

Child Nutrition Program Waiver Request

Maine Child Nutrition DOE

*Parent/Guardian Pick-Up Waiver
Submitted May 8, 2020*

1.State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

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Child Nutrition DOE
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Augusta, ME 04333-0136

2. Region: NERO

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

This would be for eligible Maine Summer Food Service Program Sponsors in good standing.

4. Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

If Maine Department of Education (MDOE) is approved for the non-congregate feeding waiver extension due to COVID-19, this waiver would allow parents/guardians to take meals home for children. As Nationwide waiver #5 advises, this supports access for children while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19. Continuing to require children to come to the meal site to pick-up meals may not be practical and in keeping with the goal of providing meals while also taking appropriate safety measures.

The Governor of Maine has released a plan to safely reopen, which runs through at least August. The plan limits gatherings to less than 50 people and maintains physical distancing requirements. Providing MDOE with both a non-congregate waiver extension and an extension on the Nationwide Parent Guardian Pick-up waiver ensures SFSP in Maine aligns with the plan.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]: 225.2(meals) and 225.9(d)(7)

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring: This would be a continuation of a waiver already in place.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

Educate MDOE and local administrators of current methods under Federal and State regulations and what the waiver would allow. There are currently no state level regulatory barriers that would impact this issue. This is a continuation of a waiver already in place.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

This is a continuation of a Nationwide waiver already in place. No further challenges are anticipated.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]: The only additional cost MDOE anticipates is the staff costs to review waivers and any follow-up USDA wishes to do.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period: July 1 – September 30, 2020

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures: DOE staff will continue to monitor the implementation of this waiver.

12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS): Within 1 year after the date the waiver is approved, MDOE will report a summary of the use of this waiver by MDOE and local program operators and a description of whether and how this waiver resulted in improved services to program participants.

13. Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]: This will be shared on the MDOE Child Nutrition website.

14. Signature and title of requesting official:

Title: Director Child Nutrition

Requesting official's email address for transmission of response:

walter.beesley@maine.gov

TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.

Date request was received at Regional Office:

Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: