

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM STATE WAIVER REQUEST
Waiver Request for Kuspuk School District, Crow Village Sam School
and Johnnie John Sr. School

1. State agency submitting waiver request and responsible State agency staff contact information:

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
Child Nutrition Programs
Gavin Northey, Child Nutrition Programs Manager
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PO Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
907-465-8709

2. Region: Western Region

3. Eligible service providers participating in waiver and affirmation that they are in good standing:

This waiver request is on behalf of the Kuspuk School District, the SFA is not in good standing due to outstanding corrective action items from its most recent administrative review.

4. Description of the challenge the State agency is seeking to solve, the goal of the waiver to improve services under the Program, and the expected outcomes if the waiver is granted. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]:

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Child Nutrition Programs (DEED CNP) is requesting a waiver for Crow Village Sam School and Johnnie John Sr. School, CEP K-12 schools in Chuathbaluk, Alaska and Crooked Creek respectively, so that they can distribute non-congregate meals to enrolled children during an anticipated school closure beginning 17 April 2024 and concluding 26 April 2024. Combined, the schools serve approximately 43 school meals each day.

The schools are small schools in rural communities. The teachers in both communities will be attending professional development events; as such, schools will transition to asynchronous learning activities because there is not sufficient faculty to continue school in the teachers' absences; the remote learning activities qualify as a bona fide school day pursuant to Alaska statutes and regulations. During the closure, the school desires to serve non-congregate meals.

If this waiver is not approved, students will lose access to approximately 350 nutritious meals served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs during this time.

5. Specific Program requirements to be waived (include statutory and regulatory citations). [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(i) of the NSLA]:

DEED CNP is requesting a waiver of the following:

- Non-Congregate Meal Service [NSLA, 42 U.S.C. §1753(b)(1)(A), and Child Nutrition Act, 42 U.S.C. §1773(b)(1)(A)]
- Meal Service Times [7 CFR §210.10(l), and §220.8(l)]
- Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup [7 CFR §210.10(a), §220.2, §220.8(a)]
- Offer Versus Serve [42 U.S.C. §1758(a)(3) and 7 CFR §210.10(e)]

6. Detailed description of alternative procedures and anticipated impact on Program operations, including technology, State systems, and monitoring:

If approved, the SFA will serve non-congregate NSLP and SBP meals. The staff at each school will either establish a procedure for children or parents to come to the school to collect meals or, with written parental consent, will deliver meals to children's homes. To avoid overlaps of service, schools must choose only one method of meal distribution (school-based or home delivery) and inform DEED of its decision prior to commencing service. Meals will meet applicable standards at 7 CFR §210.10 and §220.8.

7. Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level. [Section 12(I)(2)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

No barriers exist at the state level.

8. Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:

DEED does not anticipate these waivers will present any challenges to the SFA.

9. Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government. If there are anticipated increases, confirm that the costs will be paid from non-Federal funds. [Section 12(I)(1)(A)(iii) of the NSLA]:

DEED does not anticipate this waiver will increase the overall cost of the program to the Federal government because the schools are already approved to serve school meal programs.

10. Anticipated waiver implementation date and time period:

DEED requests this waiver to be effective 17 April through 1 May 2024. DEED has extended the termination date of the waiver to account for inclement weather or other logistical challenges impeding the timely resumption of in-person learning.

11. Proposed monitoring and review procedures:

DEED will request daily meal counts and menus to be submitted with the April 2024 claim for reimbursement. This additional step will be required given that the SFA is not in good standing and is meant to provide a balance of program integrity while ensuring the students have access to nutritious school meals.

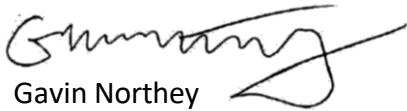
12. Proposed reporting requirements (include type of data and due date(s) to FNS);

DEED will report to FNS the total meals served under this waiver and will submit a summary of the waiver progress upon request.

13. Link to or copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver [Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA]:

<https://education.alaska.gov/cnp>

14. Signature and Title of requesting official:



Gavin Northey
Child Nutrition Programs Manager

TO BE COMPLETED BY FNS REGIONAL OFFICE:

FNS Regional Offices are requested to ensure the questions have been adequately addressed by the State agency and formulate an opinion and justification for a response to the waiver request based on their knowledge, experience and work with the State.

Date request was received at Regional Office:

Check this box to confirm that the State agency has provided public notice in accordance with Section 12(l)(1)(A)(ii) of the NSLA

Regional Office Analysis and Recommendations: