




State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION
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To: School Business Administrators, Charter School Leads; Non Public School Administrators;
Food Service Directors of Schools Participating in the School Nutrition Programs

From: Arleen Ramos-Szatmary, Coordinator 
School Nutrition Programs

Date: September 10, 2020

Subject: Revised Meal Service Options for the Academic School Year 2020-2021

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week the extension of critical waivers for the Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Option through December 31, 2020, thereby providing additional meal service options for School Food Authorities to utilize as schools reopen this fall. These options now include:

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): SFAs previously approved to operate the Summer Food Service Program may continue to utilize the Summer Food Service Program through as late as December 31, 2020, dependent on available funding. Existing SFSP sponsors may add additional schools/sites to their previously approved SFSP applications to reflect site participation. SFAs may contact Vanessa Ho at Vanessa.Ho@ag.nj.gov or Simi Kaur at Simi.Kaur@ag.nj.gov for additional information or questions on extending the current SFSP Application.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO): Effective August 31st, the USDA is allowing SFAs to utilize the Seamless Summer Option from September 2020 through December 2020, dependent on available funding. Participation in the Seamless Summer Option allows SFAs to provide meals free of charge to all students and claim all meals at the “free” rate of reimbursement. It allows SFAs to utilize a tally method in order to reduce contact and increase efficiency of the meal service. SFAs are reminded that up to two meals, or one meal and one snack, per child, per day may be claimed, in any combination except lunch and supper.

School Food Authorities approved to operate Open Sites under SSO may provide meals free of charge to all students aged 18 and younger at the start of the school year, as well as persons over 18 with disabilities as defined in the regulations, regardless of eligibility status. Siblings of enrolled students and out of district placements such as students attending a charter school, a technical school, or an approved private school for students with disabilities may also be provided with free meals.

Schools approved to operate Closed Enrolled Sites under SSO may provide meals free of charge to only those students enrolled in the site.

School Food Authorities previously approved to provide free meals through the Seamless Summer Option must first revise their existing FY 2020 SSO Application to reflect to the month of September 2020 **by the deadline of September 30th**. It is imperative that this step be completed by the deadline so as not to impact September reimbursement. Instructions for revising the FY 2020 SSO Application are attached.

SFAs who did not previously operate SSO have the opportunity to participate. The entire FY 2020 SSO Application Packet must be completed prior to the deadline of September 30th. SFAs should only select September 2020 as the operating month.

The FY 2021 SSO Application, which covers the months of October 2020 through December 2020, will be available to complete in SNEARS beginning on October 1, 2020.

National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and Afterschool Snack Program: SFAs may continue to utilize the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program and the Afterschool Snack Program throughout the 2020-2021 School Year. SFAs choosing to claim under these traditional School Nutrition Programs must ensure that meals are made available and accessible to all students, and must be claimed at the applicable free, reduced or paid eligibility categories.

All Residential Child Care Institutions, Juvenile Detention Centers/Jails and SFAs participating only in the Special Milk Program **must** continue utilizing the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Afterschool Snack Program for reimbursement.

Regardless of which option is chosen, SFAs must continue to process the Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals and conduct Direct Certification as instructed.

The NJDA recognizes and deeply acknowledges the commitment, effort and patience required by all school personnel in ensuring that New Jersey students have access to nutritious and safe meals. Questions may be directed to your School Nutrition Program Specialist.