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POLICY UPDATE



2.12.2020 FNS Announces Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the CACFP

FNS published the [Federal Register notice](#) “Delayed Implementation of Grains Ounce Equivalents in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.” In this notice, FNS announced corrections to the presentation of the meal pattern tables from the final rule that was published on September 25, 2019. All changes became effective on February 12, 2020.

2.19.2020 USDA Announces Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published a Federal Register notice requesting comments on the proposed records collection required for the [Summer Food Service Program Integrity Study \(SFSP\)](#). The study aims to obtain information about the administration and oversight of the SFSP and to identify potential barriers to ensuring the integrity and effective management of the program. The study will collect data from State Agency directors and staff, local SFSP sponsor directors and staff, and SFSP site supervisors using web-based surveys and telephone interviews.

2.21.2020 Department of Labor Consumer Price Index Comment Request

The Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is [soliciting comments](#) concerning the proposed extension of the “Consumer Price Index (CPI) Commodities and Services Survey.” Changes in the CPI impact National School Lunch and Breakfast Program reimbursements which are adjusted annually by the USDA based on the change in the CPI series, “Food away from Home.” Comments must be submitted by April 21, 2020. View SNA’s submitted comments.

2.28.2020 SNA Comments on Proposed School Meal Flexibilities

SNA has [submitted](#) detailed comments in support of the USDA proposed regulation to simplify school meal service and monitoring requirements in the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP). The [comments](#) reflect the input of SNA members nationwide and emphasize the need to ease overly complex and burdensome administrative and meal planning mandates.

3.17.2020 Proposed School and Summer Meal Rules Comment Period Extension

USDA announced it is extending the deadline for the public to comment on [proposed rules](#) on school and summer meals reforms.

3.20.2020 Federal Register: SY2020-2021 Income Eligibility Guidelines

The USDA has posted [income eligibility guidelines](#) to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk effective from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

USDA has Announces Several New Waivers for School Meal Programs During COVID-19

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has [announced](#) additional nationwide waivers to grant states flexibility for meal service during COVID-19 school closures. These waivers include:

Questions or comments?

Send them to SNA’s Government Affairs and Media Relations Coordinator, Hailey Frye, at hfrye@schoolnutrition.org

- [Unexpected School Closures](#): In the early days of the pandemic response FNS provided guidance and flexibility regarding where and how school meals could be served during closures.
- [Pandemic EBT](#): FNS is allowing states to provide benefits (similar to SNAP or “food stamps”) to children who normally receive free or reduced-price school meals.
- [Nationwide Meal Times Waiver](#): FNS is letting meals be served to kids outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pick-up.
- [Nationwide Non-congregate Feeding Waiver](#): FNS is allowing meals to be served in non-group settings to support social distancing.
- [Nationwide Afterschool Activity Waiver](#): FNS paused requirements for enrichment activities to accompany afterschool meals & snacks.
- [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#): FNS is giving states the flexibility to serve meals that do not meet meal pattern requirements when needed.
- [Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver](#): FNS is allowing parents/guardians to pick-up meals and bring them home to their children.
- [Nationwide Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) Data Waiver](#): FNS is extending CEP election, notification, and reporting and deadlines for school year 2020-21.
- [Nationwide Waivers of Child Nutrition Monitoring](#): FNS extended certain administrative deadlines related to CEP because of school closures.
- [Area Eligibility Waivers](#): FNS is working with states to increase the availability of meal sites.
- [60-Day Reporting Waiver](#): Under its FFCRA authority, FNS is extending the 60-day reporting deadline for all state agencies, school food authorities, and CACFP and SFSP sponsoring organizations for January and February 2020.
- [Child Nutrition Q&As](#): Information on child nutrition program flexibilities in response to COVID-19, including authorities as provided through FFCRA.

For a complete list of nationwide waivers and FNS actions to respond to COVID-19, visit USDA’s [resources webpage](#).

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