



SFSP Policy Update

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Food and Nutrition Division
Nutrition Assistance Programs



Updated 01/26/2022
www.SquareMeals.org



Policy Codified per Final Rule

- Streamlined application process for new CEs already operating another Child Nutrition Program
- Site cap increase approval requirement
- Unanticipated school closure guidance
- Children may take a single fruit, vegetable, or grain item off-site for later consumption.



Policy Codified per Final Rule

- A site supervisor must be in place for each site for the duration of meal service.
- Area eligibility for a site is valid for five years.
- TDA may provide online training.in addition to in-person training

Recruitment Strategy



The Final Rule requires all sponsors to provide recruitment strategies as part of newly codified performance standards.

To meet this requirement, TDA is asking all CEs to submit a simple form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ae240dc34bd4dfda279f1589c6557cf>

Recruitment Strategy

3. Please select the methods of outreach you will use to attract potential SFSP serving sites in Summer 2023 (check all that apply): *

- a. Print advertisements in newspapers or community newsletters
 - b. Radio and/or television advertisements
 - c. Online advertisements
 - d. Social media postings
 - e. Hosting meetings within the community
 - f. Posters/flyers distributed within the community
 - g. Mass mailings (letter or email) to potential site managers
 - h. In-person solicitations at potential sites
 - i. Partnering with veteran site managers, representatives of State-wide advocacy organizations, and/or local celebrities to encourage participation

 - Other**
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VCA Checklist Submittal for Experienced Sponsors

- Per new regulation, experienced sponsors NOT operating NSLP or CACFP must submit a VCA Checklist every 3 years.
- TDA has requested a waiver from USDA to account for TX-UNPS system limitations.
- More guidance forthcoming.

First Two Weeks Site Visits

Final Rule codifies site visit flexibilities:

- New and problematic sites must be reviewed **within the first two weeks.**
- Required full review of each site within first four weeks of operation can occur at same time as the first two weeks site visit.
- **NO WAIVER REQUIRED**



First Two Weeks Site Visits

How do I answer Question 44 in the Site Application?

44. Are you requesting a waiver for the First Week Site Visit?

- If the site is NOT new and does NOT have any prior operational issues, answer YES to Question 44.
- If the site is NEW or has prior operational issues, answer NO.

Meal Service Times

New Meal Service Time flexibilities:

- One hour to elapse between the end of one meal and the beginning of another
- Breakfast (three component meal) cannot be served after a lunch or supper.
- Meal service times captured in site app.
- **NO WAIVER REQUIRED.**

Meal Service Times

TDA can approve service outside of established meal times for incidents outside of CE control (delayed meal deliveries, inclement weather, delayed public transportation)

- **TDA will develop a notification process and criteria for approval.**
- Notification can be sent after the incident, but the CE may be asked to provide and maintain additional documentation (for example, weather advisory)

Eligibility of Closed Enrolled Sites

The Final Rule codifies “traditional” waiver that allows closed enrolled sites to operate in eligible areas without establishing 50% Free/Reduced roster:

CEs cannot choose to operate a closed enrolled site as a way to avoid feeding the community.



Changes to Offer vs Serve Flexibilities

- Only school food authorities can serve OVS in SFSP.
- SFAs can use either the SFSP or NSLP meal pattern and use the respective OVS requirements associated with those programs.



Field Trips

- CE must notify TDA 15 days in advance of the field trip via site application amendment.
- Meals must be served during the times listed in the site application.
- **Site location must also remain open to the community during the field trip UNLESS...**
- TDA can approve a site to close for the day during a field trip if the CE provides adequate justification, attests to notifying the community of the closure, and providing the community with a list of alternate sites (**TDA developing a request form and additional guidance**).

Meal Claims Validation



1. Validate meal claims for selected sites. If over 5% error rate...
2. Expand validation to 25% of sponsor's total sites. If over 5% error rate...
3. Expand validation to 50% of sponsor's total sites. If over 5% error rate...
4. Expand to 100% of sponsor's total sites.

Updated Guidance!

- **Summer 2023 FAQs!** - https://squaremeals.org/Portals/8/FND%20Forms/Program%20Forms/COVID-19%20-%20FAQs_Summer_2023_230113_REV_1.pdf?ver=wung3DP6Y-VH0Ry28l0s7w%3d%3d
- **Supplemental Handbook** - https://squaremeals.org/Portals/8/FND%20Forms/Program%20Handbooks/2022_AGS%20Supplement_V1000_221128.pdf?ver=PWYFUmfFj0MsHvNj-y2QCw%3d%3d
- **SFSP Reimbursement Rates for 2023** - <https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Reimbursement-Rates>

Coming soon!

School Year 2022-2023 School Data for Area Eligibility – Coming January 31!

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1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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