

Waiver Submission Process Update

As announced in the Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department's [Sept. 21 webinar](#), the [waiver submission process](#) initiated at the beginning of the school year is pivoting due to updated U.S. Department of Agriculture guidance.

Sponsors still must complete [School Sponsors Waiver No. 3](#) for non-congregate, mealtime flexibility, and/or parent pickup of meals if they need to utilize these waivers for in-person students because of COVID-19 through Dec. 31. Any waiver requested should only be used for the time needed due to COVID-19, as all sponsors should work towards compliance with all USDA program requirements, operating the school and community nutrition programs as normal, such as meals served and consumed on campus directly to students at the normal meal times.

There is no formal approval letter that is sent out after submission of the waiver request. We understand the need for the flexibilities with the pandemic and sponsors can use them accordingly. Staff will reach out if we need more information or clarification. We stress maintaining detailed documentation supporting use of all waivers available for School Year 2021-2022.

Sponsors will no longer need to submit the School Sponsors Waivers No. 1 survey for Onsite Monitoring; NSLP Offer Vs. Serve Grades 9-12; Sodium Target, SSO Meal Pattern Flexibility Through Sept. 30, 2021, and; Non-Congregate/Mealtime/Parent Pickup Flexibility for Remote/Quarantine Students ONLY. Requirements for requesting School Sponsors Waiver No. 2 is also paused (SSO/NSLP/SBP Meal pattern Flexibility Oct. 1 Through Dec. 31, 2021).

Instead of collecting these two surveys, the ISBE Nutrition Department will be reaching out at a later date to collect data from sponsors on the utilization of them. Be sure to document the use of all waivers. We recommend some sort of supply chain disruption journal to log and note all issues (dates, product, quantities, contacts made, etc.)

A list of Child Nutrition Programs nationwide waivers and flexibilities is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/illinois>. Visit the [SNP Back to School Conference webpage](#) for more School Year 2021-2022 resources.

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