

OSPI Child Nutrition Programs Reference Sheet

Ramadan Waiver

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) statewide waiver request to allow local Program operators to serve meals in a non-congregate setting to participants fasting during Ramadan. Under the waiver approval, OSPI's local Program operators may serve meals in a non-congregate setting, adjust the time of meal service, and senior high schools are not required to use offer versus serve for lunch during Ramadan.

This waiver is available in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). In CACFP, this waiver is available for emergency shelters, adult day care centers, outside-school-hours care centers (OSHCC), and the at-risk afterschool component.

Requirements

- ✓ The [Ramadan Waiver Request Survey](#) must be submitted and approved prior to non-congregate meal service.
- ✓ Sponsors must be in good standing with OSPI and the operation of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.
- ✓ Sponsors may only operate non-congregate meal service during their local observance of Ramadan.
- ✓ All components of a reimbursable meal must be served.
- ✓ Special Dietary Needs must be accommodated.
- ✓ Program Integrity must be upheld with systems in place to ensure:
 - Accurate meal counting and claiming.
 - Ex. Pre-order systems, by-name roster, electronic point-of-service software
 - Meals are provided to enrolled children.
 - Duplicate meals are not served.
- ✓ USDA Child Nutrition Programs must be operated in compliance with the local Health Department's guidance and recommendations for non-congregate meal service.
 - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) may need to be updated.
 - Staff must be trained on local health & safety regulation compliance.



Ramadan Waiver Flexibilities

- ✓ **Non-Congregate Feeding**
 - This waiver allows meals to be eaten off-site.
- ✓ **Meal Service Time**
 - This waiver allows the service of multiple program meals together (i.e., breakfast and lunch) and meal service outside of time restrictions.
- ✓ **Offer versus Serve for Senior High Schools**
 - This waiver allows sponsors to use a serve-only meal service style for grades 9–12.
 - May be implemented for NSLP/SBP only.

Best Practices

- ✓ Notify households and promote availability of meals under the Ramadan waiver on the website.
- ✓ Communicate waiver information in a language that parents and guardians can understand.
- ✓ Develop a pre-order survey to forecast how many meals to prepare.
- ✓ Provide reheating and cold-holding instructions (as applicable) with the meals.
- ✓ Designate a meal pick-up time and location.
- ✓ Utilize an electronic point-of-service meal counting system to prevent the claiming of second meals.

Resources

Washington State Waiver Requests

- [Ramadan Non-Congregate Waiver Request](#)

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