

Community of Practice Call

COVID-19 Emergency Food Service

June 18, 2020

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CENTER FOR
ECOLITERACY

CALIFORNIA FOOD
FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS™



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California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy





Inspiration • Support • Guidance

for

School Nutrition Professionals

For more information about SY 20-21 services:

jennifer@lunchassist.org

recap of last call

- school reopening guidance
- summer waivers
- waiver todo list
- heroes act
- farmers to families box
- new USDA tip sheets
- p-EBT outreach tools
- leadership corner: race & equity

USDA COVID-19 Child Nutrition Program Nationwide Waivers To Do Lists for California Child Nutrition Programs

NSLP & SBP

✓ To Do:	Flexibilities Covered:
Community Eligibility Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Download CALPADS, enrollment, and other lists between now and June 30.● Determine if you are eligible for CEP.● If you are eligible, apply by Aug 31.	CEP Deadline Extension
Administrative Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If you had a review during SY 19-20, email the reviewer to complete the audit remotely, or delay until SY 20-21.	Monitoring Requirements for SNP Sponsors
Local School Wellness Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If you haven't completed the Triennial Assessment of the LSWP, complete the LSWP Triennial Assessment Extension Waiver Survey to postpone the deadline to June 2021.	LSWP Triennial Assessment Deadline Extension

SSO

✓ To Do:	Flexibilities Covered:
Email snpinfo@cde.ca.gov to inform them that you will be operating emergency meal services under the SSO.	Meal Service Times, Non-congregate Feeding
Update CNIPS Application Packet for SSO.	Meal Service Times
Meal Pattern <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Complete the Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver Survey	Meal Pattern
Parent Meal Pick Up <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have a written plan in place; keep on file for recordkeeping requirements and/or future audits.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ See the LunchAssist Sample Policy & USDA Tip Sheet	Parent/Guardian Meal Pick Up
Administrative Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If you had a review during SY 19-20, email the reviewer to complete the SSO audit remotely, or delay until SY 20-21.	Monitoring Requirements for SNP Sponsors
Site Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If SSO site reviews are completed from your desk, submit the CNP Monitoring Waiver Survey.	Monitoring Requirements for SNP Sponsors
Area Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If any of your SSO feeding sites have less than 50% of students qualified for F/R meals, then complete the CNP Area Eligibility Waiver Survey.	Area Eligibility Flexibility for Closed Enrolled Sites, Area Eligibility Flexibility for Open sites

agenda

- district spotlights
- funding/advocacy
- school reopening guidance
- policy updates
- resources
- leadership corner
- discussion

usda professional standards

2450, 3220, 3220, 3410, 4150



next call



join us next month!

9-10 a.m. PDT

school food innovators







california state advocacy update

CA legislature's proposed budget

- **\$112.2M** for “school meal reimbursements during summer and COVID closures” will be included in Senate and Assembly versions of the budget
- **\$10M** for Farm to School and CDFA Office of Farm to Fork

budget process

june 15

legislature passed
initial budget



july 1

next fiscal year
starts



aug 31

end of legislative
session



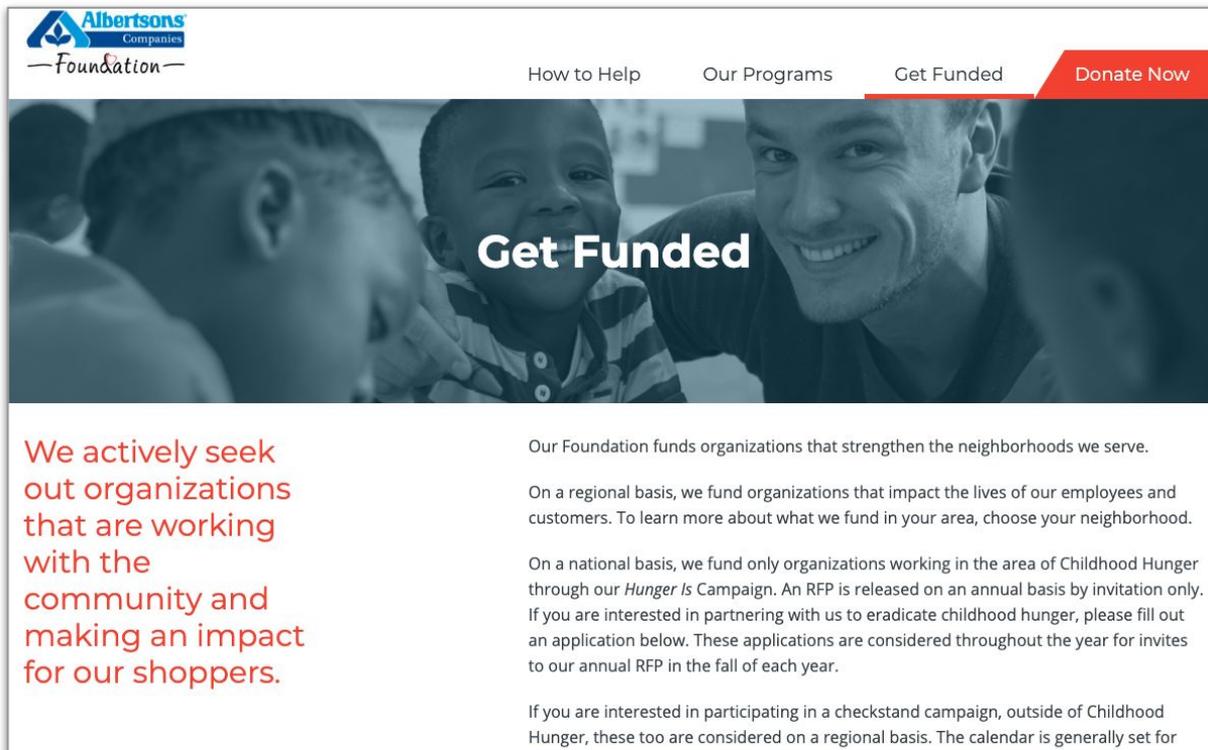
join the advocacy efforts

- tweet at @CAGovernor to ask him to support school food
- contact me: abby@ecoliteracy.org



**additional funding
opportunities**

nourishing neighbors summer meals grant



Albertsons Companies Foundation

How to Help Our Programs **Get Funded** Donate Now

Get Funded

We actively seek out organizations that are working with the community and making an impact for our shoppers.

Our Foundation funds organizations that strengthen the neighborhoods we serve.

On a regional basis, we fund organizations that impact the lives of our employees and customers. To learn more about what we fund in your area, choose your neighborhood.

On a national basis, we fund only organizations working in the area of Childhood Hunger through our *Hunger Is* Campaign. An RFP is released on an annual basis by invitation only. If you are interested in partnering with us to eradicate childhood hunger, please fill out an application below. These applications are considered throughout the year for invites to our annual RFP in the fall of each year.

If you are interested in participating in a checkstand campaign, outside of Childhood Hunger, these too are considered on a regional basis. The calendar is generally set for

due june 22
up to \$100,000

<https://albertsonscorporation.com/foundation.versaic.com/login>

national farm to school network funding

NFSN COVID-19 Relief Fund

National Farm to School Network is adapting our work during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep supporting the farm to school and farm to early care and education (ECE) community in this rapidly changing and challenging environment. As part of those efforts, we have created a **COVID-19 Relief Fund** to to support the efforts of organizations that are helping kids and families continue eating, growing and learning about just and sustainable food – and farmers continuing to produce and supply it – during this global pandemic.

Round two of our COVID-19 Relief Fund application is now open. Organizations that seek financial support of their efforts to connect kids and their families to just food through the support of local farmers and food systems are welcome to apply. In our commitment to standing in **solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement** and **Native communities, where the coronavirus has had devastating impacts, organizations that directly serve and are led by Black people and Indigenous people will be prioritized in application review.**

[LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE](#)

Questions about our COVID-19 Relief Fund application can be sent to RFA@farmtoschool.org.



Help Grow our COVID-19 Relief Fund

All gifts made to the National Farm to School Network at this time will go directly towards growing our COVID-19 Relief Fund and our COVID-19 response efforts. We are committed to ensuring our resources are reaching systematically underserved communities that are most in need. We deeply appreciate your donations, big and small, in helping us make the greatest impacts with these efforts.

[DONATE NOW](#)

due july 6
up to \$10,000

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePG2NcXvIukdcnvwOImd6-uy3hPu84qPiXYLd_LPBjdajS2A/viewform

california: reimbursement during a disaster

special funding for unanticipated school closures

- CA Ed Code section 49505
- fixed costs for schools that have experienced unexpected closures
 - schools closed during the entire closure; or
 - schools closed for part of the closure
- emergency feeding sites not eligible unless they were closed on certain dates. the dates they were closed are eligible.
- **no guarantee** - *“contingent on available funds”*
- application deadline: asap or **before august 20**

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/disaster.asp>



policy updates

summer waivers

confirmed:

- non-congregate
- meal time flexibility
- parent meal pickup
- area eligibility 🎉
- meal pattern 🎉

expiring:

- FFVP funds
 - must spend by 6/30
 - may now serve at alternate sites ([contact state agency for approval](#))
- supper/snack enrichment
 - expires 6/30 😞

USDA Waivers #1-3

RELEASED MARCH 20, 2020

What You Need to Know:

USDA issued 3 new waivers on Friday, March 20, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The 3 waivers apply to all states, and address three issues related to meal service.

Note: This resource has been curated for child nutrition programs in the state of California. For all other states, contact your State Agency for approval to use these waivers.



Waiver #1: Meal Times

Meals and snacks can be provided at times that best meet the needs of the communities, even if the times are outside of federal guidelines. For example, all meals for the day could be provided at 10 AM.

TO DO:

For CACFP, complete the CDE CACFP Agency Waivers Request Survey and update meal service times in CNIPS. For all other programs, email sninfo@cde.ca.gov and then update details in CNIPS.

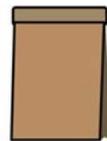


Waiver #2: Non-congregate Feeding

For the safety of the community, all meals and snacks may be taken and consumed off-site.

TO DO:

For CACFP, complete the CDE CACFP Agency Waivers Request Survey and update feeding locations in CNIPS. For all other programs, email sninfo@cde.ca.gov and update CNIPS details.



Waiver #3: Afterschool Activities

CACFP At-risk Afterschool and NSLP snack programs may serve suppers and snacks without educational or enrichment activities.

TO DO:

Complete the CDE CACFP Agency Waivers Request Survey and update CNIPS as needed.



SY 20-21 waivers

confirmed:

- USDA foods entitlement 🎉
 - SY 18-19 used for SY 20-21

desired:

- universal feeding
- extend all existing SSO/SFSP
- create new waivers for NSLP/SBP
- **others?**

An overall decline of revenue for school meal programs due to COVID-19 closures has left most School Food Authorities (SFA) with a critical lack of funds to meet these shifting demands and the ability to restock school kitchens for the coming school year. In a [recent SNA survey](#), over 90% of responding school meal program directors anticipate a financial loss (68%) for their programs for SY 2019/2020 or are uncertain about financial losses (23%). Among the 861 school districts estimating their financial losses, combined total losses exceeded \$626.4 million.

To ensure students' consistent access to healthy school meals in the face of these challenges, USDA must act quickly and provide school meal programs and industry clear guidance and maximum regulatory flexibility for the entirety of the upcoming school year. SNA urges USDA to allow school meal programs to continue serving students through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) next school year

by immediately extending the following COVID-19 waivers to the end of SY 2020/2021 and waiving vegetable subgroup requirements for SSO given procurement and offer versus serve challenges during the pandemic:

- [Unexpected School Closures](#)
- [Nationwide Meal Times Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Non-congregate Feeding Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Afterschool Activity Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver](#)
- [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\) Parent Pick Up Waiver](#)
- [Nationwide Waivers of Child Nutrition Monitoring](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver of Food Management Company Contract Duration Requirements](#)
- [Nationwide Waiver of Local School Wellness Assessments](#)
- [Area Eligibility](#): SNA also requests a **nationwide** waiver of SFSP/SSO Area Eligibility requirements, which limit "open site" meal service to areas where at least half of the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

With more than 40 million Americans filing for unemployment since COVID-19 closures, far more students will qualify for free and reduced-price school meals this fall, but distributing and processing applications for newly-eligible families is a herculean task for overburdened schools. **USDA should allow all schools to provide universal meals this coming school year - breakfast and lunch for all students at no charge.** Universal meals during this challenging time will ensure children are fueled for learning, minimize regulatory and paper work burdens on schools and families, and support efforts to maintain social distancing during meal distribution.

School meal programs also depend heavily on USDA Foods to reduce meal costs and offer students a wide range of U.S. grown foods. SFAs should be allowed to carryover any unused entitlement balances from SY 2019/2020 to SY 2020/2021, and USDA should utilize lunch participation data from SY 2018/2019 when calculating state entitlement values.

In light of President Trump's recent [Executive Order](#) to provide regulatory relief to speed the nation's pandemic recovery, USDA should consider all means to minimize regulatory burdens on school meal programs this coming school year, including, but not limited to meal pattern flexibilities and extensions of professional standards, administrative and procurement review timelines.

SNA recommends USDA form a Program Sustainability Task Force to provide insight and direction on managing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on school meal programs. This advisory group, comprised of school meal program operators, State agency staff and industry experts could meet monthly to advise on critical concerns and solutions.

advocacy

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY

ABOUT NEWSROOM HEARINGS LEGISLATION NOMINATIONS LIBRARY CONTACT 🔍

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reach out to your
senators
especially those on
this committee

[https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/
about/membership](https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/about/membership)

planning for *sy* 20-21

toolkit coming soon!

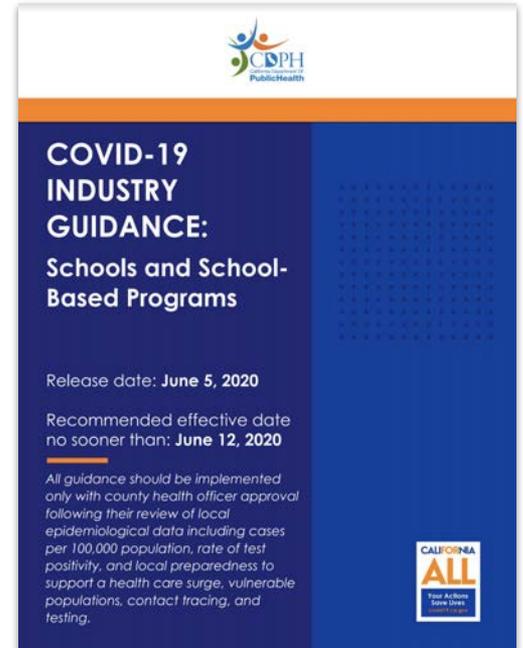
reopening schools



california department of public health

COVID-19 industry guidance: schools and school-based programs

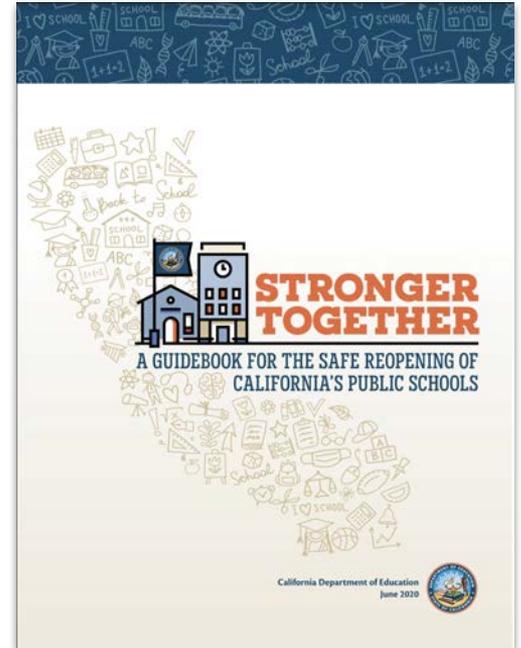
- promoting healthy hygiene habits
- cleaning, disinfection, ventilation
- implementing social distancing in & out of classrooms
- education for staff & families
- planning for when a staff member or student gets sick



california department of education

stronger together: a guidebook for the safe reopening of california's public schools

- CDE's overall safety recommendations
- instructional scheduling models
- curriculum, expanded learning, social emotional health
- early childhood education
- school food service; assumes a blended learning model with possible transition to other scenarios throughout the year



COVID-19

THOUGHT STARTERS

ON REOPENING SCHOOLS
FOR SY2020-21



Claiming a Seat at the Table

Make sure your concerns are heard before decisions are made.

Effective and ongoing communication is a critical component to reopening schools in a safe, controlled manner. School nutrition operators must claim a seat at the table with other key school stakeholders to be part of the discussion on feasible models for foodservice during SY2020-21. "We are the experts in our field," exclaims Donette Worthy, SNS, Director of Child Nutrition, Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) School System. "As the experts, we have to make sure we are voicing what needs to happen."

Unfortunately, this kind of inclusivity is simply not a part of the administrative culture in many school districts. Too often, school nutrition experts are not consulted, but merely informed. This short-sighted approach is fraught with problems that inevitably fall on *your* shoulders to resolve. This is why you shouldn't simply shrug your shoulders in resignation or voice your frustrations only on social media. Don't wait in vain for an invitation that may never come. While it's advisable to walk a careful tightrope between self-advocacy and alienating powerful decision-makers, there are proactive steps you can take to being heard.



You never know when an informal opportunity may arise to ensure school meal considerations are taken into account. Keep an outline of key talking points or facts on a notes app on your smartphone or write down some questions or concerns that you fear will be

example instructional scheduling models

two day rotations

meals on-site + take-home meals for the next day(s)

A/B alternating weeks

meals on-site + curbside pick up

AM/PM staggered schedule

AM - breakfast & lunch on-site
PM - lunch & snack on-site
+ take-home meals

full-time in-person

meals on site

distance learning only

curbside pick up + home delivery

tell us about your district!

engage your stakeholders

- principals, teachers, food service staff
- school nurses & classified support staff
- students & parents
- school board, building & education administrators, business office



LET'S TALK

resources

REOPENING CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

How to Use this Tool: Download this checklist and keep it handy as you work through all of the considerations for reopening your meal service program. Pick and choose what will work best for you and your district! Continue to consult with your state agency and local health authority.

SERVICE MODELS + AREAS

- Bus routes
- Cafeteria / MPR / gyms
- Campus cruiser carts
- Classroom
- Curbside
- Drive-thru
- Food truck
- Grab n' go
- Home delivery
- Kiosk
- Other authorized meal sites (public libraries, parks, community centers)
- Outdoor
- Shorter, more frequent meal periods
- Weekend & holiday meals
- *Have a backup plan: what if the kitchen/school shuts down!
- _____

FOOD PREPARATION

- Adjust shifts to minimize number of staff in the kitchen at one time
- PPE & sanitation products easily accessible throughout kitchen
- Social distance workflow
- Use tape to mark 6' work stations
- Wrapping/containers for cold items
- Wrapping/containers for hot items
- _____

MEAL SERVICE

- Hand sanitizer available at meal service
- Individually wrapped condiments
- More trash cans
- Pause salad bars for now
- Pause self-service buffets for now
- Pause share tables for now
- Physical barriers
- Sanitize between meal times
- Smaller groups of students
- Social distancing at tables
- Staggered meal times

- Use tape to mark 6' for students
- _____

SCHEDULING

- Extra time for meal assembly
- Extra time for meal distribution
- Extra time for meal prep
- Extra time for sanitization
- Extra time to deliver meals
- High risk staff that might be omitted
- High risk staff that might need alternative tasks
- Staff that may be unable to work due to other reasons (illness/child care)
- _____

STAFFING

- Cross-training (train on essential duties in case of key absences)
- Dietetic interns
- Health check-ins
- More staff may be needed
- Multiple work teams
- Promote employee wellness
- Recruit other school employees
- Recruit unemployed restaurant workers
- [Training - Back to School](#)
- [Training - COVID-19 protocols](#)
- Update list of staff available for in-person, remote, and on-call work
- Update sick policy, if applicable
- Volunteers
- _____

POINT OF SALE

- Alternate POS stations
- Cashless operation
- Hand sanitizer available at POS
- Physical barriers
- Touchless pin pad/scanner solutions
- _____

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Adapt BIC procedures for lunch
- Adapt BIC procedures for take-home
- Apply for CEP
- Download [Paperwork to Keep on File](#)
- Download [Walver To Do List](#)
- Maintain MPR's & daily meal counts
- Procedures to count reimbursable meals (roster, checklist, portable electronics) regardless of where they are served
- Receipt of written consent from family for home delivery of meals
- Training and oversight for teachers or alternative staff who may be newly responsible for meal counts
- _____

MENUS

- 1-2 Entrées per day
- 1-2 Week cycle
- Bento box-style meals
- Continue to offer culturally relevant and vegetarian options when possible
- Limit à la carte
- Plan for special diets
- Promote Farm to School
- Serve student favorites
- Utilize USDA & surplus foods
- _____

FOOD

- Collaborate w/distributors regarding availability
- Connect w/local suppliers
- Maintain inventory of shelf-stable food
- Modify annual bid items
- Modify annual bid quantities
- Plan for increased food waste
- _____

EQUIPMENT + SUPPLIES

- Clear plastic countertop shields
- Disposable aprons
- Disposable disinfectant wipes
- Disposable gloves
- Disposable trays
- Disposable utensils
- Face coverings

- Food packaging supplies
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand soap
- Hands-free water bottle fill stations
- Insulated bags
- Items for self-packaging
- Masking tape
- Meal bags/boxes
- Meal count solutions for meals in classroom
- Mobile serving carts
- Mobile warmers & coolers
- Paper towels
- Physical barriers/partitions
- Portable POS
- Promote prepaid meals/update meal charge policy
- Reusable water bottles for staff
- Social distancing decals
- Stickers to designate special diets
- Surface sanitizer
- Thermometers
- Tissues
- Transport boxes/bags
- Utility carts and wagons
- Water solutions for students
- _____

COMMUNICATIONS

- Custodial - extra trash cans
- Families - meal applications
- Families - meal service options
- Families - Special Diet protocols
- Students - meal service options
- Students - nutrition education
- Teachers & Staff - meal service options
- Banners
- Email
- e-Newsletters
- Media releases
- Print materials
- Robocalls
- School marquees
- Social media
- Text messages
- Website
- _____

fact sheet for summer meals

Calling all Districts! USDA Summer Meals Can Keep Kids Healthy

Despite COVID-19 school closures, California schools can continue to serve meals over the summer with support from USDA's extension of waiver flexibilities. This resource will help you get started and provide tips for running successful and sustainable programs.

The Critical Importance of School Meals This Summer

With unprecedented levels of unemployment, far higher than at any time since the Great Depression, hunger is likely to look very different in your neighborhoods. Families whose children never before needed free and reduced-price school meals will need free, healthy food this summer.

How to Operate While School is Closed

All schools may be approved to operate under the NSLP's Summer Seamless Option (SSO). Schools that have been approved to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFS) during the previous two years may select that option. To operate either program, submit a request to SNPINED@cde.ca.gov. Refer to [COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) from California Department of Education (CDE) for complete and updated information on how to provide school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is Eligible for Meals?

Under the SFS and SSO, **any child 18 years or younger** (and students of any age who are disabled) may receive meals. USDA's flexibilities during COVID-19 waive area eligibility requirements so that all children may receive free meals until at least June 30, 2020 (extension is pending). Schools with fewer than 50% of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals must seek approval from CDE by submitting the online [Area Eligibility Waiver Application](#). For SFS and SSO closed enrolled sites, use [SESP Extension Waivers](#).

What Meals or Food Assistance Can Be Offered?

With CDE approval, meals may be provided every day including **weekends, holidays and previously scheduled non-instructional days**.

Schools can apply to provide meals all summer long, regardless of whether summer activities or programs would have taken place. Meals may be offered daily or for multiple days (up to one week) at one time. Allowable meals include up to three meals per day or two meals and one snack. Food items may be offered in bulk, such as gallons of milk, loaves of bread, or whole fruits and vegetables. School sites that are eligible for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and CACFP At-risk Afterschool Meals may continue to offer program foods during school closures until June 30, 2020. Reimbursement rates vary by program. Visit the CDE website for the current [Child Nutrition Program reimbursement rates](#).

See [FAQs from USDA](#) and [CDE's SFS/SSO Summer Meals 2-page factsheet with checklist](#).

How to Take Advantage of Flexibilities Provided by Waivers

California Heroes

California school districts are stepping up to provide school meals after closures due to COVID-19, and have played an indispensable role in keeping children and families healthy. We can apply lessons learned since March to set up a robust summer program that serves California's communities during a time when it's needed most.

CDE urges "that LEAs take steps to ensure that these opportunities are available to all students, especially disadvantaged students."

Innovation & Success – Tips from Districts around California

Staff Safety and Well-being

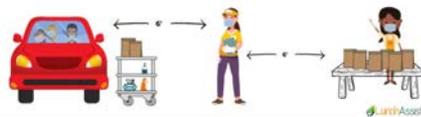
- Create safety protocols and train staff on the protocol
 - Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Worker safety in food prep and cooking
 - "No contact" handoffs at drive throughs, walk up stations, and delivery sites
- Consider staffing strategies such as staggered or alternating shifts or designated teams
- Make time for check-ins and recognition to build trust and cohesiveness with your team

Free COVID-19 Meal Service Resources:

- [Safety Precautions Toolkit](#)
- [Social distancing meal service signage cards](#)
- [Safety tip sheets in English and Spanish](#)
- [Mask use tip sheets in English and Spanish](#)
- Find all these and more, [here](#)

Food Supply and Meal Provision

- Increase quality, and reduce labor and food waste by providing items such as fresh fruit, vegetables and milk [in bulk](#).
- Consider using some of your USDA Foods commodities entitlement to purchase otherwise expensive local fruit and vegetables through USDA's DOD Fresh Program
- Leverage emergency procurement and micro-purchasing to support local farms
- Schedule meal pickup times that work for parents who are essential workers and work long hours
- A [School Nutrition Association survey](#) shows how districts across the country are distributing food:
 - 64% of districts utilize multiple meal distribution methods
 - 81% have drive through pick up sites
 - 58% allow students/families to walk up to feeding sites
 - 42% deliver meals directly to student homes
 - 32% utilize bus routes for distribution
 - 13.5% partner with local food banks/organizations to provide meals/food assistance



Financial Considerations

- Be sure to use up your Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) funds by June 30
 - Note: in California, parents may pick up FFVP foods
- Increase participation rates by maximizing your number of meals served through June 30
 - Apply for weekend and holiday meals
 - If you were previously approved to operate a CACFP At-risk Afterschool Meals program, send supper and snacks home for up to seven days per week between now and June 30
- Consider applying for Community Eligibility (CEP), using 4/1-6/30/20 ISP data. [Info here](#)
- Reduce packaging costs by sending foods in bulk rather than in individual portions



Register for Upcoming CEP Webinars

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides school meals to students at no cost to them. Are you considering adopting or expanding CEP this school year? Newly eligible and want to learn more? Register for No Kid Hungry's upcoming webinars to learn more about how to make CEP work for your team and your students this year.

CA-specific CEP webinar
Thursday, June 18 at 2PM PT
[Register!](#)

National CEP webinar
Tuesday, June 30 at 11AM PT
[Register!](#)



center for BEST
PRACTICES



CEP / MEALS COUNT



Meals Count is a free tool to help school districts optimize their USDA CEP Application, to get more reimbursements for school meals, and help fight child hunger.



Maximize your CEP Funding with **Meals Count**

Meals Count is a free tool to help school districts optimize their USDA CEP Application, to get more reimbursements for school meals, and help fight child hunger.

Meals Count is under active development, and may change. If you have any feedback, comments or questions, please contact [us](#)

[Learn More](#)

[Find Your District](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Live Demo

June 22nd

3pm

CEP fact sheets

Taking a Fresh Look at the Community Eligibility Provision during COVID-19



The Community Eligibility Provision

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal option that allows schools in high-poverty areas to serve universal free breakfast and lunch. CEP aims to:

- (1) reduce administrative burden for schools by eliminating the need to collect and process household free and reduced-price meal applications and
- (2) increase meal participation rates by removing stigma.

Individual schools, groups of schools, or entire districts are eligible for CEP if their identified student percentage – ISP, or the percent of students who are directly certified for free meals – is 40 percent or greater. Meal reimbursement is calculated using a formula based on a school's ISP.



Take action to adopt CEP

Due to COVID-19, ISPs at schools across the country are expected to increase, making more schools and districts eligible for CEP. Check with your state administering agency to learn how COVID has impacted ISPs in your district. Schools in your district might be newly eligible for CEP, or your reimbursement rates may have increased, making CEP more financially favorable. If your district is already participating in CEP, you may also be able to re-enroll for a new four-year CEP cycle and lock in a higher reimbursement level. **The USDA has extended the deadline to opt into CEP until August 31, 2020.**

CEP benefits students, schools, and their communities by...

Improving meal service operations. Many cafeteria managers report faster lunch lines and no changes in wasted food.¹ Estimates suggest that, on average, CEP schools save \$14 per student each year due to increased federal reimbursement and decreased per meal production costs.²

Feeding more students. Reports show that average daily participation in breakfast increases between 4 and 38 percentage points and the average daily participation in lunch increases between 4 and 12 percentage points at CEP-participating schools.³

Reducing stigma. Cafeteria managers report that students experience less stigma and bullying because all students are now eligible for free meals.⁴

Boosting cafeteria staff morale. Cafeteria staff no longer have to track student meal debt or provide alternative meals to student with unpaid meal debt, resulting in greater job satisfaction.¹

Improving student behavior and academic performance. There is promising emerging evidence that CEP leads to improvements in school test scores and attendance and fewer disciplinary referrals.⁵

Decreasing stress for parents. Parents no longer have to complete household meal applications or worry about paying school meal charges.⁶



Best practices for implementation

- **Adopt CEP district-wide.** Groups of schools or entire districts can opt into CEP together if their aggregate ISP is 40% or greater. Districts can take advantage of greater economies of scale and savings in administrative overhead through district-wide adoption. If you are unable to adopt CEP district-wide, consider adopting CEP in linked schools (i.e., offering CEP in an elementary school and the middle school into which that elementary school feeds) to avoid confusion among parents.
- **Experiment with innovative approaches to increase meal participation.** To boost reimbursement, try new strategies to grow participation rates, like taste tests with students and alternative delivery models like grab-n-go meals.

