

Check in with CANS
Conference Call with DOE-Child and Adult Nutrition Services
June 24, 2021 2:30PM CT/1:30PM MT

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcU8lwgv28>

Website: <http://doe.sd.gov/cans>

Email: DOE.SchoolLunch@state.sd.us

iCAN Review Module Walk Through:

- See recording

All Program Reminders or Updates:

- **Summer Feeding Site Reminders**
 - Summer Feeding Sites Must Advertise
 - If you are an open site you must advertise to the community that anyone 18 and under can come and pick up a meal
 - If you are closed you must advertise to your enrolled students families that meals are available free of charge
 - Children must be present.
 - If you have an approved parent pickup waiver then parents/guardians can pick up the meals for their own children
 - Daycare workers or family friends cannot pick up meals for children, the waiver specifies parents and guardians.
- ****New** USDA Q&A memo SP15-2021, CACFP 13-2021, SFSP 08-2021 (These are not necessarily in the memo sequence – similar or related Q&A's are put together for this call)**
 - **Question 3, 5, 6, 7: SSO is available all school year long**
 - If you opt into Seamless Summer Option (SSO), it is for the entire 2021-22 school year; there will be no need to go back to “regular” SNP.
 - SFSP is not allowed during SY2021-22. If you participated in SFSP last school year and want to serve free meals for SY2021-22, you must participate in SSO.
 - If you are a residential summer camp currently participating in SFSP, the SSO waivers do not apply to you. Once summer is over and children go back to school, camps can no longer be reimbursed for meals.
 - **For SY2021-22, ANY SFA may participate in SSO.**
 - Giving students the option for free meals will probably increase meal participation and your revenue! Offering free meals to all students can help families that are struggling by not having to worry about providing healthy breakfast and lunch meals during the school day!
 - Be sure to market that your free meals are for everyone and should not be saved for only families in need. That may help some families overcome the guilt of accepting a free meal.

- Having all SFAs participate in the same program will help schools and CANS increase program integrity and simplify federal reporting for the year.
- **Question 4, 9: SSO for schools and other flexibility waivers**
 - In schools, once the school year begins the operation of SFSP ends. Schools have a choice of normal NSLP/SBP operation or SSO lunch and breakfast operation.
 - All SSO sites will be listed as “UC” sites in the SNP iCAN SSO Site Application, these sites are actual feeding sites. Delivery/Bus route meal service will be on separate “UC” site, when applicable.
 - For CACFP operators: Schools and agencies that are normally eligible to operation SNP can operate SSO. CACFP sponsors are not eligible for SNP and cannot operate SSO in SY21-22.
 - Other Waivers: These waivers are only approved based on actual need and usage. These waivers are not pre-approvals based on a future plan.
 - **Non-Congregate Meal Service for SY21-22**
 - **Meal Times Requirements for SY21-22**
 - **Parent and Guardian Pick Up for SY21-22**
 - Reminder that this waiver is **not** for child care providers to pick up meals for kids in their care.
- **Questions 29, 31 Free and Reduced Household Applications (FR App’s)**
 - SSO schools generally do not need to collect FR App’s. USDA guidance was updated for P-EBT. Local Education Authorities **must make FR App’s available to any household** that would like to submit one.
 - Reminder: School operating “normal” NSLP and SBP, must collect and complete FR App’s like normal.
 - Reminder: Applications are not required for Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), Provision 2, or Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCI’s) with no day students schools.
 - SSO schools **must offer** the FR App to families, schools must complete application’s through the approval/denial process for any applications sent in by families.
 - In SD, P-EBT benefits will be expanded to Summer 2021, so any FR App’s approved *over the summer* or in early SY21-22 can make families eligible for Summer 2021 P-EBT benefits.
 - A little information about P-EBT: P-EBT is to provide nutrition assistance to children and families impacted by the COVID pandemic. Free and Reduced students are eligible for Summer 2021 P-EBT. Families will receive their benefits in an electronic account and use a plastic EBT card, which allows them to purchase certain food items at authorized stores.
- **Question 30 Direct Certification (DC) of Students is still required.**
 - There is no waiver for DC requirements, SSO schools must identify direct cert students through the year. Provision 2 & CEP schools must complete direct certification at least once early in the school year.
- **Question 8, 15 – SSO No Weekend/Holiday Meals**
 - SSO meals are limited to normal education days
 - Schools that regularly operate Monday thru Friday may only provide/claim meals during typical school operation

- Schools that normally operate a 4-day school week, can only claim meals for the 4 education days.
 - Schools or RCCI's that operate a 7-day/week schedule may serve and claim meals during their regularly scheduled 7-day operation
 - If the school is closed on a holiday, meal service is not allowed
 - SSO meals are limited to a combination of 2 meals/snacks per day.
- **Question 10 – Annual Media Release**
- CANS will put out the annual media release. It will be adjusted to include free meals for all students. Schools should advertise locally about the SSO free meals available to all students. Our media release typically goes out in August.
- **Questions 11-14, 16 - Reimbursement Rates**
- Schools opting in to SSO for SY21-22 will receive the SFSP rural/self-prep reimbursement rates for SY21-22 beginning July 1, 2021 and in effect until June 30, 2022.
 - Currently the rates are:
 - \$2.4625 – Breakfast
 - \$4.3175 – Lunch
 - \$1.02 – Snacks
 - Since these reimbursement rates are technically the SFSP rates, they follow a different schedule than the SNP rates for updating. The rates will be adjusted for inflation in January 2022.
 - SSO schools will not receive the:
 - performance based reimbursement (\$0.07 at lunch)
 - specially needy lunch reimbursement (\$0.02 at lunch for high F/R)
 - severe need breakfast reimbursement (higher rate for high F/R)
 - Any site operating SSO at any time in July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 will receive the SFSP rates. Schools will submit SSO claims in iCAN. This higher rate will happen automatically in the iCAN system.
- **Question 18-21 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**
- 18-CACFP at-risk agencies cannot continue to operate in summer 2021 while schools are closed for summer vacation.
 - 19-Day care homes will receive tier 1 reimbursement rates from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. **Do not make changes to tier 1 provider's applications** – this rate calculation will be done behind the scenes in iCAN.
 - 20-New DCH's (Day Care Home's) will be eligible to use waiver #93 that allows all DCH's to utilize the tier 1 reimbursement rate.
 - 21-Meals served to providers own children may be reimbursed at the tier 1 reimbursement rate.
- **Questions 22 – 25 Meal Pattern**
- Schools can use existing meal pattern flexibilities for NSLP/SBP and SSO through September 30 under Nationwide Waiver #74.
 - The new meal pattern waiver - Nationwide Waiver #90 - goes into effect on October 1. **Schools can switch to this waiver early and begin using it at the start of the new school year for more streamlined operations.** CANS will provide a waiver request form for schools to complete.
 - Waiver #90 allows schools to apply and waive specific meal pattern requirements on a case-by-case basis. Only apply for waivers that fit your back to school plan.

- Waivers will be available for the following requirements:
 - That menus meet the dietary specification for sodium
 - That all grains offered be whole grain-rich and that at least one serving per day be whole-grain rich for preschoolers
 - That vegetable offerings fit vegetable subgroups
 - That two kinds of milk (a variety) are offered and that all low-fat milk is unflavored
 - That food components offered follow age/grade groupings
 - Some things to keep in mind:
 - Sodium requirements return to levels set before the National Emergency. Since grab and go meals are typically higher in sodium and food supply chains continue to fluctuate, we encourage all schools to opt into the sodium waiver as your school transitions into SY21-22.
 - Congress gave flexibility to offer low-fat, flavored milk through September 30.
- **Question 27-28 -- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)**
 - Normal operation for SY21-22
- **Question #32 – Administrative Reviews – Self Assessments Sent for SY21-22**
 - We are planning to conduct reviews on-site this year. We found virtual reviews to be much more challenging and time-consuming for schools and the state.
 - Reviews will be modified for SSO but will be conducted for SY2021-22.
 - Self-assessments were sent out recently to those on the list for SY21-22. The list is posted on the CANS/SNP webpage.
 - We are planning to use the new iCAN Compliance (review) Module in SNP online!
- **Question #33 – On-site Monitoring**
 - [Waiver #94](#) allows for off-site monitoring to occur. SFAs that choose to opt in to conducting their on-site monitoring reviews off-site need to complete a waiver form.
 - Reminder: **SSO requires all sites must be monitored during operation.** This is different than normal SNP operations. You can find the SSO on-site monitoring form here: <https://doe.sd.gov/cans/documents/SSOonsite.pdf> You will record your dates of monitoring in your SSO iCAN site application.

School Nutrition Program (SNP) Reminders or Updates:

- **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)**
 - Application for SY21-22 FFVP – coming soon, when SNP application opens.
 - Remaining claims for SY20-21 – Please submit as soon as possible.
- **School Wellness Triennial Assessment**
 - SFAs who participate in the National School Lunch Program are required to establish a local school wellness policy and conduct a self-assessment of the policy once every three years. The results of the assessment must also be made available to the public. The first triennial local wellness policy assessments were due June 30, 2020 unless your SFA opted into [Nationwide Waiver #18](#) waiver delaying the deadline until June 30, 2021.
 - All SFAs should complete a triennial assessment using existing deadlines. There is a sample triennial assessment template on the [School Nutrition Program website](#) under School Meal Program Requirements and Wellness Policy.

- **PLE – Paid Lunch Equity Tool in SY21-22**
 - USDA has released the SY21-22 PLE tool. Schools who operate SNP and who had a negative balance in their nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2020 will need to complete the PLE tool. If your SFA does not have pricing or sales information from October 2020, you can use October 2019 data.
 - Any SFA, operating normal SNPs, with a positive or zero balance in their nonprofit school food service account as of December 31, 2020 does not need to increase their paid lunch prices.
 - Schools operating SSO do not need to follow PLE requirements ([Waiver #97](#))

- **SY21-22 iCAN Applications**
 - We plan to open SY21-22 iCAN Applications tomorrow (Friday, June 25)
 - New guidance from USDA changed our plans and caused a delay in opening and program operators needed a little bit more time to get everything into approved status.
 - We will send out an email with instructions for completion. There will be some changes to normal – so please read the instructions. The instructions should walk you through all of the changes and how to handle them within the application.

USDA Foods in School/Food Distribution Program Reminders or Updates:

- South Dakota has received emails from Cargill Kitchen Solutions and JM Smuckers regarding product shortages. It is anticipated more shortages will occur.
- Thank you to all the schools that spent their DoD Fresh/FFAVORS entitlement! South Dakota used up our entitlement with a remaining balance of \$1.51 of the \$2.8 million allocation!

Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option (SFSP & SSO) for Summer 2021 Reminders:

- Waiver #69 expires on June 30, this waiver allowed us to approve meals served before your application was approved. **SFSP applications must be approved by June 30 in order to use this waiver.**
- Please make sure to update the meal service times under your iCAN site application if you make any changes. Please also update the end date of your site application if you happen to close a site earlier than planned.
- Off site meal request forms need to be submitted for field trips before the field trip takes place. Form is uploaded on our SFSP website: <https://doe.sd.gov/cans/sfsp.aspx> Documents tab.
- We are accepting submissions for the Turnip the Beet award until **September 3, 2021**. Please check out the Turnip the Beet Facts Sheet and Nomination Form:
 - [Turnip the Beet facts 2021](#)
 - [Turnip the Beet Nomination Form 2021](#)

Upcoming Trainings or Calls:

- **Pathways to School Nutrition:** Registration is open now! This training has no registration cost and is an allowable cost to your program.
 - <https://doe.sd.gov/cans/documents/Pathways2%20Reg-2021.pdf>
 - August 3 - In Person training in Pierre
 - August 10-11 – Virtual training
 - Topics include:
 - iCAN Application Walk-Thru
 - Non-Program Foods
 - Professional Standards Annual Requirements
 - Wellness Policy
 - Procurement Plans
 - Production Records
 - Administrative Review Common Findings

- **Check in with CANS:** At this time, all of our scheduled Check in With CANS calls have concluded for the school year. We are working on a schedule for the upcoming year and will let you know as soon as that is released. If new guidance is released, we may schedule additional calls.
- **Crash Course with CANS:** Development for next year's agenda is underway! Similar to the Check in with CANS – we will let you know as soon as the schedule is available.

Professional Standards Annual Training Requirement Reminder: Any learning or training you receive about any aspect of the School Nutrition Programs can be counted as training time towards the professional standards annual training requirement.

Please retain documentation to show what topics were trained. For example, agenda, topics, handbook, certificate, etc. And record training on a Tracking Tool – we suggest using the [SD Tracker Tool](#) posted on the CANS NSLP website.

This Conference call was 90 minutes long and can credit for 90 minutes of training.

Learning Topics discussed during this call were:

- 3000 Administration: 3200 Program Management - 90 minutes