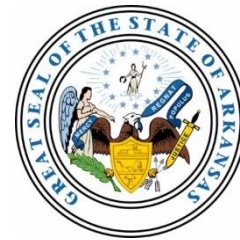




Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education



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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
FROM: DCCECE / HNU
DATE: MAY 12, 2020
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020

This is an important notice regarding the recent COVID-19 Nationwide Waiver to Extend Unanticipated School Closure Operations through June 30, 2020.

The Reichard B. Russell National School Lunch Act at 42 U.S.C. 1761 (c)(1), and Program regulations at 7 CFR 225.6 (b)(1), 7 CFR 225.6 (b) (4), 225 (c)(1), 225.6 (c)(2)(i)(G), 225. 6 (c)(3)(i)(B), 225.6 (e)(1)(iii), 225.7(a), 225.7 (d)(1)(i), 225.14 (a), and 225.15 (d)(1) limit SSO and SFSP operations during unanticipated school closures to the period from October through April of each school year. Unanticipated school closure operations reduce administrative burden by exempting Program operators from certain requirements, such as pre-operational training requirements. Across the Nation, schools and community organizations have used this flexibility to provide meals to children during the public health emergency.

Arkansas DHS is opting into this waiver for Sponsors operating under an APPROVED COVID-19 Waiver Plan. The intent of this waiver is to allow State agencies to permit Program operators to operate under current unanticipated school closure requirements (regardless of their current closure status) for the duration of this waiver. The waiver allows SSO, SFSP and CACFP At-Risk to continue their APPROVED COVID-19 Waiver Plan operations through June 30, 2020. (FNS has confirmed that an SSO or SFSP and a CACFP At-Risk may operate in conjunction with each other through this Extended Unanticipated School Closure Waiver.)

Original Nationwide Waiver for Unanticipated School Closure Operations in Child Nutrition Programs was in effect through April 30, 2020. This waiver extends original waiver effective immediately and remains in effect through June 30, 2020.

Please keep this memo on file for quick and easy reference. A copy is also available on the resource library under HNP Mass Alerts and COVID-19 References. If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact your Program Coordinator at: 501-682-8869.