WAIVER REQUEST: AREA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT IN SEAMLESS SUMMER OPTION

Request Submission Date: March 23, 2020

1. **State Agency:** Georgia Department of Education

   **Contact Information:** Dr. Linette Dodson, RD, LD, SNS, FAND
   State Director, School Nutrition
   Georgia Department of Education
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2. **Region:** Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

3. **Eligible Service Providers:** Georgia School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the Seamless Summer Option, COVID-19 Waiver, Non-congregate Waiver will participate in this said waiver. All are in good standing.

4. **Description of Challenge:** The Georgia Department of Education, School Nutrition Program 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. [section12(I)(2)(A)(iii) and 12(I)(2)(A)(iv) of the NSLA]: As of March 16, 2020, school districts and have been implementing National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to children in Georgia impacted by the unanticipated closure of schools due to COVID-19 conditions. In keeping with program regulations and the guidance that accompanied SP 08_SFSP 04-2020 - Child Nutrition Program Meal Service during Novel Coronavirus Outbreaks, which was issued on March 6, 2020 Georgia school districts have established meal service sites at schools or in areas where 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This process has disenfranchised students who would have, but for the unanticipated school closures, been able to avail themselves of meals through the SBP or NSLP during the normal school day. Georgia is requesting a waiver of the requirement for SSO sites to be located in areas where poor economic conditions exist so that all students traditionally accustomed to receiving meals through the school meal programs can be served through SSO during the unanticipated school closures related to COVID-19.

5. **Specific Program Requirements:** Citation Memo: SP209-2017
6. **Detailed Description of Alternative Procedures/Anticipated Impact:** Georgia does not foresee any anticipated impact on program operations. Georgia will continue to conduct program monitoring in accordance with 7 CFR 210.18 throughout the implementation period of the waiver.

7. **Description of any steps the State has taken to address regulatory barriers at the State level:**
GaDOE SNP does not anticipate any barriers at the State level upon approval of the said waiver request.

8. **Anticipated challenges State or eligible service providers may face with the waiver implementation:** GaDOE SNP does not anticipate any barriers at the State level or eligible service provider level upon approval of the said waiver request.

9. **Description of how the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the Program to the Federal Government:** GaDOE SNP does not anticipate any increased cost to the Federal Government upon approval of the said waiver request.

10. **Anticipated waiver implementation date and time-period:**
   
   *Requested Waiver Timeframe:*
   
   Waiver Request Start Date: March 19, 2020
   
   Waiver Request End Date: GaDOE SNP anticipates the waiver to be effective during the time frame identified as COVID-19 Seamless Summer Option meal service, or as required by USDA.

11. **Proposed monitoring and review procedures:** GaDOE SNP will follow the review procedures in accordance with 7 CFR 225.7(d). Training/technical assistance/site visits will be conducted in accordance with USDA regulations.

12. **Proposed reporting requirements to FNS:** All FNS required reports will be submitted in a timely manner as governed by USDA requirements. GaDOE SNP will also provide any and all additional reporting requirements that might be needed as a result of approval of said waiver.

13. **Link to or a copy of the public notice informing the public about the proposed waiver:**
   
   a. A copy of the public notice can be found on the GaDOE SNP website at:
   
14. Signature and title of requesting official:

[Signature]

Title: Dr. Linette Dodson, RD, LD, SNS, FAND
State Director, School Nutrition
Georgia Department of Education

Requesting official’s email address for transmission of response: ldodson@doe.k12.ga.us

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: