

January 3, 2020

Waiver Request to operate SFSP at school sites during unanticipated school closures

1. **State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:** Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition, Adriane Ackroyd, adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov, 207-624-6726, 136 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333
2. **Region:** Northeast
3. **Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:** Maine is requesting a state-wide waiver for all sponsors who operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) at school sites.
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]:** Maine is requesting a waiver for the allowance of SFSP meals to be served at school sites during unanticipated school closures. This is in response to Memo: SP 04-2020, CACFP 03-2020, SFSP 03-2020 which rescinds the prior flexibility.

Within the past few years, Maine has experienced significant wind storms that have led to school closures due to power outages. In addition, throughout the winter months, severe snowstorms can lead to power outages and school closures. Maine would like to provide the option of the SFSP to be used at school sites to ensure children have access to the food they rely on during the school day. This is especially poignant because they may not have access to resources at home.

5. **Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:** 7 CFR 225.6(d)(1)(iv)
6. **Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:** This waiver allows for Maine to continue a flexibility offered in the past. NEO, the Maine DOE SFSP application and reimbursement system would be used to monitor sponsors who utilize this waiver. Maine DOE would need to make the application available for sponsors to apply to operate the program during unanticipated school closures.
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]:** Maine DOE has not had sponsors take advantage of this flexibility in the past. Families must rely on other emergency resources in times of need. We do not believe there are any regulatory barriers existing at the state level that would impact our ability to implement this waiver.

- 8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:** There are limited challenges anticipated. New sponsors who qualify to operate the SFSP at area eligible schools who have not operated in the prior summer/two calendar years prior will have to complete a new application in NEO.
- 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]:** There would be limited programming changes needed. These would be paid for with state funds rather than federal.
- 10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:** Fiscal Year 2020 with the option of extending to future years if allowable.
- 11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:** Maine would continue monitoring per regulatory requirements. Monitoring will also follow guidance described in the SFSP 03-2020 memo.
- 12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):** Maine would continue to report as required by federal regulations. In addition, Maine will report on the number of sites and sponsors who utilize this waiver, as well as the number of meals served under this waiver. This data can be submitted by August 31st.
- 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://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/sfsp>

- 14. Signature and title of requesting official:** Adriane Ackroyd, Summer Food Service Program Coordinator for Maine



Title: Summer Food Service Program Coordinator
Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:
adriane.ackroyd@maine.gov

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:

- 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:**