

Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022

Bill Summary & USDA Implementation – Updated 7-14-2022

The Feeding America Government Relations Team is providing a summary of the child nutrition provisions and other key provisions of the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022.

President Biden signed this much-needed legislation into law on June 25, 2022. The bill made it through Congress thanks to the bipartisan leadership of Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and John Boozman (R-AR) and Reps. Bobby Scott (D-VA 03) and Virginia Foxx (R-NC 05).

The bill extends U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) authority to issue certain nationwide waivers for summer 2022 and school year (SY) 2022-23 child nutrition program operations. These waivers have been crucial for addressing the rising child hunger crisis associated with the pandemic.

Note: State agencies must still **opt-in** to nationwide waivers, and they continue to have discretion in the interpretation and implementation of the waivers.

Below are links to several helpful Keep Kids Fed Act resources and a summary of key nutrition program changes from the legislation.

- [Feeding America's Press Statement](#)
- [Bill Text – Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022](#)
- [House Summary](#)
- [Senate Summary](#)

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

- Extends USDA's nationwide waiver authority for SFSP/SSO operations through September 2022
 - This would allow USDA to extend waivers like the non-congregate and meal service time waivers for SFSP/SSO
- State agencies may elect nationwide waivers in place of previously approved Section 12(l) waivers for summer 2022



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

- Two forms of financial support are available for SY 2022-23 (Note: The additional reimbursement is on top of the 7.4% increase for inflation adjustment)
 - Additional reimbursement (10 cents for all CACFP meals/supplements)
 - Reimbursement at the Tier 1 rates for all family and group day care homes in CACFP for July 2022 through June 2023

School Nutrition Provisions

- Temporary Reimbursement for School Programs (Note: The additional reimbursement is on top of the 7.4% increase for inflation adjustment)
 - 40 cents for National School Lunch Program
 - 15 cents for School Breakfast Program
 - Effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

What the Keep Kids Fed Act Does *Not* Include

- No authority to issue nationwide waivers for SY 2022-23 that have a cost to the federal government
- No ability to operate SSO during the SY and provide all meals free
- No SFSP rates for school meals during the SY
- No expansion of area eligibility during the SY

Additional Child Nutrition Notes

- Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) remains available for summer 2022 (see [USDA's FAQ on Summer 2022 P-EBT](#))

USDA Implementation as of July 8, 2022

USDA has issued seven nationwide waivers to assist with the implementation of the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022. As a reminder, state agencies must still opt-in to nationwide waivers, and they continue to have discretion in the interpretation and implementation of the waivers.

- [Monitor the USDA website for additional information on waivers](#)
- [Approved waivers, state by state](#)
- Three new nationwide waivers for SFSP/SSO *issued on June 30, 2022*



- [Waiver #107: Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2022 Operations](#)
- [Waiver #108: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2022 Operations](#)
- [Waiver #109: Nationwide Waiver to Allow SFSP Reimbursement Rates for the SSO in Summer 2022](#)
- Three new nationwide waivers for SFSP/SSO *issued on July 6, 2022*
 - [Waiver #111: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2022 Operations](#)
 - [Waiver #112: Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for children for Summer 2022 Operations](#)
 - [Waiver #113: Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2022 Operations](#)
- One new nationwide waiver for SFSP *issued on July 8, 2022*
 - [Waiver #114: Nationwide Waiver of the Summer Sponsor Application Deadline and to Allow Reimbursement for Meals Served Prior to Notification of Approval for Summer 2022 Operations](#)
- Meal Pattern Implementation in CACFP
 - State agencies and sponsoring organizations should use discretion to provide technical assistance instead of fiscal penalties when they observe noncompliance related to meal pattern requirements due to COVID-related supply chain disruptions
 - If CACFP operators are making a good-faith effort to comply with meal pattern requirements but cannot, due to the COVID-related supply chain disruptions, state agencies and sponsoring organizations should prioritize training and technical assistance to identify solutions specific to CACFP operators' local circumstances

