



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Braddock
Metro
Center

1320
Braddock
Place
Alexandria
VA 22314

March 28, 2020

Tamra Jackson
State Director
Nutrition Programs
Wyoming Department of Education
122 West 25th Street, 2nd Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Ms. Jackson,

This letter is in response to the Wyoming Department of Education's (WDE) waiver request to maintain children's access to meals during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, submitted March 17, 2020. WDE requests a waiver of the restrictions on site eligibility requirements in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Specifically, WDE requests to waive the requirement that open sites must be located in areas where at least 50 percent of NSLP participants are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Instead, Wyoming requests to offer all participating SFSP sponsoring organizations the option to serve and receive reimbursement for meals at open meal sites that do not meet the 50 percent or more free or reduced price eligibility requirement during unanticipated school closures.

In its request, WDE asserts that allowing these additional sites will ensure that participants who normally receive meals from NSLP will maintain access to the nutrition that is needed. WDE states that this waiver will maintain children's access to the SFSP meal service during school closures related to the pandemic. To maintain children's access to meals, and to support families experiencing financial hardship, WDE requests to waive 7 CFR 225.2.

Pursuant to the waiver authority granted under Section 2102(b) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) (the Act) to approve waivers that may increase cost to the Federal Government and have the purpose of providing meals and meal supplements, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves this request. However, State agencies must have a plan for ensuring that new meal sites are targeting benefits to children in need, for example, children who may be newly eligible for benefits due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. State agencies should work with local Program operators in developing their plans as local Program operators are best situated to determine how to provide these assurances. This approval applies to sites operating during temporary school closures related to COVID-19. Additionally, FNS reserves the right to withdraw this approval subject to availability of funding.

Therefore, effective as of March 18, 2020, this waiver allows SFSP sponsors in good standing to operate open sites in areas approved by WDE and consistent with the State plan, but that are not located in areas in which poor economic conditions exist as defined by the NSLA at section 13(a)(1)(A) and regulation at 7 CFR 225.2, 225.6(c)(2)(i)(G),

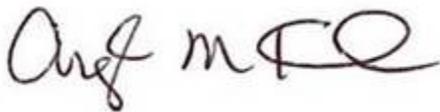
225.6(c)(3)(i)(B), 225.6(d)(1)(i), 225.14(c)(3), and 225.16(b)(4). This waiver remains in effect until June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. While WDE requests this waiver through October 2020, FNS limited the duration of the waiver to assess its impact and the need for continued flexibility. FNS recognizes that there may be a continued need for this waiver, and will carefully assess the situation on an ongoing basis.

As required by this waiver approval, WDE must submit a report to the Secretary not later than 1 year after the date such State received the waiver. The report must include:

- A summary of the use of this waiver by the State agency and local Program operators,
- A summary of how new meal sites were targeted to benefits for children who were previously eligible or newly eligible for program benefits due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, and
- A description of whether and how this waiver resulted in improved services to Program participants.

FNS appreciates WDE's commitment to work with sponsors to meet the nutritional needs of children during a challenging time. If you have questions, please contact the FNS Mountain Plains Regional Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Kline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Kline
Director
Policy and Program Development Division

cc: Debby Hammack, MPRO