

OSPI Child Nutrition Services Reference Sheet

Meal Service During Unanticipated School Building Closures

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released several waivers relating to the operation of the Child Nutrition Programs during unanticipated school building 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), or Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).
- ✓ **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP):**
 - Sponsors who operated SFSP in the summer prior to the school year experiencing unanticipated school closures are eligible to operate.
 - Sites must be area eligible, located in an area where at least 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals based off school or [census data](#).
 - Two meals (except lunch and supper) or one meal and one snack may be served and claimed for reimbursement.
 - [SFSP](#) or [NSLP/SBP Meal Pattern](#) (LEAs only) requirements apply.
- ✓ **Seamless Summer Option (SSO):**
 - Local Education Agencies (LEAs) currently approved to operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are eligible to operate.
 - Sites must be area eligible, located in an area where at least 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals based off school or [census data](#).
 - Two meals (except lunch and supper) or one meal and one snack may be served and claimed for reimbursement.
 - [NSLP/SBP Meal Pattern](#) requirements apply.
- ✓ **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP):**
 - Sponsors currently approved to operate the CACFP are eligible to operate, including child care centers, adult day care centers, emergency shelters, day care homes, outside-school-



hours care centers, and/or at-risk afterschool sites.

- At-Risk Afterschool sites must be area eligible, located in an area where at least 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals based off school data.
- One meal and one snack or two snacks may be served and claimed for reimbursement.
- [CACFP](#) or [NSLP/SBP Meal Pattern](#) (LEAs only) requirements apply.
- ✓ The [Unanticipated School Closure Meal Distribution Plan \(MDP\)](#) must be submitted and approved prior to beginning meal service.
 - If the closure lasts more than 10 consecutive, operating days, OSPI must receive approval from the USDA to allow continued operations.
- ✓ If interested in operating a Child Nutrition Program during a school closure, please email [your program specialist](#) for further information.

Statewide Waivers

- ✓ **Service of Meals at School Sites Waiver**
 - This waiver allows meals to be offered at school sites during school closures.
 - May be implemented for SFSP and SSO.
- ✓ **Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver**
 - This waiver allows meals to be eaten off-site.
 - May be implemented for SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk.
- ✓ **Meal Service Time Flexibility Waiver**
 - This waiver allows the service of multiple program meals together, multi-day meal packs, and meal service outside of time restrictions.
 - May be implemented for 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 SFSP, SSO, and CACFP At-Risk.
- ✓ **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
- LEA – Local Education Agency
- MDP – Meal Distribution Plan
- 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