

# Serving Summer Meals During School Closures

## COVID-19 GUIDANCE:

**A fact sheet for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO)**

### Serving Our Communities

Many families rely on school meals during the school year. When schools close suddenly, children may be at risk for hunger. During this unanticipated school closure, USDA is allowing the use of the SFSP and SSO to meet the needs normally met through school meal programs. Many SFSP and SSO regulations are being used as they are during regular summer operations. Some regulations are not. Please check [Squaremeals.org](http://Squaremeals.org) to be aware of all current guidance.

### Non-Congregate Meals

USDA has granted a waiver to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) so eligible Summer Food Service Program and NSLP Seamless Summer Option Sponsors may apply to serve non-congregate meals during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Sponsors **must notify TDA of their plans to utilize any flexibility prior to submitting a claim. Any meals served that do not meet regulatory requirements or current TDA guidance may not receive federal reimbursement.**

## Summer Meal Checklist

**Sponsors must ensure that the following basic requirements\* are met:**

- Follow guidelines for area eligible open sites or closed enrolled sites, as applicable and appropriate
- Submit plan for *No Child Present Meal Pickup* flexibility
- Follow all state and local health and safety codes
- Serve meals that meet the applicable meal pattern requirements
- Submit waiver for any meal pattern flexibilities needed
- Take point of service meal counts at every site for all meals and snacks served
  - If serving multiple meals and snacks together, meal counts must be taken for each meal type. Meals intended to be consumed Monday-Friday may be claimed for federal reimbursement.
  - Meals are counted only for eligible children 18 years and younger (or participants with disabilities 19 years and older)
- Maintain meal production records for all meals and snacks served
- Claim only meal types allowed by regulations and approved in TX-UNPS

**\*Please Note: Additional requirements may apply**



Food and Nutrition Division  
Summer Meal Programs



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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[www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)