



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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Governor

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Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: All Summer Food Service Program Participating Institutions

From: Louis Brienza, Division Director
Nutrition Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "LB", is written over the name "Louis Brienza".

Date: August 17, 2011

Subject: Bright from the Start's Policy "Waiver of Congregate Feeding Requirement for Mobile Feeding Sites Experiencing Extreme Heat"

Legal Reference: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Memos SP 46-2011 and SFSP 19-2011

This memorandum establishes a waiver of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option congregate feeding requirement for approved outdoor sites without temperature controlled alternative sites on days when the area is experiencing severe temperatures. This waiver will remain in effect through September 30, 2011.

Sponsors must notify the Department of Early Care and Learning: Bright from the Start before utilizing this option, providing temporary site location.

The congregate feeding requirement (7 CFR §225.6(e)(15)) is waived only on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which the outdoor site is located. Outdoor sites must comply with the congregate meal requirements on all other approved days of operation. This waiver is intended to allow summer operators to maintain service to children who would otherwise lose access to meals in circumstances when excessive heat makes operation of congregate feeding impracticable.

Under this waiver, sponsors must continue to provide all required components of a reimbursable meal. Because meals will be consumed off site and possibly at a later time, sponsors should carefully consider all food safety issues and risks. In addition, sponsors must ensure that as part of any future application and as required by 7 CFR §225.6(c)(2)(D), arrangements made for food service during periods of inclement weather must be revised to address excessive heat conditions.

Restrictions on the number and type of meals that may be served each day as established by 7 CFR §225.16(b) continue to apply. Only one meal may be provided to each child present at the meal site. Meals may not be provided to adults or other children to take to children not present at the site.

All meal counting, claiming, and State and sponsor monitoring and oversight requirements continue to apply.

For questions concerning information in this memorandum, please contact the Policy Administrator at 404.651.7181.