

USDA Issues Area Eligibility Waiver for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced the [Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Care Component](#). This waiver allows schools and afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to serve at-risk afterschool meals and snacks to students after the regular school day through Dec. 31, 2020.

Waiving area eligibility for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Care Programs is consistent with the Summer Food Service Program and Summer Seamless Option and allows a smooth transition to these models, eases administrative burdens associated with traditional school meal operations, and ensures student safety. It also ensures that schools and afterschool care centers are able to meet the nutrition needs of students by providing each child with the maximum meal benefits available through the Child Nutrition Programs. Therefore, FNS waives for all states the area eligibility requirements under 42 U.S.C. 1766(r)(1)(B) and 7 CFR 226.17a(i) to allow schools and afterschool care centers, regardless of their location, to operate the CACFP at-risk afterschool care component.

To implement this waiver, program operators must have a plan for ensuring that new meal sites are targeting benefits to children in need, for example, children who may be newly eligible for benefits due to the impacts of COVID-19. Sponsors would submit this plan along with the new site(s) application documents.

*Nutrition Department, Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777
cnp@isbe.net, www.isbe.net/nutrition*