



# “Utilizing Current USDA Flexibilities to Serve Our Students”

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Recorded March 1, 2021



ISBE School  
Wellness  
Conference

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## Agenda

- Four Key Flexibilities
  - SSO and SFSP Operations
  - Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver
  - Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Waiver
  - Meal Times Waiver
- Other Nationwide Waivers
- P-EBT
- Emergency Operation Costs Reimbursement Programs
- Resources



## Allow SFSP/SSO Through June

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP and SSO Operations Through December 2020 issued Aug. 31, 2020.
- USDA issued extension on Oct. 9, 2020, allowing schools to operate SFSP/SSO through June 30.



## Non-Congregate Feeding

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs extension issued June 25, 2020.
  - Applies to NSLP, SBP, CACFP
  - Effective through June 30, 2021
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding in SFSP and NSLP SSO extension issued on Oct. 9, 2020
  - Effective through June 30, 2021

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## Allow Parent/Guardian to Pick Up Meals

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children. Approved for 2020-21 School Year for School Nutrition Programs. (6/25/20)
- Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver for Summer Meals (SSO and SFSP). Extended through June 2021. (10/9/20)



## Meal Service Time Flexibilities

- Meal Service Time Flexibility in the NSLP, SBP, and CACFP. Approved for 2020-21 School Year.
- Extended in SFSP/SSO Through June 2021, after initially being extended until the end of December.





## Other Nationwide Waivers

- **Meal Pattern Waiver:** The USDA is giving states the flexibility to serve meals that do not meet meal pattern requirements when needed.
- **Area Eligibility Waivers:** Applies to the Summer Food Service Program and NSLP Seamless Summer Option.
- **Child Nutrition Monitoring:** The USDA has provided flexibilities for certain monitoring and review requirements.



## What is Pandemic EBT?

- The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer Program is part of the U.S. government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The purpose of P-EBT is to provide food assistance to families with students who would have received free or reduced lunch while attending school but are not receiving these meals in school due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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## Pandemic EBT for School Year 20-21

- Illinois was one of the first states to be approved for P-EBT for School Year 2020-21.
- Current P-EBT plan for SY 20-21 is very different than P-EBT in the spring, which required families to apply on the IDHS site unless they were already approved for SNAP.



## Pandemic EBT Resources

- Visit ISBE's P-EBT website at [www.isbe.net/pebt](http://www.isbe.net/pebt)
- Email ISBE staff at [pebt@isbe.net](mailto:pebt@isbe.net) with questions



## Emergency Operation Costs Reimbursement

- USDA Memo: SP 06-2021, CACFP 05-2021:
  - Child Nutrition Program Emergency Operating Costs During COVID-19
- USDA issued state agencies guidance outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021
- Additional reimbursement for lost revenue incurred due to COVID-19 related restrictions and closures March-June 2020.
- Child Nutrition Program eligible operators of NSLP, SBP, and CACFP



## Resources

- **USDA COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities:**  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/illinois>
- **ISBE Nutrition Department:**  
[www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition)
- **Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer:**  
[www.isbe.net/pebt](http://www.isbe.net/pebt)



## Questions?



- [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net)
- (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491
- [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition)

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