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# POLICY UPDATE



## **05.01.2017 Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Guidance and Protocol Memo**

The USDA released [a memorandum](#) to provide guidance for State agencies requesting waivers of Program requirements for the Child Nutrition Programs. These programs include the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the Summer Food Program (SFSP), the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The intent of the memo is to ensure that waiver requests that are submitted are complete and that data demonstrating the outcomes of waived requirements are reported to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Therefore, the memo outlines statutory waiver authority, the waiver request and review process, data reporting requirements, and a revised version of the [Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request Template](#). States are encouraged to use the template for waiver requests for the Programs to ensure that all required information is submitted. If they choose not to use the template, they must ensure that all components in the template are addressed.

## **05.01.2017 Accommodating Disabilities in the School Meal Programs: Guidance and Questions and Answers**

A [Question and Answer \(Q&A\) memorandum](#) was released by the USDA to provide guidance related to accommodating disabilities in the School Meal Programs. The Q&A highlights common situations that have occurred in the past and are intended to give general direction on what local educational agencies (LEAs), school food authorities (SFAs) and schools must do to comply with Federal law and make sure that students with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in the School Meal Programs. The questions are divided into several categories: General Information; What is a Disability; Procedural Safeguards; Requesting a Modification; Making a Meal Modification; Reimbursement for Modified Meals; Accommodations to the Meal Service; Non-Disability Situations; and Miscellaneous. The Q&A memo is meant to be a companion piece to [SP 59-2016: Policy Memorandum on Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in the School Meal Programs](#), which was released in September 2016. Situations should be treated on a case-by-case basis, and if SFAs or schools have questions, they should be directed to the State agency.

## **05.03.2017 Revised Prototype Free and Reduced Price Application for SY 2017-2018**

The USDA released a policy memo on May 3, 2017, announcing their [Revised Prototype Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals for SY 2017-2018](#). In SY 2016-2017 the USDA Office of Civil Rights received 1,700 of these applications in error, as they were actually intended for local officials who make eligibility determinations, and not complaints of discrimination. The applications were forwarded by USDA to the appropriate State and local agencies, and in an effort to make sure the applications go to the right place this year, minor design changes were made in the Prototype Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals. FNS has added, to both the heading of Step 4 of the prototype application and Step 4 in the instructions, a field for program operators to include a mailing address where households may send completed applications. These headings are added to provide additional clarity on where to send the applications, and though inclusion of these elements on application forms developed by State agencies and LEAs is optional, it is encouraged. Attached to the [memorandum](#) are the [application instructions](#), a [Word version of the application](#), and a [PDF version of the application](#).

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA's Government Affairs Coordinator, Lawren Geer, at [lgeer@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:lgeer@schoolnutrition.org)

### **05.10.2017 Transition Period for Updated CACFP, Infant, Preschool Meal Patterns**

Child Nutrition Program (CNP) operators must comply with the updated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), infant and preschool meal patterns by October 1, 2017, according to the final rule “[Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010](#),” which was published April 25, 2016. USDA Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) [latest memo](#) outlines a transition period for the updated meal patterns, and allows CACFP institutions and facilitates and school food authorities a year to adjust to the new requirement without having fiscal actions imposed. The transition period will allow CNP operators to focus on providing technical assistance related to the updated requirements, and therefore remedy non-compliance as best as possible. FNS will continue to monitor any challenges to the implementation of the updated CACFP meal patterns and the updated school meal programs’ infant and preschool meal patterns, and encourages state agencies and CNP operators to provide feedback.

### **5.22.2017 Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection – Child Nutrition Labeling Program**

In the Federal Register on May 22nd there was a [notice from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service](#) (AMS) for an extension of and revision to the currently approved information collection for the Child Nutrition Labeling Program. The Child Nutrition Labeling Program is a voluntary technical assistance service to aid schools and institutions that participate in child nutrition programs in determining the contribution toward the food-based meal pattern requirements of the programs. Manufacturers can submit a label application for their product and AMS determines the contribution a serving of the product makes toward the food-based meal pattern requirement.

### **5.30.2017 Study of School Food Authority (SFA) Procurement Practices**

USDA published notice of a study of [School Food Authority Procurement Practices](#). Data will be collected from a subsample of the SFA population participating in the second year of the [Child Nutrition Program Operations Study-II](#) (CN-OPS II) (OMB Number 0584-0607). The SFA Procurement Practices Study will describe and evaluate the decision-making processes of SFAs regarding school food procurement practices. Comments on this record collection are due July 26, 2017, and can be submitted through [Regulations.gov](#).

*Questions or comments?*

*Send them to SNA’s Government Affairs Coordinator, Lawren Geer, at [lgeer@schoolnutrition.org](mailto:lgeer@schoolnutrition.org)*