

USDA Extends Flexibilities Through the Summer

On Tuesday, March 9, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the nationwide extension of several waivers that allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals this summer when schools are out of session.

They include key flexibilities allowing non-congregate feeding, parent/guardian meal pickup, and flexible meal service times. These flexibilities are now available through Sept. 30, 2021. The waivers were previously extended only through June 30, 2021.

No action is required by sponsors at this time. The Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition Department will be reaching out to sponsors soon to determine end dates for School Year 2020-21 and operation plans for this summer.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service's [Child Nutrition Waiver Update](#) summarizes the new flexibilities for summer 2021 operations for the Summer Food Service Program, the National School Lunch Program, and the NSLP Seamless Summer Option. For more details, here are the new extensions:

- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2021 Operations](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations](#)

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