

SSO Reminders for Virtual Meal Service

As schools continue to deal with the uptick in cases and many schools closing for a few days, we wanted to touch base with you and the options you currently have to serve meals.

As you pivot to virtual learning you will need to make sure you have completed the pertinent USDA waivers in your SSO site checklist. Your options are still non-congregate, meal-time, and parent pick-up waivers. If you only want to feed your enrolled students, you may remain a “closed” site, if you want to feed children in the community during this time you will need to change to an “open” site.

Non-congregate – meals may be taken off site and consumed

Meal-Time Waiver – breakfast and lunch can be given at the same time for multiple days up to 7 days only

Parent Pick-up – this allows for parents to pick-up meals for students without the student being present. An enrollment checklist or roster must be used to keep a meal count and ensure a meal is going to an enrolled child.

Offer versus Serve is not allowed for meals in a Grab & Go setting.

Meals being sent home must include the menu for each day as well as food safety instructions.

If you are fully closing, it is due to COVID and you are able to provide meals you are allowed to serve them through SSO. There is a waiver for Unanticipated School Closure that covers this area. If you are moving to virtual and one of those days is not an instructional day, meals cannot be served on that day that is not an instructional day. An example of this would be, next week when Monday may be a school break due to the Martin Luther King (MLK) holiday. If you are virtual next week and want to provide meals you could only provide meals for four of the five days since MLK day was a school holiday. Weekend meals through SSO are not allowed either.

If you are approved for the CACFP At-Risk, some of you refer to this as the 3rd meal, you may send meals home for a supper and a snack. With this program you must also send a virtual educational/enrichment component for each meal you send home with the students. You also need to indicate you are operating, if approved, for CACFP At-Risk on your SSO site checklist.

If you are approved for the After School Snack Program (ASSP) which is a snack option through the NSLP you can only send meals home for enrolled students. With this program you must also send a virtual educational/enrichment component for each meal you send home with the students.

Please reach out to your Regional Child Nutrition Program Specialist if you have questions regarding waivers and options during this time. The main office can also assist you with questions and application issues, 405-521-3327. Remember if you are unsure, please contact us so we can assist you during this time.