

Update on the Keep Kids Fed Act

The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department is working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding the [Keep Kids Fed Act](#). The bill was passed by Congress and signed into law on June 25. We are working quickly to develop guidance and implement the new law.

A new waiver request process will be available soon in ISBE's Web-Based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS) to report use of available waivers. Where needed, sponsors can begin to utilize such waivers as non-congregate meals, parent pickup, and meal-time flexibility. Meals should continue to be served as unitized meals, with portioned components served as a unit.

There is a new nationwide waiver to extend area eligibility for Summer 2022 operations. That means those sponsors who were not eligible to operate the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option may now operate Summer Meals, which provide meals at no charge to all children 18 and under.

Please review the new nationwide waivers and watch for additional guidance.

On June 30, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service released a suite of four Child Nutrition Program nationwide waivers and flexibilities based on authority amended by the Keep Kids Fed Act to support CNP operations in Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-23. The new nationwide waivers and flexibilities, listed below, increase funding, supports access, and balances operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals:

- [Child Nutrition Nationwide Waiver Update for Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-2023](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 5](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2022 Operations – EXTENSION 4](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates for the Seamless Summer Option in Summer 2022](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Fiscal Action Flexibility for Meal Pattern Violations Related to COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruptions Impacting School Meals in School Year 2022-2023 – EXTENSION](#)

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