

Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request

Maine Child Nutrition DOE

Submitted 07/08/2020

Water available during meal times

1.State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:
Maine Child Nutrition Department of Education, Walter Beesley walter.beesley@maine.gov 207-624-6875

Walter Beesley
Child Nutrition DOE
136 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0136

2. Region: NERO

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

The waiver request is for the NSLP requirement that potable water available and accessible without restriction to children at no charge in the place(s) where lunches are served during 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]: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Sponsors may have trouble meeting the requirement to make potable water available and accessible without restriction to children at no charge during meal service. This request is to allow Sponsors to provide meals to students even if they are unable to provide access to potable water at no charge due to COVID-19 restrictions.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(l)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]: 7 CFR 210.10(a)(1)(i)

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring. Water fountain restrictions have been put in place related to COVID-19 that do not allow potable water to be easily accessible. Offering bottled water to students for free is an expense the program can not absorb either.

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]: Educate Maine DOE and local administrators of current methods under Federal and State regulations and what the waiver would allow. There are currently no state level regulatory barriers that would impact this issue.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:
Communication and education about the ability to waive the potable water requirement.

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]: No cost increase

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period: Implementation of the waiver would be August 1, 2020 until June 30, 2021.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures: Maine DOE staff will monitor implementation of this waiver. We are in regular contact with our sponsors through e-mail, webinars and telephone calls.

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS): Maine DOE is proposing no reporting requirements.

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]: This will be shared on the Child Nutrition web page.

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/laws>

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

Director Child Nutrition Title: Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

walter.beesley@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: