



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

September 4, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** City and County Superintendents of Education  
**FROM:** Eric G. Mackey *EGM*  
State Superintendent of Education  
**RE:** Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program 2020-2021

This memorandum provides clarification on questions related to Child Nutrition Program operations during school year 2020-2021. This memorandum applies to local organizations and school food authorities to provide clarification as they transition to the At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program.

Pursuant to the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020* (P. L. 116-127), and based on the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has issued several nationwide waivers and has exercised existing statutory and regulatory authorities to support access to nutritious meals, while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) appreciates the effort of local program operators working to meet the nutritional needs of child participants during these challenging times. Some of the guidelines to help throughout this process can be found on the attachment. Program operators should direct any questions concerning this guidance to the Child Nutrition Programs of the ALSDE.

Alabama schools and community-based feeding sponsoring organizations have requested specific guidance for providing meals during the COVID-19 situation. We are working to allow schools and communities to feed their children in the simplest way possible.

If you have questions about this information, please contact the CACFP at (334) 694-4659 or by email at [cacfp@alsde.edu](mailto:cacfp@alsde.edu).

EGM:JBO:BG

Attachment

cc: City and County Child Nutrition Programs Directors  
CACFP Sponsoring Organizations  
Mr. Andy Craig  
Mr. E. Perry Taylor  
Mrs. June Barrett Owen

FY20-3045

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## **CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Program Q & A**

The steps you need to take depend on your organization and your decision on feeding the children in your programs.

1. **What are the eligibility requirements for participating sites?** All sites must be eligible based on school data only. Each site must be located in an area that is 50% or more free/reduced price based on the school that the site is zoned.
2. **If a site is serving as congregate or non-congregate setting, what forms are required?** All organizations regardless of their choice of serving the meals are required to keep copies of invoices for all food, non-food, labor, and administrative costs. Attendance forms, meal count records, and menus are also required as per 7CFR 226.17a.
3. **Are activities required?** Yes. At-risk afterschool care centers providing non-congregate meals under Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-congregate feeding in the Child Nutrition Program – Extension #2 must comply with the requirement to provide an education or enrichment activity (7 CFR 226.17a(b)(1)). However, under the non-congregate and parent pick-up waivers, these activities may be conducted virtually or in other non-congregate ways.

Program operators may consider offering online homework assistance, activity packets, electronic games and books, or other e-learning activities for the children to partake in at home. For example, Team Nutrition offers a variety of online games, books, and nutrition education activities for children at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/digital-nutrition-resources-kids>. Although children are not required to participate in or complete the activity in order to receive an afterschool meal or snack, the afterschool care center must offer the activity.

Program operators can operate according to the regulations by providing a supper and/or snack to each of the children while maintaining required attendance documentation, including offering an onsite activity to each child. Waivers for non-congregate feeding, meal service times, parent pick-up, and meal pattern flexibility have been issued from the USDA.

4. **May school-age children who are attending school virtually and who also are enrolled and attending childcare during the day receive meals through both CACFP and school meal programs?**

Yes. Students enrolled in both school and childcare may receive meals through multiple child nutrition programs. However, state agencies must have an integrity plan with appropriate measures in place to ensure that program accountability is maintained and that program meal limits for the SBP, NSLP, and CACFP are not exceeded. Specific decisions regarding development and implementation of this plan are at the discretion of the state agency. However, the plan must include the processes the state agency is implementing.

5. **Is documentation required for parent pickup?** Yes. Parents/Guardians must provide documentation for the meal/snacks for the child/children living in their household. Documentation may vary by organization.

**USDA Waivers:**

Meal Service Time Requirements

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nationwide-waiver-extension2-meal-service-time-flexibility>

Parent Pick-Up

Non-Congregate Feeding

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/nationwide-waiver-extension2-non-congregate-feeding-child-nutrition-programs>

Meal Pattern Flexibility

Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Programs during School Year 2020-2021—#5

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/questions-and-answers-child-nutrition-programs-during-sy-2020-21>