



Public Health  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES


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November 22, 2016

CACFP 16-18

### Memorandum

To: Institutions Participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program  
From: Arnette Cowan, Head   
Special Nutrition Programs  
Subject: Meal Service during Unanticipated School and Day Care Closures

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that meals may be served through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during unanticipated school closures, including snow days, during the regular school year. For more detailed guidance regarding the operation of Child Nutrition Programs during emergency situations, see SP 46-2014, CACFP 14-08, SFSP 18-2014, *Disaster Response*, May 19, 2014, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster-response-0>.

Schools and day care programs may face unanticipated closures due to extreme weather events, natural disasters, major building repairs, court orders relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management disputes, or other similar causes. Unanticipated closures prevent students and children enrolled in child care from receiving the nutritious meals normally provided. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) encourages school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP and/or the School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) institutions, and SFSP sponsors to use the flexibilities described below to help ensure that students do not experience a lapse in food security when extreme weather or other events force area schools or day care programs to close.



## **Using the Child and Adult Care Food Program**

At-risk afterschool centers may continue serving meals and snacks as part of the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP during unanticipated school closures (7 CFR 226.17a(b)(1)). On days when schools are closed, at-risk afterschool centers that normally offer a snack and supper after school may instead choose to offer either lunch and a snack, or breakfast and a snack. These meals and snacks would be reimbursed through CACFP at the free rate. For more information about operating the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of CACFP, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/afterschool-programs>.

## **Reminder**

Area eligibility requirements still apply for service during unanticipated school closures, except in certain disaster situations (see SP 46-2014, CACFP 14-08, SFSP 18-2014, *Disaster Response*, May 19, 2014, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster-response-0>).

If you have questions, please contact the State agency employee assigned to your region.

c: SNP Staff

Attachment