

OSPI Child Nutrition Services Reference Sheet

Unanticipated School Closures

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released several waivers relating to the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs during unanticipated school closures. Federal Child Nutrition Program sponsors who experience unanticipated closures, such as natural disasters, unscheduled major building repairs, labor-management disputes, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, may utilize certain Child Nutrition Programs to offer meals to children.

Requirements

- ✓ Sponsors must be good standing with OSPI and a current program operator.
- ✓ Sponsors may operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO), Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Program (CACFP At-Risk) or the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (NSLP/SBP).
 - **If remote learning is offered during the school(s) closure:** NSLP/SBP/CACFP may be operated.
 - **If remote learning is NOT offered during school(s) closure:** SFSP/SSO/CACFP may be operated.
- ✓ The [Unanticipated School Closure Survey](#) must be submitted and approved prior to beginning meal service.
 - If the closure lasts more than 10 consecutive days, OSPI will have to coordinate with USDA to receive additional approval for continued operations.
- ✓ If interested in operating a CNS program during a school closure, please email [your program specialist](#) for further information.

Statewide Waivers

- ✓ **Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver**
 - This waiver allows meals to be eaten off-site.
 - May be implemented for NSLP/SBP, SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk.
- ✓ **Meal Service Time Flexibility Waiver**
 - This waiver allows the service of multiple program meals together and meal service outside of time restrictions.
 - May be implemented for NSLP/SBP, SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk.
- ✓ **Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver**



- This waiver allows parents/guardians to pick up meals on behalf of their children. Sponsors must implement a procedure with this waiver that meets the criteria below:
 - Ensure meals are provided to parents/guardians of eligible children.
 - Prevent the service of duplicate meals.
- May be implemented for NSLP/SBP, SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk.
- ✓ **Offer versus Serve for Senior High Schools Waiver**
 - This waiver allows sponsors to use a serve-only meal service style for grades 9–12.
 - May be implemented for NSLP/SBP.
- ✓ **Enrichment Activity Waiver**
 - This waiver allows afterschool meals and snacks to be served without an educational or enrichment activity.
 - May be implemented for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals.

Resources

- [SP 04-2020, CACFP 03-2020, SFSP 03-2020](#)
- [SP 46-2014, CACFP 12-2014, SFSP 18-2014](#)

Acronym Reference

- CACFP – Child and Adult Care Food Program
- CNS – Child Nutrition Services
- NSLP – National School Lunch Program
- OSPI – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- SBP – School Breakfast Program
- SFSP – Summer Food Service Program
- SSO – Seamless Summer Option
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture