be needed for other financial reasons:
  - ▶ P-EBT funding
  - ▶ Grants
  - ▶ State Funding
  - ▶ E rate
    - ▶ Verification required

# Applications

- ▶ Student applications will still be needed to determine eligibility for P-EBT benefits
- ▶ Promotional letter to send home to families to encourage completing applications can be found on the Child Nutrition web site on the “Student Eligibility & Applications” web page under “Free and Reduced Applications”

# Additional Waivers

- ▶ Additional waivers released at the same time are still in effect for Schools during SY 2022.
  - ▶ Non-congregate feeding
  - ▶ Parent/Guardian pick up
  - ▶ Meal Pattern-must be requested if necessary
  - ▶ Full list here  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/laws/covid19waiversmemos>

# Waivers in effect with SSO

- ▶ 87-Non-Congregate Feeding
- ▶ 88-Meals served outside standard mealtimes
- ▶ 89-Parent/Guardian Meal Pick Up
- ▶ 90-Meal Pattern waiver - Request
- ▶ 92-OVS at High School not required
- ▶ 93-All After School Snacks free rate
  - ▶ Waivers 87, 88, 89, 92 - Opt in to use

- ▶ 87-Non-Congregate Feeding
- ▶ 88-Meals served outside standard mealtimes
- ▶ 89-Parent/Guardian Meal Pick Up
  
- ▶ These waivers should only be used as needed and used less or not at all as schools' transition back to in person learning.

## #90-Meal Pattern waiver - Requested

- ▶ That meets the dietary specification for sodium
- ▶ That all grains offered be whole grain rich
- ▶ That, for pre-schoolers, at least one serving per day, across all eating occasions, must be whole grain rich
- ▶ To offer a variety of vegetables from the vegetable sub-groups
- ▶ To offer a variety of fluid milk - at least two options
- ▶ That low-fat milk must be unflavored
- ▶ To plan menus and offer food components for specified age/grade groups in the stated combinations.
  - ▶ **Only Request if Absolutely Necessary**



# #90-Meal Pattern waiver - Request

- ▶ Usage of this waiver is required to be requested.
- ▶ The request will need to specify why it is needed.
- ▶ Look for more information about this waiver and how it will be requested.
- ▶ **Only Requested if Absolutely Necessary**

# #93 Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs...

- ▶ This waiver allows schools, **regardless of their location**, to claim all National School Lunch Program Afterschool Snack Service snacks at the free rate
- ▶ Example of what SY 22 may look like for schools that typically offer breakfast, lunch and snack during a normal year, assuming they are not in CACFP At-Risk

Meal	Program	Rate
Breakfast	SSO	2.4625
Lunch	SSO	4.3175
Snack	NSLP	1.00

- ▶ CACFP At-Risk is also an option and can operate with SSO. Contact our office for guidance.

- ▶ Districts/Schools WILL NOT operate SFSP during SY 2022
- ▶ Weekend and school vacation days WILL NOT serve reimbursable meals under SSO
- ▶ SSO will be good for entire SY 2022
- ▶ SSO meals served will be reimbursed under the Summer Food Service Free rate for SY 2022 if participating in SSO

- ▶ If a District/School is not in session on a planned day of the week for cleaning or other reasons, if the day will be counted as a School Day, meals can be sent home.
- ▶ If school is closed and it is not going to be counted as a school day, meals may not be sent home.

- ▶ Paperwork must still be retained for 3 years plus the current.
- ▶ Procurement guidelines must still be followed.
- ▶ Checking the DC list at least 3 times a year is still required.
- ▶ Accountability Documentation.

# USDA Waivers

- ▶ <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>
  - ▶ [Click “COVID-19 School Information”](#)
  - ▶ [Click “Covid-19 Child Nutrition Waivers and Memos”](#)
  
- ▶ <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/laws/covid19waiversmemos>

# SP 15-2021

Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs  
Operations in School Year 2021-2022

# SP 16-2021

Previously Issued Questions and Answers Relating to  
Operations of the Child Nutrition Programs For  
School Year 2021-2022

# CNPweb

- ▶ For SY 2022 when entering data into CNPweb SSO must be checked on the Site form to receive Summer Reimbursement.
- ▶ Do not upload the Free & Reduced application or the parent letters.

Additional training on CNPweb will be offered at a later date.



# Misc.

- ▶ Direct Certification stays in NEO
- ▶ Special Provisions, waiting for guidance

