

Targeted Meal Pattern Waiver Reference Guide

Program Year 2021-2022



Targeted Meal Pattern Waiver

TDA expects CEs to meet the meal standards to the best of their ability, but recognizes that in some situations it might not be possible to meet every component of the meal pattern requirements.

CEs may continue to use alternative meal service models to support social distancing in the school year, but TDA expects that operators will seek to meet the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible and to look to other alternatives prior to utilizing these flexibilities.

Please view the [Meal Pattern Waiver COVID-19 Substitution Guide](#) for suggestions as well as information on required documentation.

TDA will consider requests that are targeted and justified with demonstrated need based on plans to support participant access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to COVID-19 on a case-by-case basis.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)



Food and Nutrition Division
COVID-19

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 8/19/2021
www.SquareMeals.org

Targeted Meal Pattern Waiver Reference Guide



✓ Sodium

- All schools are required to inform TDA which Target Sodium level they will follow for school year 2021-2022

✓ Age/Grade Group

- Waive age/grade group requirements at sites with non-traditional meal service
- Schools should provide information about its meal distribution as justification

✓ Links to USDA Memos

- [Child Nutrition Response #90](#)
- [Child Nutrition Response #91](#)
- [Q&A on Waivers for School Year 2021-2022](#)

Key Considerations for Targeted Meal Pattern Flexibility Waivers

Waivers can be approved for up to 60 days and must be requested within 30 days of need.

NSLP/SBP/SSO/CACFP: Please be ready to describe what alternatives you used for the food component you are requesting a waiver for and how the waiver will allow you to provide nutritious meals to program participants.

✓ Meal Pattern Flexibility NSLP/SSO

- Waiver is for low-fat flavored milk, variety of milk fat types, 100% whole grain-rich, and/or vegetable subgroups

✓ Meal Pattern Flexibility CACFP

- Low fat flavored milk is for children 6 and older and adults on a case-by-case basis.
- Training resources for grain ounce equivalents can be found [here](#)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711
Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)



Food and Nutrition Division
COVID-19

This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Updated 8/19/2021
www.SquareMeals.org