



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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March 13, 2020

School Nutrition Administrators,

On March 12, 2020, the NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI), School Nutrition Division, received waiver approval from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) that allows schools closed due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) to serve meals to students through the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in a non-congregate setting.

School Food Authorities (SFAs) and Community Sponsors interested in utilizing non-congregate meal service in the event of a school closure may do so under the SFSP or SSO; under the conditions of the USDA waiver, all SFAs and Sponsors must obtain prior approval from the NCDPI prior to serving any non-congregate meals during a school closure.

To request prior approval to participate in the statewide waiver, please complete the electronic [Non-congregate Meal Service Waiver Request](#) and return to Cynthia.Ervin@dpi.nc.gov. A written response will be provided as quickly as possible.

Please review the attached document entitled ***School Nutrition Program Meal Service during Coronavirus (COVID-19) Unanticipated School Closures: Questions and Answers.***

Collaborate with local school and community officials to determine the best processes for schools in the Local Education Agency (LEA) to provide meals to children in the community during the period of school closure.

Within sixty (60) days of approval of the congregate meal service waiver, complete, sign and return the attached agreement amendment that will become part of the LEA's permanent record.

Please address questions to Cynthia Ervin, Summer Nutrition Program Manager, at Cynthia.Ervin@dpi.nc.gov. We will respond to questions, as needed, by adding to the existing Question/Answer document.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued commitment to nourishing the bodies, minds and souls of the children who depend up meals at school as their primary source of food and nutrition!

If we may be of further service, please let me know.

Safe and Healthy Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Harvey".

Lynn Harvey

LH/dm

SCHOOL NUTRITION AND DISTRICT OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

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