



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Braddock  
Metro  
Center  
  
1320  
Braddock  
Place  
Alexandria  
VA 22314

March 12, 2020

Tamika Boone  
Director Nutrition Services  
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Ms. Boone:

This letter is in response to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (GA DECAL) March 12, 2020, request to waive the requirement that, during unanticipated school closures, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) meals must be served in a congregate setting. Specifically, GA DECAL requested a waiver of the requirement found at 7 CFR 225.6(e)(15), that sponsors must maintain children on site while meals are consumed due to the novel coronavirus.

Based on the exceptional circumstances relating to the declaration of a public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, effective January 27, 2020, and pursuant to the waiver authority granted at section 12(l) of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA), FNS approves GA DECAL's waiver request through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. While GA DECAL requested this waiver for the next 3 to 5 years, FNS limited the duration of the waiver to assess its impact and the State's ability to report the required data elements.

Effective immediately, this waiver allows State agencies to approve SFSP sponsors, in good standing, to provide meals during an unanticipated school closure due to the novel coronavirus in a non-congregate setting. This will enable approved sponsors to allow meals to be taken away from site and consumed elsewhere, thereby allowing for social distancing.

The waiver authority at section 12(l) of the NSLA requires FNS to review the performance of any State or eligible service provider that was granted a waiver. Therefore, GA DECAL must provide to the FNS Southeast Regional Office, by a date to be determined, a written report quantifying the impact of the waiver, as described below. If a federally declared public health emergency relating to the novel coronavirus continues beyond June 30, 2020, GA DECAL may submit an extension request. Please note that approval of any extension is contingent on GA DECAL's ability to provide complete data and an analysis of the waiver impact.

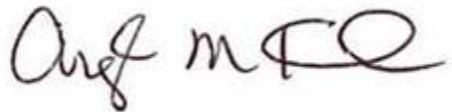
The report must include the following:

- A description of how the waiver impacted meal service operations, children's access to nutritious meals, and participation in SFSP;

- The number of sponsors and sites that used the waiver;
- The number of meals provided during unanticipated school closures; and
- A summary of findings associated with the waiver

FNS appreciates GA DECAL's commitment to work with sponsors to meet the nutritional needs of children during a challenging time. If you have questions, please contact the Southeast Regional Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Kline".

Angela Kline  
Director  
Policy and Program Development Division

Electronic Copy: Sean Monahan