

Unanticipated Closures

Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs who experience unanticipated closures, such as a teacher strike, extreme weather events, major building repairs, or other similar causes, may utilize the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Requirements

- ✓ Your organization must be approved to operate SFSP or SSO.
- ✓ You must have participated in the summer program in one of the two previous years.
- ✓ Contact your program specialist to determine if operating SSO or SFSP is a feasible option.
- ✓ If your organization serves meals during unanticipated school closures, these meals are reimbursed at the SFSP meal reimbursement rates.
- ✓ If your organization participated in SFSP during the current year or in either of the two prior calendar years, you must submit a new site application.
 - Sponsors applying for participation in the Program due to an unanticipated school closure are exempt from the application submission deadline.
- ✓ Area eligibility requirements still apply for service during unanticipated school closures, except in certain disaster situations.
- ✓ State agencies also may waive the requirement that, during unanticipated school closures, SFSP and SSO meals must be served at non-school sites. This would allow school sites to be used unless doing so would present a safety concern
 - Example: it is possible that schools could be closed due to snowy conditions in parking lots and on adjacent sidewalks in the early morning hours, but by lunchtime, the snow has been cleared allowing safe access to school buildings.
- ✓ At-risk afterschool centers that normally offer a snack and supper after school may instead choose to offer either lunch and a snack, or breakfast and a snack
 - These meals and snacks would be reimbursed through CACFP at the free rate.

Best Practices

- Create an emergency plan – include information such as:
 - Different scenario plans – snow days, strikes, other unanticipated closures
 - Will you donate food you can't use?
 - Is there a partner you can direct families to?
 - How will you use local resources to announce meals?
 - Consider announcing closures on the local news channel, adding that you will be serving meals.
 - Use reader boards.
 - Social media resources.

OSPI CNS School Meal Programs Reference Sheet

Reference:

Resources:

- [SFSP 18-2016, CACFP 26-2016, SP 55-2016](#)
- [SP 46-2014, CACFP 12-2014, SFSP 18-2014](#)
- [SP 37-2015](#)

Acronym Reference

-CNS	Child Nutrition Services
-FDP	Food Distribution Program
-OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
-USDA	United States Department of Agriculture