- **Communicate early and often with parents and administrators.** Clear and frequent communication with district and school administrators and parents about how CEP works and how it benefits students can help reduce confusion and generate buy-in.

For more information

Contact your state administering agency for more information and to determine whether your district is eligible for CEP: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision-status-school-districts-and-schools-state>

“



I had parents stop me in the grocery store and be like, “Hey, thanks for getting free lunch for my kid.”...The parents loved it; the students love it. Administration really liked it. It’s just made life easier for everyone—community, administration, teachers, my staff and I.

– Cafeteria manager at a CEP-participating school



It was a no-brainer. It was a very positive thing to do for children [and] it was great to eliminate a cumbersome application process that distracts so much time from schools at the beginning of the year.

– Food service director of a CEP-participating district

”

¹Hecht AA. Universal Free School Meals: Implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision and Impacts on Student Nutrition, Behavior, and Academic Performance. [Dissertation] Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; 2020.

²Robbatt M, Schwartz AE, Gutierrez E. Raving for Free Lunch: The Impact of CEP Universal Free Meals on Revenues, Spending, and Student Health. Maxwell School Center for Policy Research; 2020. https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploads/efile/cpr/publications/working_papers/2/wp227.pdf

³Hecht AA, Turner L, Sullack Porter KM. (in press) Impact of the Community Eligibility Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 on student nutrition, behavior, and academic outcomes (2011-2019). *Am J Pub Health.*

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solidarity, allyship and change w/the school nutrition dietitian

BIAS AND BLIND SPOTS TWIN BARRIERS TO BETTER



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10 Things ALLIES Can Do

An "ally" is someone who has privilege, but chooses to stand for and with marginalized communities* by taking tangible, ongoing actions to dismantle systems of oppression.

Marginalized communities are those who are targeted by oppression, including but not limited to: people of color, Muslims, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ people, women and people with disabilities.

- 1 LISTEN**
Listen to what marginalized people are saying - face-to-face, on your social media feed or in the articles you read. It's not about you, your feelings or opinions; it's about hearing theirs.
- 2 GET EDUCATED**
Seek out books, articles, films, etc. about the history and current issues facing marginalized communities, and attend formal anti-oppression trainings.
- 3 GET INVOLVED**
Join local groups working for social justice. Subscribe to their e-mail lists, follow them on social media and show up to support their work.
- 4 SHOW UP**
When someone from a marginalized community invites you to an event, go - be there to listen, learn and show your support.
- 5 SPEAK UP**
When a friend, family member, co-worker or stranger says something hateful or ignorant, call them out on it. Silence allows oppression to continue.
- 6 INTERVENE**
When someone is being targeted - physically or verbally - intervene only with their permission. Focus on supporting them rather than engaging the aggressor.
- 7 WELCOME DISCOMFORT**
You will make mistakes. When someone calls you out don't get defensive. Listen, apologize and change your behavior going forward.
- 8 LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES**
When you encounter something that makes you uncomfortable, don't dismiss it. Sit with it, ask yourself "why?" and welcome it as an opportunity to grow.
- 9 STAY ENGAGED**
Even when the work gets difficult, stay engaged. Oppression is constant, and marginalized people do not have the privilege of "turning off".
- 10 DONATE**
Commit to financially support a local organization doing social justice work in your community: not just once but on an ongoing basis.

Seeking to be an ally is an ongoing journey, and this list simply represents a starting point. Please refer to the below sources which informed this list, and continue to seek out and practice ways that you can be an ally.

Sources:
Isabel Debush, "So You Want to Wear a Safety Pin"
Jonte UII, "So You Call Yourself an Ally: 10 Things All Allies' Need to Know"
Southern Poverty Law Center, "Speak Up: Responding to Everyday Bigotry"

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

leadership

leading through anxiety

inspiring others when you're struggling yourself

managing anxiety

1. acknowledgement + acceptance
 - label what you're feeling
 - probable vs. possible
2. take action
 - schedules + to-do lists
 - break down large projects into series of small tasks
 - develop techniques for what you can't control
3. limit the impact on your leadership
 - make good decisions
 - practice healthy communication

“

Ultimately, anxiety comes with the job of being a leader. The process of managing it can make you stronger, more empathetic, and more effective. It just might be bumpy along the way.

Morra Aarons-Mele

Harvard Business Review

discussion