

# ***Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request***

## ***Maine Child Nutrition DOE***

*Submitted March 26, 2020*

*Bulk meals*

**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](mailto: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:**

This would be for eligible summer sponsors and seamless summer.

**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(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:**

Districts offering multi days of meals to be packaged in a bulk format. This would make packing easier and decrease in cost of packing. In some cases, some products are not available in small portion size such as milk. So, a breakfast box for three days may include 3 boxes of cereal qt milk, apple. A sheet would indicate what was in the box and for what meal. The packaging supplies for unit meals is also looking like a possibility in the near future. This would also minimize exposure to families and preparers.

**5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:** Meal is not unitized but with the guidance as provided for both NSLP and SFSP.

**6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:** This change will not affect technology, monitoring or systems. It will make the SFA more efficient and decrease the exposure time for staff.

**7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:** Maine will be using the meal pattern flexibility

**8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:** Educate the SFA and SFA to provide good guidance to the families.

**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(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:** It will not increase cost to USDA, but good decrease cost locally

**10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:** Whereas Maine schools are mostly closed the waiver would start immediately through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 or whichever comes first.

**11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:** routine phone check-ins

**12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS):** No change meals will be reported as required.

**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 was shared in a DOE webinar to all districts and interested parties.  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

**14. Signature and title of requesting official:**

Director Child Nutrition Title: Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:  
[walter.beesley@maine.gov](mailto: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: