



We're always happy to answer your questions. Any school can send us a question to: info@schoolfoodsolutions.org and we'll try to help!

Q & A from the 7/1/2020 Virtual Town Hall: Navigating Charter School Meal Service for the 2020/2021 School Year

General

- Q I couldn't get the Town Hall exit survey to pop up
- A [Here is the link to the form](#). Fill it out and we'll get back to you with your training hours certificate and any additional info you requested.
- Q Will School Food Solutions do anymore additional videos or trainings for upcoming year before August start-ups?
- A We do regular virtual and in-person trainings for all our school client partners. We host public virtual events like this a few times a year. We recommend following us on social media and subscribing to our newsletter to ensure you don't miss out.
- Q If we were serving breakfast, do we HAVE to continue serving for the upcoming school year?
- A Short answer: No. Some states require breakfast if your low-income population is able a certain threshold. If you are a school that participates in CEP, you must serve both breakfast and lunch.
- Q How do I become a client? I work for a small charter school in CA this will be our first year participating in the state free reduced school lunch program. I am the one and only cafeteria worker. I need suggestions for pos programs...we are literally starting from scratch... provision 2 would be ideal..... can someone contact me after this to discuss more?
- A An overview of our services is available on our website. If you'd like to set up a call about support, email us at: info@schoolfoodsolutions.org and we'll reach out!
- Q Will we be able to get a copy of this presentation?
- A Yes, it's posted to the [blog page of our website](#).

Waivers

- Q How do we know if our state has applied for waivers so we can opt in?
- A Each state is sending out email guidance. We also recommend checking on your state's child nutrition program website for updates. (We do know for certain that NV, AZ, & CA state agencies have opted into all 5 waivers.)
- Q OVS waiver - Does that mean we have to bag everything if the offer versus serve is not applicable anymore? Or do we get to choose?
- A You can choose your meal model and continue to do Offer vs. Serve if you wish.
- Q For CA - Is there a deadline for waiver applications? What is the lead time to receive approval?
- A CA has not released specific guidance as of today. During emergency feeding this spring most schools received approvals within a week. We recommend applying for ALL waivers as soon as you are able to.
- Q Does this affect schools that are on a provision program? Can we use the waivers?
- A All schools participating in NSLP and SBP can opt into the waivers.
- Q Do we have to train our staff on topics that are eliminated by waivers?
- A At this point in time, we do not expect the USDA to waive professional standard requirements. However, if you are not executing Offer vs. Serve, you do not have to train on Offer vs. Serve. Remember, Civil Rights training is required for ALL staff interacting with Child Nutrition Programs in your schools. And all people handling food, should have a Food Handler Certification.

Q Is there any reason to not opt-in to the waivers.

A Not that we can think of 😊

Meal Service Models

Q If we have 3 different charters under one organization do we have to serve grab & go meals at each site?

A Generally, you can centralize it as long as you have a POS system that has all students in the district under the single system for proper counting & claiming purposes. But, this will vary state-by-state. For example, CA does have a meal mandate that starting in July of 2019 for individual school sites.

Q How would you mark multiple day pickups on the POS? Is there a SOP for that?

A This will depend on your POS system. You must have procedures in place to ensure that you are not double-counting meals for the same student. Our clients: your School Food Solutions client manager will work directly with you to ensure you and your staff know the SOP for counting and claiming meals this year.

Q Maybe a silly question; however, if a child is to be in school on 2 days and they are absent on one of those days; can a parent come to pick up a meal for that child for that day?

A Yes, ensure that you apply for all waivers so that this is possible.

Q If we are closed down again, can we continue to serve lunch if we didn't do it last closure?

A Yes, ensure that you apply for all waivers so that this is possible.

Q If schools are in session but there's a Covid-19 exposure and we need to shutdown for a couple of days can we still give out meals via drive through? And will they count as a reimbursed meals?

A Yes, ensure that you apply for all waivers so that this is possible.

Vendors

Q Who is going to provide the bag for grab and go???

A Likely you will have to acquire the supplies for Grab & Go. You can also ask your vendor as they may be able to acquire at a lower bulk cost and invoice you for those separately.

Eligibility

Q Can you send us a copy of the new FRL applications for the upcoming school year?

A All of our clients will receive their customized FRL packets from our Eligibility Team. Be on the lookout for emails from: forms@schoolfoodsolutions.org

Q I'm not sure if our school could qualify Provision 2 - what is the ideal threshold for % of schools currently FRL that it would make sense to transition?

A For Provision 2 it really depends on the school: How many paid students do you have? Do you have a difficult time collecting money? You'll need to look at your projected F/R/P percentages against potential reimbursement. India, Ryan will bring this up and talk through it on your next call together.

▪ awesome thanks! I'll check with Ryan :)

Q Is CEP and Provision 2 a separate application with the state?

A Yes, this is something you need to apply for and often provide back-up for how you arrived at your numbers. Each state has a different process for approval. You usually need to opt-in before your first day of meal service. (For NV this is part of your annual application renewal.)