

USDA Extends Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment Deadline

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) requires all schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to complete a triennial assessment of their Local School Wellness Policy at least once every three years. Triennial assessments must determine, for each participating school under its jurisdiction, 1) compliance with the wellness policy, 2) how the wellness policy compares to model wellness policies, and 3) progress made in attaining the goals of the wellness policy.

Due to school closures related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes the increased challenges schools may face in completing the required triennial assessment of their Local School Wellness Policy. As a result, FNS has established a nationwide waiver for schools unable to meet the originally determined deadline.

Previous guidance under the HHFKA required schools to complete their first triennial assessment by June 30, 2020. Under the nationwide waiver, FNS has provided a **new deadline of June 30, 2021. Sponsors intending to utilize the waiver must complete this short [survey](#) no later than June 30, 2020.** Schools that are on track to complete their first triennial assessment by the original deadline are encouraged to do so.

For more information and resources on Local School Wellness Policies, please visit <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Local-School-Nutrition-Wellness-Policy.aspx>. Any questions can be directed to Beth Tanner of the Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department at etanner@isbe.net.

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